Discovering the Sacri Monti
Art, History, Nature and Spirituality
Alpine valleys, hills, vineyards, lake views are the natural settings embracing the Sacred Mounts of the Alps, seven in Piedmont and two in Lombardy, that with their enchanting landscapes, history and architectures hosting precious works of art have been included in the UNESCO world heritage list since July 2003.

The Sacred Mounts consist of prestigious architectural complexes standing on hill tops and structured in a series of chapels with paintings and sculptures representing Christ’s story, Holy Mary and the Saints’ life or the mysteries of the Rosary. The works by famous artists from the XV-XIX century include life-size statues reproducing gestures, features and expressions of impressive realism.

This communicative pattern became quite popular after the Catholic Reforma tion to tell in an enthralling and evocative way the sacred story, always under the watchful eye of the Church. Their story started at the end of the XV century with the Sacred Mount of Varallo, where a Franciscan Friar, Bernardino Caimi, wanted to reproduce a few locations of the Holy Land connected to Jesus Christ’s life.

First-rate artists of the Piedmontese and Lombard cultural panorama contributed to the success of the project. These locations have become destinations for art-centered tourism where nature and culture celebrate the values of spirituality.
At the turn of the XV century, Franciscan friar Bernardino Caimi, on his way back from Jerusalem, dreamed of building a little Holy Land which would reproduce the Holy Sepulcher, the Calvary, the Gethsemane, Bethlehem and Nazareth on the rock spur overlooking the town of Varallo. The project was brought to life in 1486 with the first buildings where paintings and sculptures would stage the episodes of Jesus Christ’s life. From the early XV century, Gaudenzio Ferrari had populated the scenes with realistic, three-dimensional sculptures sporting colorful clothes, beards and hair, gestures, natural features and expressions, to narrate the Sacred History together with the paintings decorating the chapels. During the Catholic Reformation, under the direction of Carlo Bascapé (1593-1615), it was reorganized as a magnificently illustrated catechism with the work of renowned artists such as Jean de Wespin, Morazzone, Dioniugi Bussola etc. Just like a real city, yet inhabited by sculpted and painted people, the Sacred Mount features cobblestone pathways, piazzas, palaces, parks and Italian-style gardens. Connected by the steepest cableway in Europe, the site overlooks the historical center of Varallo with its sumptuous monuments: the Picture-Gallery, the Museum of Natural Science and the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie painted by Gaudenzio Ferrari (1513). An ideal destination combining culture and spirituality.

VALSESIA AND MONTE ROSA
THE WONDER OF THE ALPS AMONG NATURE, ART AND TRADITION

Uncontaminated nature, amazing landscapes and magical valleys with crystal-clear watercourses: Valsesia, “the greenest valley of Italy” winds along the foot of Mount Rosa and is crossed by the Sesia river, renowned and loved by sport fans for its many fluvial activities and its clear waters abounding with fish. The valley offers enchanting scenarios both for winter sports, thanks to the vast Monte Rosa Ski resort with quick connections to Valle d’Aosta, and the variety of summer activities. Unique local products, ancient recipes from the mountain cuisine tradition and the prestigious Nebbiolo wines (Gattinara DOCG) make each visit a one-of-a-kind experience with unforgettable and authentic flavors. Yet Valsesia is also a land of art and culture, with museums and eco-museums, churches, the masterpieces of the Walser architecture, traditional craftsmanship, period car meetings inspired by the origins of the Lancia family and the Fondazione FS steam engines along with important testimonials of its past.

CONTACTS

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Ente di gestione dei Sacri Monti - Riserva Speciale del Sacro Monte di Varallo
Tel. +39 0163 53938 - E-mail: info.varallo@sacri-monti.com
www.sacrimonti.org/sacro-monte-di-varallo
Sanctuary of Maria Assunta - Oblate Fathers
Tel. +39 0163 51131 - E-mail: rettore@sacromontedivarallo.it
www.sacromontedivarallo.org
Varallo City Council
Tel. +39 0163 562711 - Pec: comune.varallo.vc@legalmail.it
www.comune.varallo.vc.it
SACRO MONTE OF ORTA

