



Linea Cadorna of Verbano

 BC (MEDIUM)

From Cima Spalavera peak at the foot of Monte Zeda, "war trails" turned into "**peace trails**" on Lake Maggiore's western side between the Oggebbio and Aurano municipalities.

It starts from the large parking lot in **Piancavallo** (Municipality of Oggebbio), near the **Istituto Auxologico**.

Leaving the Institute on the right, continue slightly uphill for a few tens of meters, then detour to the right, first on asphalt and then on a dirt road, passing by the fence and the small church of the hospital structure. At the end of the fence, continue expeditiously for a little more than 2 km on a "half slope," with the right side almost overhanging Lake Maggiore until you reach the entrance to the **Morissolo fortified tunnels**.

A visit to their interior is recommended. Once this is done, go back for about ten meters, turn right, and climb for a few meters; a series of signpost arrows indicate the route to follow: on the left, proceed towards Alpe Colle, while on the right, walk up along the ridge that leads to **the summit of Monte Morissolo** and its **three crosses**. From this, there is a unique view of Valle Cannobina, Canton Ticino, Lake Maggiore, and its Lombard shore.

Continuing toward Colle, the trail is initially wide and flat. Then, as you enter the beech forest, it becomes narrower and somewhat more technical until it comes out in the small square of **Alpe Colle**, right next to the fountain.

The signage helps here, but if that's not enough, there is also a huge white sign on the wall pointing in the direction of "Spalavera," just to the right of the lay-by with the monument and the ever-present Italian and European flags.

As you leave Colle, a wide cart track opens, initially shaded but then increasingly open and scenic, with white birch trees surrounding it. The road soon gives way to the path, supported by still well-preserved dry-stone walls leading up to Monte Spalavera's summit.

Please beware of the terrain, which is not always compact and homogeneous: water, frost, and continuous passing often erode it in several places--as naturally happens along mountain slopes like this. Hence the call for caution.

The trail continues with a final roughness that forces most to the classic "**portage**" for about ten meters. The effort is, however, amply repaid by the breathtaking view from the top of **Monte Spalavera**, from the height of its 1534 m.a.s.l. and its strategic position (as evidenced by the

various walkways of ancient memory). A panoramic sign helps to orient oneself on the entire surrounding area.

The proposed descent requires a good mastery of mountain bike riding; for those who aren't confident enough, it's a quarter-hour "portage" ... or returning along the same trail you climbed. The descent is within a cool (especially in summer) lush beech forest and ends in a large clearing that is also a crossroads.

On the left to **Pian Puzzo**, you soon find another junction passing through **Archia**, along a convenient cart road to **Passo Folungo**, and then to the **Vadà refuge**.

The road to the hut is comprehensive and well-traced, with long diagonals that make climbing easy.

At the Vadà refuge (owned by the Val Grande Park Authority), there is also a bivouac that is always open and a comfortable fountain.

When you reach Vadà, you can pedal a few hundred meters more, then leave your bike (better bring a lock!) and continue on foot to the summit of **Monte Zeda**: 2157 m.a.s.l., with a breathtaking view of a wide swath of the Alpine arc.

If, on the other hand, you stick to the proposed route, the **descent** is swift, so you must be careful to avoid getting too carried away and respect other hikers on foot and bikers. Also, watch out for the many traverses for water regimentation that require a good technique to overcome them smoothly.

Arriving near the barrier at **Passo Folungo**, take a right along the cart road that leads to other viewpoints over Lake Maggiore and nearby Lombardy. Of note is the one at **Pian d'Arla**, not far from where the "**ZIPLINE of Lake Maggiore**" starts: more than a kilometre suspended in the air, along a steel cable in complete safety, in swallow's or bird's flight, up to the "Batua" (arrival station) of Alpe Segletta.

Returning to the mtb, the dirt road ends at **Colle** and with it also the descent and the false-flat; in fact, if you decide to shorten and arrive in a short time at Piancavallo, take a right for the SP 56 and, through a lush beech forest in constant ascent, descend quickly to the parking lot where this exciting cycle-hike in the name of nature and history ends.

Otherwise, you will take the outward route backward from Colle, passing again through Morissolo and arriving in Piancavallo along the convenient dirt road. Everyone chooses according to their own needs.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

It is one of the most beautiful tours the area has to offer. To fully savour its beauty, it is essential to have a good command of the bicycle... otherwise, there is no shortage of variations that make it accessible to most.

