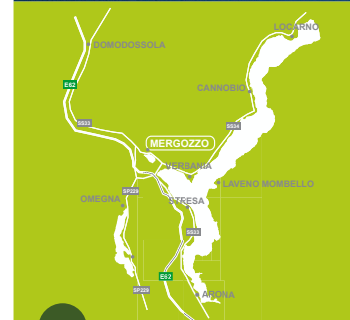


MERGOZZO: THE LAKE AND THE MOUNTAIN MAP OF HIKING TRAILS



MERGOZZO: THE LAKE AND THE MOUNTAIN
MAP OF HIKING TRAILS 1:25.000



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WITH THE CONTRIBUTION OF:



SCALE OF HIKING DIFFICULTIES

T = hiking - touristic trail
Itineraries on roads, multi-tracks or large trails, with no long but evident paths with no uncertainties or problems for orientation. These trails are usually under 2000 meters.
Require some knowledge of the mountain and a physical training for walking.

E = hiking trail with no technical difficulties
Itineraries on every kind of trails, or on evident passing paths on various grounds (pastures, debris, stony ground), usually with indications; there may be short flat stretches or slightly inclined with snow remaining where, in case of fall, the slide stops in a short space and without any danger. These itineraries sometimes develop on open lands, with no trails but without problems and always with proper indications. They may be on steep slopes, where however the exposed stretches are usually protected and secured (cables). They can have single ways or short stretches on rocks, not exposed neither being nor difficult, thanks to the presence of facilities (ladders, rungs, cables) but with no need of the use of a specific equipment (harness, karabiners, etc.).

EE = itinerary for experienced hikers
Generally marked itineraries, but which imply the ability to hike on particular grounds. Trails or paths on rough ground (steep slopes and/or slippery grass, or with rocks and grass, or rocks and debris). Different grounds, at relatively high altitude (stony ground, short non steep snowfields, open slopes with no landmarks, etc.). Rocky stretches with minor technical difficulties (guided trails, equipped climbing lines, among those with minor effort). Require experience of the mountain in general and good knowledge of the alpine environment, surefooted and a head for heights; equipment and adequate physical preparation.

Extract taken from "Guida dei Monti d'Italia" - CAI-TCI

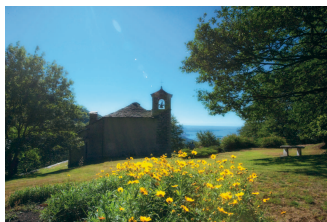
Paths are classified according to the degree of difficulty, technical grade, degree of experience and the landscape level based on a scale from 1 (minimum) to 5 (maximum).

- 1 MERGOZZO - MONTORFANO hamlet** T
historical and environmental trail, easy and for all, to walk in every season
- 2 MONTORFANO - TOP** T
scenic trail, easy and for all, to walk in every season
- 3 CADORNA ROAD OF MONTORFANO** T
historical trail, easy and for all, to walk in every season
- 4 BRACCHIO CA' D'LA NORMA** T
archaeological-environmental trail, easy and for all, to walk in every season
- 5 BRACCHIO - VERCIO - FAIE' - OMPIO** E
landscape trail, challenging and for experienced hikers, to walk in spring, summer and autumn
- 6 MERGOZZO - CANDOGLIA** T
historic-environmental trail, easy and for all, to walk in every season
- 7 CADORNA ROAD OF BETTOLA** EE
historical trail, for experienced hikers, to do in every season
- 8 NIBBIO - MOT DI GIANIN** EE
historical trail, for experienced hikers with difficult crossings, to walk in every season

CONVENTIONAL SIGNS

- MOTORWAY
- MAIN ROAD
- SECONDARY ROAD
- TRACKS
- RAILWAY
- RAILWAY GALLERY
- HISTORICAL TRAIL
- PATH
- ITINERARY, DIFFICULTY T, E
- ITINERARY, DIFFICULTY EE
- PRESSURE PIPELINE
- BY-PASS CONDUIT
- PANORAMIC POINT
- CAR PARK

REFERENCE SYSTEM UTM 32 - WGS 84 SCALE 1:25.000



MERGOZZO

Set on the banks of its own lake, in the shade of Montorfano, Mergozzo tells its tale with stone houses, the water's fragrance...