On the promontory overlooking Lake Orta, where vegetation alternates with breathtaking views, the Sacred Mount path, surrounded by gardens and woods, winds through the twenty chapels housing sculptures and paintings that narrate the life of Saint Francis as an analogy with Jesus Christ’s. The community’s original idea to create a religious itinerary similar to the Sacred Mount of Varallo dates back to 1583, but it is only in 1590 that the Novarese abbot Amico Canobio brings it to life under the direction of the Capuchin architect Cleto da Castelletto Ticino who distributes the architectures throughout the natural landscape and stunning openings over the lake. The scenes, starring statues and paintings of impressive realism, combine intimate and natural atmospheres of early 1600 to the sassy baroque theatricality of late XVII century, masterly interpreted by renowned artists such as the Fiammenghini, Morazzone, Cristoforo Prestinari, the d’Enrico brothers, Dionigi Bussola and many others. The processional route ends with the early-Romanesque church of San Nicolao housing the ancient ligneous group of the Madonna della Pietà (XIV century?), which was completely remodeled in the XVII century,大师ly interpreted by renowned artists such as the Fiammenghini, Morazzone, Cristoforo Prestinari, the d’Enrico brothers, Dionigi Bussola and many others. 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Today the Orta Riviera offers many delightful opportunities for art, nature and water sports lovers.

LAKE ORTA SMALL, INTIMATE AND ROMANTIC

Lake Orta is one of the most evocative destinations of Piedmont. Framed by thick chestnut, beech and Scotch fir woods, it is characterized by picturesque villages and breathtaking views. Feud of the Bishop of Novara from the XIII century, the territory of Cusio, its second name taking origins from the Celts inhabiting the area before the Romans’ arrival, was transferred to the Savoy Family in 1767. A place of culture, nature, art, and history, Lake Orta embraces the homonym romantic village, the island of San Giulio with its late medieval basilica and the suggestive town unaltered in time, the Sacred Mount and the sanctuary of the Madonna del Sasso. A favored destination in the past centuries for precocious tourists world round attracted by the beauty of the lake and the unique Alpine views, it experienced a relevant entrepreneurial growth in the housewares and taps and fittings sectors, with renowned brands such as Alessi, Lagostina and Bialetti. The new industrial growth has not altered the variety of its landscape attractions, masterly described by famous writers like Balzac, Montale, Soldati and Rodari. Today the Orta Riviera offers many delightful opportunities for art, nature and water sports lovers.
SACRO MONTE OF CREA

The Sacred Mount of Crea stands on top of a hill in the heart of Monferrato, where visitors can enjoy all the splendor of the Alps and one of the most enchanting wine settlements, which prestige has also been acknowledged by UNESCO. Its origins date back to 1589 when the prior of the church of Madonna Assunta di Crea, Costantino Massi-no, wanted to create a devotional pictured itinerary to encourage prayer and meditation while renovating the sacredness of the previous Marian Church. The strong bond between the sanctuary and the dynasty reigning in Monferrato has been reinforced by various protagonists such as the duke, the local nobles, the high clergy and the neighboring communities. Many famous artists gave their contribution: Moncalvo, the Prestinaris and the de Wespins who crafted the magnificent sculpture complex of the Cappella del Paradiso (Chapel of the Paradise, no. 23) in early XVII century. The complex war events experienced by Monferrato in the XVII century devastated the territory and required subsequent interventions that changed its original layout. Particularly evocative is the late XIX century symbolist interpretation by Gaudenzio Ferrari at the Sacred Mount of Varallo.

TOURIST SERVICES
More details and information at www.sacrimonti.org/sacro-monte-di-crea

MONFERRATO

A TERRITORY SURROUNDED BY NATURE FOR A TASTE OF ART WITH THE ART OF TASTE

Just an hour drive from Milan, Turin and Genoa and a little farther from the French and Swiss borders, Monferrato represents one of the most enchanting territories of Piedmont, extending between the Alps and the Ligurian Sea. A landscape of soft hills, mostly untouched in its original features, that combines historical testimonies, fascinating cities and small villages dominated by castles, rich of excellent wines and boasting one of the best popular cuisine traditions.