CRITICAL POINTS

1. Descent from Monte Spalavera, especially the initial section.

TECHNICAL DATA

Relevant geographical area:	Verbano / Alta Valle Intrasca and Alto Verbano
Place of departure and arrival:	Piancavallo
Number of legs:	1
Length:	29.7 km
Height difference:	480 m
Total ascent:	977 m indicative
Total descent:	979 m indicative
Difficulty:	BC (MEDIUM)
Average duration:	3 hours 30 minutes
Minimum altitude:	1223 m.a.s.l.
Highest altitude reached:	1703 m.a.s.l.
Degree of cyclability:	good
Recommended period:	June-October
Presence of dedicated signage:	yes
Target Audience:	mtb lover

VANTAGE POINTS

Monte Morissolino, Monte Spalavera, Refuge and Bivouac Pian Vadà and Pian d'Arla.

EATERIES

"La Baita" restaurant in Piancavallo.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Along the route

Italian Istituto Auxologico, Morissolo fortified tunnels, trenches on Monte Spalavera, various testimonies of wartime artifacts of the Linea Cadorna, several viewpoints (three crosses above the Morissolo tunnels, top of Monte Spalavera, Pian Vadà, Pian d'Arla), departure of the Lake Maggiore ZIPLine at Pian d'Arla.

Nearby

OGGEBBIO

The parish church of S. Pietro di Gonte, Villa Anelli, the oratory of the Nativity of Mary in Cadessino, church and oratory of Sant'Agata in Novaglio.

TRAREGO VIGGIONA

Tactile Museum of Natural Science "Seeing with Hands," Wanderwood Park, and Carza's "Big Bench."

AURANO

Oratory of Madonna del Rosario, San Matteo Parish.

Standards of behavior

1. Stay on the trails

Respect the trail and any prohibitions on access. Respect private property.

2. Leave no trace

Respect the land. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable than dry trails. Stay on existing trails, and do not create new ones. Don't take shortcuts by cutting corners. Take any litter with you.

3. Drive carefully

A moment's distraction can endanger both yourself and others. Abide by speed limits and ride so that you can always control your bicycle. Always wear a helmet.

4. Don't scare the animals

Animals are easily startled by an abrupt approach, sudden movement, or loud noise. Allow them enough space and time to adjust to your presence.

5. Give right of way properly

These trails are not only for bicycle use but also shared by hikers on foot. So, especially downhill, speed should be moderated: around a bend, someone may be coming up. Let other trail users know you will overtake them through a friendly greeting or a bell. Bicyclists must give way to all non-motorized trail users. Cyclists proceeding downhill should give the right of way to those going uphill. Make any overtaking as safe and polite as possible.



REMINDER:

BIKERS MUST ALWAYS GIVE WAY TO OTHER USERS

RULES OF CONDUCT FOR BIKERS

Since the appearance of the first mountain bikes, the NORBA (National Off-Road Bicycle Association) has drafted a code of conduct intended to regulate off-road activity with full respect for nature and other frequenters of the mountains and trails.

Many clubs, organizations, associations, and schools throughout Italy have adopted the NORBA Code. It consists of a series of general tips that, if followed carefully, can help make this sporting and hiking practice so much in vogue today more enjoyable for everyone.

NORBA Code.

1. Always give the right of way to hikers on foot.
2. Slow down and use extreme caution when approaching and overtaking walkers or other cyclo-hikers; always signal your arrival well in advance; avoid cackling or shouting; apologize and greet politely.
3. Keep mountain bike speed under control at all times and approach turns with extreme caution, anticipating sudden obstacles. The pace should be commensurate with the type of terrain, the type of trail, and each person's experience.
4. Always stay within the marked route, thus minimizing environmental impact (permanent damage to surrounding vegetation and subsequent soil erosion).
5. Do not disturb or frighten domestic or wild animals; give them time to move away and off the path.
6. Do not, for any reason, leave garbage as a result of your passage; you should collect your own and, when possible, also those abandoned by other "distracted" hikers.
7. Always respect private and public property, leaving gates, mobile barriers, or bars as they are found. In all cases, go directly to the landowners to ask for permission to pass. "No trespassing" often means "Please ask permission if you want to pass."
8. It is always advisable to be self-sufficient during cycle hiking. The goal to be reached and the speed at which one moves should be proportionate to the psychophysical fitness and ability of the driver, the equipment, the environment, the terrain, and, above all, the weather conditions.
9. Never undertake a bicycle excursion alone, except in cases of force majeure. Do not pass through isolated areas far from major roads, and always leave clear directions regarding the route and estimated return time.
10. Minimize impact with nature: steal only images and memories and leave, at most, the barely perceptible imprint of the wheels of your vehicle.