From the municipal centre, Mergozzo, you can get to the other hamlets that make up the whole Ossola (Northern Italian) municipality, thanks to paths and mule tracks that crisscross charming landscapes, reaching ancient towns surrounding Romanesque remains.

Lake Mergozzo, awarded the orange flag for its clean waters, has known how to keep its natural beauty intact: the beaches, underwater diving, turf from the Orsola rocks, canoeing and fishing; its waters are host to a large variety of fish, and its shores are home to a rich and diversified fauna, where you can find the orange spotted Emerald, a dragonfly indicative of the quality of the environment.

Mergozzo offers many opportunities for sports enthusiasts: swimming, beach volleyball, football, hang-gliding and rock climbing on the Montorfano hills; fishing, windsurfing and bicycling; and canoe and kayaks national and international events. A few miles away there are golf courses and horseback riding paths.

In addition, around the lake you can choose between hiking and cycling paths, immersed in greenery and in direct contact with the local fauna.



From the piazza that is home to a centuries-old elm, the central road climbs up the "ruga" and narrow alleys that criss-cross the town onto charming little piazzas.

A long climb called the "scarpia" excavated in the rock and overlooked by the castle (casaforte), leads to the ancient village of Sasso.

This town has lots of things to do: apart from sporting events, Mergozzo is host to culture and geoenvironmental-based events, a cavalcade of evenings in the name of good cuisine and local products, music and folklore. Summer in Mergozzo also means sports theatre in the town square and antique markets.

Mergozzo is a rocky land, to which the Granite Eco-Museum is dedicated; it is also land that is thousands of years old, with archaeological remains going back to the Stone Age, now housed in the Civic Archaeological Museum.

3 CADORNA ROAD OF MONTORFANO T

Impressive and easy itinerary, allowing you to visit the beautiful military works (hydraulic works, barracks, powder magazine). This itinerary can also be cycled by Mountain Bike.



DETAILS				
Degree of difficulty	1	Period	all year round	
Technical grade	1	Starting altitude	210	
Degree of experience	1	Arrival altitude	610 (powder maga-zine)	
Landscape level	5	Max altitude	610	
Length	8 km	Difference in height	400 m uphill, 400 m downhill	



THE ITINERARY

From the car park of Prà Michelaccio take the road for Gravelona for about 100 meters and turn left on the paved road with the sign for the military fortifications. After going up for about 200 meters, the road becomes a track where begins the real road of military entrenchment, recently restored. It climbs up with a regular slope and after a few bends you reach the first barracks in stone, set in a narrow valley. The itinerary continues on the track that after a succession of beautiful works characterized with the skilful use of stone, reaches the powder magazine (Lagonello Sotto 610m) from where you can admire the spectacular south face of the place and visit carefully the powder magazine and the barracks.

It is now possible, as an alternative way, to climb up on the top of the mount Monte Orfano (beautiful balcony over the Lower Ossola and over the Lake Maggiore 794m) or go back to where you started.

Once you reached the first barracks, it is possible to take on the right and go down to Mergozzo along a track, or go back towards Prà Michelaccio.

6 MERGOZZO - CANDOGLIA T

THE ITINERARY

From the square piazza Marcodi of Mergozzo follow for Via Strada Vecchia for 200m and then take the path on the right for Candoglia, make sure to stand on your left in the first stretch to reach the stone paved mule track after 100m. The path continues without any particular difficulties within the woods and through waterways until you reach the hamlet of Candoglia.

Once crossed the main road and the railway underpass you will reach the "passerella", ancient walkway with the



opposite bank of the River Toce continuing then along the cycle lane that runs along the river.

Near the cemetery of Mergozzo continue bypassing the sports field to return along tracks and then on asphalt, to the starting-point

DETAILS				
Degree of difficulty	1	Period	all year round	
Technical grade	1	Starting altitude	205	
Degree of experience	1	Arrival altitude	205	
Landscape level	4	Max altitude	300	
Length	6,7 km	Difference in height	95 m uphill, 95 m downhill	
Time	2h	Notes	-	

1 MERGOZZO - MONTORFANO hamlet T

historical and environmental trail, easy and for all, to walk in every season

Montorfano is the "solitary" mountain that emerges from the flood plain of the Toce, embraced by the Lake of Mergozzo, the Lake Maggiore and the River Toce. It presents itself as a single block of granite, marked by centuries of mining activities. The Eco museum is dedicated to the white granite that is widespread on the large territory of the city of Mergozzo, representing a huge open-air laboratory.