Among routes and paths winding through the green valleys to be crossed slowly and with a careful eye, many are the opportunities to enjoy this territory, such as hiking, bike excursions and visits to the famous “infernot”, the typical cellars dug in turf to extract the Cantone stone used to build the ancient houses. Spring and summer are the best seasons for those who wish to discover the harmonious landscapes and practice open-air sports. Fall and winter, instead, are the favored months for spa lovers or gourmets who combine refined wines to better appreciate the renowned “fruits” of this land: truffles, mushrooms, chestnuts, hazelnuts.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE SACRED MOUNT OF CREA

By plane: Milano Malpensa, Torino Caselle, Genova Cristoforo Colombo
By car: A26 (E62), exit Casale Sud, SP 457 direction Asti, Moncalvo, at the hamlet of La Madonnina di Serralunga di Crea follow directions for Sacro Monte
By train: station of Casale Monferrato+bus: line Torino-Chivasso-Casale Monferrato; station of Asti: line Torino - Asti + bus; line Alessandria-Casale Monferrato; station of Casale Monferrato + bus - www.trenitalia.com
By Bus: lines for Asti and Casale, stop of La Madonnina - www.gruppostat.com
The Sacred Mount is a 5 km walk away
With GPS: Sacro Monte di Crea (AL), access from Ponzano Monferrato or Madonna di Serralunga di Crea
Private buses: must take the road from Ponzano Monferrato
Public transport info: PRONTO TPL http://prontotpl.St.torino.it

TOURIST INFORMATION
Alexala - Reception Agency and Promotion of Local Tourism in the province of Alessandria
Piazza Santa Maria di Castello, 14
15121 Alessandria (AL) - Tel. +39 0131 227454
E-mail: info@alexala.it
www.alexala.it

RESTAURANT & ACCOMODATION
info: www.alexala.it

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES
info: www.alexala.it
monuments, museums, eco-museums, typical villages, oenogastronomy, hiking, bicycle touring, parks, water sports, air sports, horse riding

EVENTS
info: www.alexala.it
music festivals, cultural festivals, fairs, local events, oenogastronomy events, traditional markets

LINKS
www.regione.piemonte.it/web/piemonte-da-vivere
www.parcedelpolessandriavercelli.it
www.monferratotour.it
www.paesaggivivinicoli.it
www.comune.casale-monferrato.al.it/MoMu-Monferrato-Musei
www.comune.ponzanomonferrato.al.it
www.comune.serralungadicrea.al.it

CONTACTS
Località Sacro Monte di Crea - 15020 Serralunga di Crea (AL)
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www.sacrimonti.org/sacro-monte-di-crea

Dioecesan Sanctuary of the Madonna di Crea
Tel. +39 0142 940109 - E-mail: creasant@libero.it
www.santuari.it

Further details and information at www.sacrimonti.org/sacro-monte-di-crea
The devotional path winds along the slopes of Monte Velate in a striking panoramic position over pre-alpine lakes and the plain. The Via Sacra was built between 1604 and 1698 to renovate and foster the sacredness of the Marian sanctuary on the initiative of Capuchin friar Giovanni Battista Aguggiari who commissioned construction of the chapels dedicated to the Mysteries of the Rosary. Architect Giuseppe Bernascone aka “Il Mancino” supervised the entire planning (chapels, arches, fountains and paths) conforming the complex its typical monumental uniformity. Many were the renowned Lombard artists who took part to the Sacred Mount of Varese project, such as Morazzone, Francesco Silva, the Recchi brothers, Dionigi Bussola and Stefano Maria Legnani aka “il Legnanino”. In 1983 Renato Guttuso painted the external wall of the Nativity chapel with a modern version of the Escape from Egypt. At the top of the cobbled slope is the small village of Santa Maria del Monte with its typical roofed alleys and the ancient monastery of the Romite Ambrosiani, where one can visit Museo Baroffio and Casa Museo Pogliaghi. The funicular is a charming alternative to reach the top.

