

Along your way you will pass a series of little chapels decorated with mosaics representing various stages of Christ's life. About half way you encounter the chapel Cappella degli Alpini, dedicated to S. Carlo. The S. Martino church was built in the XVI century to house the wooden statue of the 14th century representing the Madonna with Child. The legend tells that the statue was found in the 16th century by a shepherd girl in a cave in the mountains where it was put a century before by an inhabitant of Menaggio when the town was destroyed by the Grigioni. The statue was brought down to the parish church where it miraculously disappeared and was found again on the Sasso di S. Martino. This was interpreted as the desire of Maria to be venerated on the mountain. First a small shrine was built and then the church.

5. SAN DOMENICO - SANTUARIO DELLA MADONNA DI BREGLIA

The little chapel of S. Domenico (800 m) is situated near Breglia straight over the lake. From it you have a spectacular view of the lake and the surrounding mountains. From the chapel a path leads through the woods to the Santuario della Madonna di Breglia.

- **starting point: Breglia 750m (6 km. from Menaggio)**
- **Menaggio - Breglia by bus: line C13**
- **time: 1.00**
- **ascent: 70 m**
- **trail signs: some wooden signs**

route: From the bus stop in Breglia continue straight on to the big parking lot on the right side of the church. A wide mule-track starts off from here to the right, which leads first level and then slightly uphill to the chapel of San Domenico. From the chapel you follow the cart track through the woods, which ends up at a big pasture. You cross the pasture on a small track to the left and you find yourself right at the beginning of the steps which lead up the Santuario. Inside, there is a marble statue of the Virgin Mary which has been venerated for more than two centuries. It was kept in a modest oratory until, in 1777, the present church was built. Along the cobbled steps leading to the sanctuary you find some of the 14 granite stations of "I Misteri del Rosario". From the Sanctuary you follow the easy lane to the center of Breglia. Near the bus stop you can see a Roman tomb dating back to the VI c. It was custom in the roman age to place tombs along the main roads to keep the memory of the deceased alive. In fact the old roman road, "L'antica Strada Regina", one of the main connecting roads with the alpine passes, used to pass by Breglia. It lost its importance when the shorter passage over Sasso Rancio, between Menaggio and Acquaseria, was opened (see walk 9).

6. BOCCHETTA DI NAVA - GRIANTE

This itinerary leads from Croce through the woods up to the pasture fields of Monti di Nava and then descends along a nice track with a marvelous view of the center lake area and the surrounding mountains to Griante.

- **starting point: Croce 393 m (2 km from Menaggio) - return: Griante - Menaggio by bus line C10 or by foot 3 km**
- **Menaggio - Croce by bus: line C12**
- **time: 3.30 hrs**
- **ascent: 450 m.**
- **trail signs: red/white/red 2 as far as Bocchetta di Nava.**

Route: From the bus stop at Croce in front of Hotel Adler, continue for about 30 m on the main road. Then cross it and pick up the road in the direction of the golf course. You pass the turn of for the Crocetta and following the signs of path 2 of the "Via dei Monti Lariani", a hiking trail of 125 km connecting the "monti" on the west coast of the lake, you reach the church "La Madonna di Paullo". The old roman road "L'antica Strada Regina", one of the main connection roads with the alpine passes, used to lead over Bocchetta di Nava down to Griante. This route was also used by the pilgrims hence the signs of the jubilee. From here the steep cart track leads along the entrance of the Menaggio - Cadenabbia Golf Club and through the area Mié to the beautiful pastures of "Monti di Nava" at the foot of Monte Crocione. An even track leads to "Bocchetta di Nava" and near the last building (sign Griante) you leave the "Via dei Monti Lariani" (path 2 continues as far as San Fedele d'Intelvi) and you pick up the trail to the left. It leads down in wide bends with a most beautiful view of the peninsula of Lavedo, and the towns of Tremezzo, Mezzegra and Lenno. The trail then turns to the slope above Griante with a splendid view of Sasso San Martina and its little church. You pass the deviation for the cappella degli alpini (reachable in 10 minutes) and shortly after you reach a fork where you keep left. The track ends up on a road that connects Rogaro with Griante; turn left in the direction of Griante. You pass the turn of for the church San Martino that you can reach in 40 min. over an easy track. This road ends up in another road, which you again follow to the left and after 150 m you get to the main road on the lake right in front of the bus stop. (by foot to Menaggio 35 minutes).

7. LA CROCETTA

La Crocetta (450 m) is a little cross located on top of a hill above Menaggio from where can enjoy a lovely view of Menaggio and the central lake area. The walk leads through the woods over an easy mule-track.

- **starting point: Croce 393 m (2 km from Menaggio)**
- **Menaggio - Croce by bus: line C12**
- **time: (one way) 0.30 hrs.**
- **ascent: 100 m**

- some signs indicating "La Crocetta"

route: From the bus stop continue about 15 m on the main road then cross it and pick up the road in the direction of the golf course (there is a big sign). After about 300 m you turn left into "Via per la Crocetta" also called "Via Pigato". After some bends the road ends and you continue on a wide track. Before arriving at the Crocetta you encounter some trenches. In fact they are part of the great defense line called "Linea Cadorna", built in 1915 along the Swiss-Italian border, fearing a possible German offence. In the province of Como it extended from Monte Bisbino near Como to Sasso Cordona, Monte Galbiga and Monte Crocione and from there down to the Crocetta. Close by stands the little chapel dedicated to the "arm of the Alpini" near the view point of the Crocetta.

8. LAGO DI PIANO

The small Lake Piano, situated in the Val Menaggio between Lake Como and Lake Lugano, is a protected natural oasis and is a breeding place for many