The itinerary develops along the Eastern slope of the Montorfano, along the path Sentiero Azzurro (blue path), from the center of Mergozzo to the hamlet of Montorfano, and then back to Mergozzo along the same itinerary.



DETAILS				
Degree of difficulty	1	Period	all year round	
Technical grade	1	Starting altitude	205	
Degree of experience	1	Arrival altitude	205	
Landscape level	4	Max altitude	335	
Length	5,8 km	Difference in height	130 m uphill, 130 m downhill	
Time	1h 30min	Notes	-	



THE ITINERARY

From the center of Mergozzo, where are the Romanesque Church of Santa Marta, the Civic Archaeological Museum, the Parish Church of the Beata Vergine Assunta, the newstands of Via Crucis and the numerous buildings which feature the use of the typical granite from Montorfano, the path goes down to the lake front, where the big elm has been the meeting place of the community for centuries. It briefly climbs via Borzoni and, to the left, via Nostrani. At a crossroads it turns left in via Montorfano, going out of the town. It follows the signs for the blue trail "Sentiero Azzurro", before continuing on a track and then along a trail that cuts halfway of the hill the northern side of the Montorfano. After reaching the paved road until the hamlet of Montorfano, with the ancient Romanesque Church of San Giovanni. Continuing on a short distance towards the top of the Montorfano mount, you can see numerous signs of the ancient granite quarries. From the hamlet starts a short path leading to the Belvedere, from this panoramic view point you can have a breathtaking view over the Lake Maggiore, the Borromeo Gulf and the mouth of the River Toce.

The way back is along the same route.



Going back on the path, once you reached the crossroads continue on the left along the road and then the path allowing you to reach the hamlet of Bracchio from the West, passing by the old fields and terraces once cultivated.

In Bracchio it is possible to walk through the streets, discovering beautiful panoramic and architectural views.

DETAILS				
Degree of difficulty	1	Period	all year round	
Technical grade	1	Starting altitude	300	
Degree of experience	1	Arrival altitude	300	
Landscape level	4	Max altitude	300	
Length	3 km	Difference in height	30 m uphill, 30 m downhill	
Time	1h 15min	Notes	-	

2 MONTORFANO - TOP T

scenic trail, easy and for all, to walk in every season



THE ITINERARY

From the car park of the hamlet of Montorfano, go up along the access road to the abandoned stone quarries situated at the back of the hamlet. Going up you reach a characteristic view point recently built and, after a necessary break, you reach the top of the Mount Monte Orfano (beautiful balcony on the Lower Ossola and on the Lake Maggiore 794m).



On the way back, once you reached the stone quarries above the village of Montorfano, it is recommended to take on the left for the Sasso del Magnano (474 m), locality used as a climbing place and from where there is a breathtaking view over the Lake of Mergozzo. Going back to where you started until the village of Montorfano, you must visit the evocative Romanesque Church of San Giovanni Battista, the old village and the panoramic view point over the Borromeo Gulf.

DETAILS				
Degree of difficulty	2	Period	all year round	
Technical grade	2	Starting altitude	320	
Degree of experience	2	Arrival altitude	794	
Landscape level	5	Max altitude	794	
Length	4,3 km	Difference in height	474 m uphill, 474 m downhill	
Time	2h 15min	Notes	-	

4 BRACCHIO CA' D'LA NORMA T

archaeological-environmental trail, easy and for all, to walk in every season

THE ITINERARY

From the car park of the hamlet of Bracchio, go down towards the church and turn right for the road with the signs "Cà d'la Norma". Go up for 200m and turn left for the flat path, marked as "Cà d'la Norma - Groppolo" reachable in 15min.

It is a megalithic complex dating back to the Copper and Bronze Ages, with a fascinating house consisting in a large boulder surrounded by stone walls: it is known as "Cà d'la Norma" (casa della Norma - the Norma's house), probably a megalithic burial.