VARESE “CITTÀ GIARDINO”
The word combination Varese “Città Giardino” [garden city] perfectly describes the blending of art and nature characterizing the city of northwest Lombardy, in the heart of a territory rich of rivers, lakes and green hills, at the foot of the Massiccio del Campo dei Fiori, in the Varesine Prealps. The city became a holiday resort in the XVIII century and a favorite destination of international tourists in early XX century for the construction first of Liberty-style villas and later of rationalist residences. Varese welcomes its visitors as a lively city that merges historical-artistic opportunities, tourism of Liberty-style villas and later of rationalist residences. Varese welcomes its visitors as a lively city that merges historical-artistic opportunities, blending of art and nature, and a welcoming lifestyle. Many are the sites worth visiting, among which: Palazzo Estense, Villa Mirabello, Basilica of S. Vittore, Villa Panza, Villa Toepfli, Castle of Masnago, Church of S. Stefano, Isolino Virginia, the Sacred Mount and Casa Museo Lodovico Pogliaghi.

DIRECTION FOR VARESE AND THE SACRED MOUNT
By plane: Milano Malpensa and Milano Linate
By train: Trenitalia Milano Porta Garibaldi - Varese; Trenord Milano Cadorna - Varese Nord; TILo Malpensa - Varese
By car: Motorway A8 “Milano-Laghi”, direction Varese, exit Varese; from Como: SS342 direction Varese; from Piedmont: Motorway A26 - connection to Motorway A8 - direction Varese, exit Varese
From Lugano (CH): through Ponte Tresa, Tresa pass, follow SS23 direction Varese
SAFETY MOUNT - from Varese
By bus: line C Bazzzero-Sacro Monte
With GMS: Varese, Piazzale Pogliaghi (top of Santa Maria del Monte), or Varese Via Prima Cappella-Piazzale Montanari (beginning of Viale delle Cappelle)
On foot: Via Sacra: 2 km along the 14 chapels of the Sacred Mount up to the Sanctuary
At 1200 meters of altitude, surrounded by a unique alpine scenario and just a short distance from Biella, the Sacred Mount was created on the initiative of the town parish communities and districts starting from 1617-1620 and upon initiative of Capuchin Friar Fedele da San Germano to foster the Marian devotion connected to the existing sanctuary through a didactic path. The project adds to the great interventions and transformations promoted by the Savoy family on the ancient monumental complex where the Madonna Nera was worshiped. The religious itinerary includes twelve chapels dedicated to the Virgin’s life and arranged along a zigzag path culminating in the majestic setting of Holy Mary’s Crowning (c. 12), combined to five additional sacella dedicated to the saints and the sanctuary tradition. Built in multiple stages between the XVII and XVIII centuries, many were the artists who took part to the project, among which the d’Enrico brothers, Bartolomeo Termine, painter Giovanni Galliari, Agostino Silva, Carlo Francesco and Giuseppe Auregio.

The town of Biella includes three main zones: the area of Biella Piano, rich of prestigious artistic testimonies such as the Romanesque Baptistery and the Renaissance complex of San Sebastiano, the XIX century industrial area along torrent Cervo reaching the town center, both on level grounds, and the medieval village of Biella Piazzo, in the upper part of town, rich of striking corners and connected by the typical cableway.

Outside the chief town are many small villages to discover among plains, vineyard hills and pastures, and the mountains at a short distance by car: the richness and variety of natural settings makes the Biellese area the ideal destination for those looking for an active vacation. The typical flavors of the Piedmontese oenogastronomy tradition complete the touristic offer with a charming touch, along with the unique textile products that have always characterized the local entrepreneurial activity.

**TOURIST SERVICES**
More details and information at www.sacrimonti.org/sacro-monte-di-oropa

**CONTACTS**
Località Santuario di Oropa - 13900 Biella (BI)
Amministrazione del Santuario
Via Santuario di Oropa, 480 - 13900 Biella - Oropa (BI)
Tel. +39 015 25551200 - E-mail: info@santuariodioropa.it
www.santuariodioropa.it

Ente di gestione dei Sacri Monti - Riserva Speciale del Sacro Monte di Oropa
Contact: Amministrazione del Santuario
www.sacromonti.org/sacro-monte-di-oropa
(Legal Seat: Ente di gestione dei Sacri Monti - Tel. +39 0141 927120 - E-mail: info@sacri-monti.com)

**DIRECTIONS FOR BIELLA AND THE SACRED MOUNT**
By plane: Milano Malpensa and Torino Caselle
By car: from Torino: A4 exit Santhià direction for Biella SP143 and direction for Oropa SP144; from Milan: A4 exit Carisio direction for Biella SP230 and for Oropa SP144; from Aosta: A5 exit Quincinetto direction for Biella SS26+SP73+SP419 and direction for Oropa SP144
By train: station of Biella, lines Santhià-Torino and Novara-Milano - www.trenitalia.com

**OROPA AND THE SACRED MOUNT**
With GPS: Località Santuario di Oropa - 13900 Biella (BI)
Bus: local line n. 2 Biella-Oropa - ATAP Tel. 800912716 - www.atapspa.it
Public transport info: PRONTO TPL http://prontotpl5t.torino.it/

**TOURIST INFORMATION**
Azienda Turistica Locale del Biellese (Tourist Office)
Piazza V. Veneto, 3 - 13900 Biella (BI)
Tel. + 39 015 351128 - n° verde 800 811 800
E-mail: info@ati.biella.it
www.ati.biella.it

**RESTAURANT & ACCOMODATION**
Near the Sanctuary: info: www.santuariodioropa.it
At Biella and its territory: info: www.ati.biella.it

**ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES**
info: www.ati.biella.it
monuments, museums, eco-museums
oenogastronomy touring
hiking
climbing trails
bicycle touring
parks and gardens
water sports
air sports
winter sports
horse riding touring
religious touring

**EVENTS**
info: www.ati.biella.it
holy representations
music festivals
floral events
religious traditions
typical district markes

**LINKS**
www.regione.piemonte.it/web/piemonte-da-vivere
Parco Burcina e Bessa: www.parcoitalicolagomaggiore.it
www.camminidevozionali.it
www.comune.biella.it
www.oasizegna.com
www.comune.biella.it
SACRAMONTE OF OSSUCCIO

By the western bank of Lake Como, along a slope behind Ossuccio (Commune of Tremezzina), the Sacred Mount offers a breathtaking view over the lake, the mountains and the Comacina island.

Dedicated to the Mysteries of the Rosary, it was presumably built on the initiative of the Franciscan Friars and the local noble families starting from mid XVII century and up to 1710.

It consists of fourteen chapels arranged along the ascensional path leading to the sanctuary, where the last holy aedicule stands. The group of chapels, surrounded by vegetation and olive trees, features articulated shapes and structures with well-balanced harmony between architecture and landscape. Most of the two hundred and thirty stucco statues are by Agostino Silva, while the frescoes are by artists such as Carlo Gaffuri, Francesco Innocenzo Torriani and Giovan Paolo Recchi.

A LANDSCAPE BETWEEN WATER AND SKY

The territory of the Commune of Tremezzina is characterized by a strong cultural identity and an ancient touristic vocation. In the past, the exclusive position fostered the cultivation of citrus and olive trees. The rich historical and architectonic patrimony includes Roman, early Christian and medieval archaeological testimonies, Romanesque churches, numerous villas and interesting rationalist architectures. In addition to the Sacred Mount, worth admiring is the archaeological complex of Isola Comacina, a few historical villas, Villa Balbianello (FAI) and Villa Carlotta, renowned for its collection of rhododendrons and azaleas together with its internal furniture that includes works by Canova, Thorvaldsen and Hayez. The creation of the Greenway, the Soft Mobility itinerary winding along the lake through the coastal villages of Lake Como, and the Artway, the video-guide system that sets off the main monuments, offer tourists a valid alternative and an effective tool to get to know the territory at best, together with a variety of nautical sports and excursions.

TOURIST SERVICES

More details and information at www.sacrimonti.org/sacro-monte-di-ossuccio

Car parking at chapels 1st and 4th

CONTACTS

Località Ossuccio di Tremezzina - 22019 Tremezzina (CO)
Sanctuary of the Madonna del Soccorso of Ossuccio
Tel. +39 0344 55211 - E-mail: santuariobvsofccoro@libero.it
www.santuariobvoscorso.blogspot.it - www.sacrimonti.org/sacro-monte-di-ossuccio

Tremezzina City Council
Via Santo Stefano, 7 - Loc. Lenno - 22019 Tremezzina (CO)
Tel. 0344 5583900 - E-mail: info@comune.tremezzina.co.it
www.comune.tremezzina.co.it

TOURIST INFORMATION

Ufficio turistico di Tremezzo (Tourist Office)
Via Regina, 1 - 22016 Tremezzina (CO)
Tel. +39 0344 40493
E-mail: turismo@comune.tremezzina.co.it
https://mylakecomo.co.it/