Going back on the path, once you reached the crossroads continue on the left along the road and then the path allowing you to reach the hamlet of Bracchio from the West, passing by the old fields and terraces once cultivated.

In Bracchio it is possible to walk through the streets, discovering beautiful panoramic and architectural views.

DETAILS				
Degree of difficulty	1	Period	all year round	
Technical grade	1	Starting altitude	300	
Degree of experience	1	Arrival altitude	300	
Landscape level	4	Max altitude	300	
Length	3 km	Difference in height	30 m uphill, 30 m downhill	
Time	1h 15min	Notes	-	

5 BRACCHIO - VERCIO - FAIE' - OMPIO E

landscape trail, challenging and for experienced hikers, to walk in spring, summer and autumn.

THE ITINERARY

From the hamlet of Bracchio begins the steep mule track leading to Alpe Vercio, beautiful balcony on the Ossola Valley and the Lake of Mergozzo. Continue on the steep path leading to the Colma di Vercio and from here along the eastern ridge to arrive shortly after to the top of Monte Faiè mount with a view over one of the most beautiful panorama of the Lake Maggiore.

From Monte Faiè you go down from the eastern ridge



through a beech woods until you reach the path leading to Alpe Ompio where it is possible to stop at the refuge "Fantoli".

Continuing on the path towards Alpe Ruspetto you reach the road from where, immediately on the right, you take the path leading back to Vercio and then Bracchio.

DETAILS				
Degree of difficulty	3	Period	spring-summer-autumn	
Technical grade	4	Starting altitude	300	
Degree of experience	4	Arrival altitude	300	
Landscape level	5	Max altitude	1352	
Length	11,4 km	Difference in height	1052 m uphill, 1052 m downhill	
Time	5h	Notes	good hikers	



7 CADORNA ROAD OF BETTOLA EE

THE ITINERARY

From the car park of the hamlet walk for about 50m on the road for Mergozzo and before the railway underpass follow indications for the Cadorna fortifications.

Once you crossed the meadow and you arrived at the old washhouse, continue in the woods following the track until you take the military trail. Follow the military track characterized from beautiful stone works, gutters and caves. Once at the waterfall, the military track ends because of a collapse - the overcoming of the river is only recommended for experienced hikers. Continue along the track with a succession of evocative stone works, with some stretches collapsed requiring particular attention. The path going uphill continues through a very exposed stretch and then go into the woods.

You finally reach Mot Sass (670m) from where on a narrow rocky space you will have a spectacular view on the Ossola Valley and the Alps.



DETAILS				
Degree of difficulty	5	Period	all year round	
Technical grade	5	Starting altitude	210	
Degree of experience	5	Arrival altitude	670	
Landscape level	5	Max altitude	670	
Length	4 km	Difference in height	460 m uphill, 460 m downhill	
Time	2h 10	Notes	difficult trail	

8 NIBBIO - MOT DI GIANIN EE

THE ITINERARY

At the hamlet of Nibbio go along via Bozzetti until the small square with the fountain (where it is recommended to make provision with water), continue along the track towards the shadowed car park. Once you left the car, continue walking up on the riverbank of the Nibbio and using the fixed ropes installed it is possible to go down and then go up the opposite bank. Follow the signs and the track of the trail to the left, and after a very steep path going uphill in the woods you will reach the military track to walk very carefully. The military track goes up with powerful walls of stone along the base of the rocky wall equipped for climbing.

You will soon reach a gallery allowing you to continue on the trail that becomes considerably difficult in a severe environment: go up the valley of Rio Nibbio, particularly wild, characterized with rocky peaks and an



evocative scenery. Climb very carefully along the track of the path until reaching two ruins (640m), a panoramic hill (820m), the wooden cross of the Sasso Grande (about 700m) and continuing, overcoming the continuous rocky cliffs and following the uncertain track of the path you reach the Mot Gianin at altitude 1060 m.

DETAILS				
Degree of difficulty	5	Period	all year round	
Technical grade	5	Starting altitude	215	
Degree of experience	5	Arrival altitude	1060	
Landscape level	4	Max altitude	1060	
Length	4,8 km	Difference in height	845 m uphill, 845 m downhill	
Time	4h 30min	Notes	difficult trail	