Antiquarium - Isola Comacina
Via Somalvico - località Ossuccio
22016 Tremezzina (CO) - Tel. +39 0344 56369
E-mail: info@isola-comacina.it
www.isola-comacina.it

RESTAURANT & ACCOMODATION

Sacred Mount
Trattoria del Santuario (near the Sanctuary)
Tel. +39 0344 56311
https://mylakecomo.co.it/

Surroundings:
https://mylakecomo.co.it/

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

info: https://mylakecomo.co.it/
monuments, museums, eco-museums, oenogastronomy touring, hiking, bicycle touring, water sports, parks, gardens, tourist train (along state road Regina), religious touring

EVENTS

info: https://mylakecomo.co.it/
music and art festivals, traditional festivals

LINKS

www.isola-comacina.it
www.in-lombardia.it

DIRECTIONS FOR OSSUCCIO (TREMEZZINA) AND THE SACRED MOUNT

By plane: Milano Malpensa and Milano Linate
By car: A9 exit Lago di Como direction SS340 for Ossuccio
Connections to Switzerland
By train: station Varenna Esino, line Milano Centrale - Tirano, station Como San Giovanni, line Milano Porta Garibaldi - Chiasso - www.trenitalia.com
Milano Cadorna - Como Nord - www.trenord.it
By bus: Asf Autolinee - Line C10 Como-Menaggio-Colico - www.asfautolinee.it
By ferry: Navigazione Lago di Como - www.navigazionelaghi.it

SACRED MOUNT - Beginning of path of the chapels (via Pasquale Castelli, 6) - località Ossuccio - 22019 Tremezzina (CO). Cars must park at the chapel 1st and 4th; it is not possible to go at the Sanctuary by car. Disabled people can contact the church (Tel. +39 0344 55211).
The smallest of the Piedmontese Sacred Mounts offers one of the most striking views of Lake Maggiore, in a panoramic position over the Lombard Prealps; it consists of three main chapels dedicated to the Crowned Virgin, Saint John the Baptist and Abraham, the sanctuary and the XVIII century Way of the Cross colonnade. The Santuario della Trinità is the heart of the complex, built between late XVI century and 1617 to extend an ancient site of medieval cult, a place considered sacred and miraculous even before the Sacred Mount project. The three chapels were built at a later time, approximately between 1647 and early XVIII century. The delightful surrounding environment with its chestnut woods and the ancient archaeological path, combined to the lakeside and climate charm, make it one of the most evocative Sacred Mounts from a landscape standpoint.

Extending between Italy and Switzerland, overlapping Piedmont and Lombardy, Lake Maggiore enjoys undisputed fame for the refined beauty of the Borromeo Islands, which palaces and gardens with their unique botanical collections have made it a favorite destination for national and international tourism since the past centuries. Here majestic hotels (Arona, Stresa, Verbania-Pallanza) and luxurious villas were built, such as Villa Pallavicino and Villa Taranto, renowned for their striking flowering of camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons. Nautical activities, the exquisite gastronomy, delightful views and a variety of itineraries that offer visitors the opportunity to enjoy relaxing walks along the lake or the surrounding alpine slopes, are but few of the reasons to take a vacation in the name of peace and charm.

TOURIST SERVICES
More details and information at www.sacrimonti.org/sacro-monte-di-ghiffa

VILLAS, GARDENS AND ISLANDS
DISCOVERING LAKE MAGGIORE

By plane: Milano Malpensa
By car: A26 (E62) exit Verbania direction SS33-raccordo for Verbania-Pallanza and for Ghiffa
Connections to Switzerland
By train: station of Verbania, lines from/to Milano, Novara, Domodossola - www.trenitalia.com
By bus: line Verbania - Brissago - www.vcotrasporti.it
By ferry: Navigazione Lago Maggiore - www.navigazionelaghi.it
Public transport info: PRONTO TPL http://prontotpl5t.torino.it

DIRECTIONS FOR GHIFFA AND THE SACRED MOUNT
By plane: Milano Malpensa
By car: A26 (E62) exit Verbania direction SS33-raccordo for Verbania-Pallanza and for Ghiffa
Connections to Switzerland
By train: station of Verbania, lines from/to Milano, Novara, Domodossola - www.trenitalia.com
By bus: line Verbania - Brissago - www.vcotrasporti.it
By ferry: Navigazione Lago Maggiore - www.navigazionelaghi.it
Public transport info: PRONTO TPL http://prontotpl5t.torino.it

SACRED MOUNT
With GPS: località Sacro Monte di Ghiffa - 28823 Ghiffa (VB)
On foot: ancient path to Ronco-Sacro Monte (40’ distance)

CONTACTS
Località Sacro Monte di Ghiffa - 28823 Ghiffa (VB)
Ente di gestione dei Sacri Monti - Riserva speciale del Sacro Monte di Ghiffa
Tel. +39 0323 39870 - E-mail: info.ghiffa@sacri-monti.com - www.sacrimonti.org/sacro-monte-di-ghiffa
Parish of di San Maurizio - Tel. +39 348 315 96 07 - E-mail: info@parrocchiaghiffa.org
Ghiffa City Council - Tel. +39 0323 59110 - E-mail: protocollo@comune.ghiffa.vb.it
www.comune.ghiffa.vb.it

TOURIST INFORMATION
Distretto Turistico dei Laghi, Monti e Valli d’Ossola (Tourist Office)
Corso Italia, 26 - 28838 Stresa (VB)
Tel. +39 0323 30416
E-mail infoturismo@distrettolaghi.it
www.distrettolaghi.it

RESTAURANT & ACCOMODATION
At Sacred Mount
Ristorante SS. Trinità
Tel. +39 0323 086330 - http://ristorantelatrinitha.it
Surroundings:
info: www.distrettolaghi.it

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES
info: www.distrettolaghi.it
monuments, museums, eco-museums, hiking, bicycle touring, water sports, air sports, winter sports, parks, gardens, horse riding touring, oenogastronomy touring, religious touring

EVENTS
info: www.distrettolaghi.it
music festivals, events and flower exhibitions

LINKS
www.regione.piemonte.it/web/piemonte-da-vivere
www.neveazzurra.it
www.camminidevozionali.it
www.areeprotetteossola.it
www.parcovalgrande.it
www.sesiavalgrandegeopark.it
At short distance from Switzerland, surrounded by the Ossola Alps and typical villages with slopes still growing ancient vineyards, the Sacred Mount winds through the town of Domodossola up to the Mattarella hill, where the ruins of the Longobard castle stand (VI sec.). The works started in 1656 on the initiative of Capuchin Friars Gioacchino da Cassano and Andrea da Rho to reproduce Christ’s passion and death with life-size images in a sort of Biblia pauperum. The first chapels were built upon the bishop’s authorization in 1657, under the supervision of Giovanni Matteo Capis, a local citizen and jurisconsult which the community will later appoint the task of the construction of other chapels up to early XX century. The internal decorations of these chapels date back to the XX century.

At Sacred Mount
Center of Rosminian Spirituality
Tel. 39 0324 47049
E-mail: info.turismo@distrettolaghi.it

Domodossola and Ossola
info: www.distrettolaghi.it

EVENTS
info: www.distrettolaghi.it
music festivals, holy traditions, festivals, oenogastronomy events

TOURIST INFORMATION
Distretto Turistico dei Laghi, Monti e Valli d’Ossola
(Tourist Office)
Corso Italia, 26 – 28838 Stresa (VB)
Tel. +39 0323 30416
E-mail: infoturismo@distrettolaghi.it
www.distrettolaghi.it

RESTAURANT & ACCOMODATION
info: www.distrettolaghi.it
At Sacred Mount
Center of Rosminian Spirituality
Tel. 39 0324 242010
E-mail: rettorecalvario@hotmail.com
www.sacromontecalvario.it
Circolo Aci Santa Croce (ristorante)
Tel. +39 0324 47049

Domodossola and Ossola
info: www.distrettolaghi.it

ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES
info: www.distrettolaghi.it
monuments, museums, eco-museums, typical villages, oenogastronomy touring, hiking, bicycle touring, water sports, air sports, winter sports, parks, gardens, tourist train, horse riding touring, religious touring

LINKS
www.regione.piemonte.it/web/piemonte-da-vivere
www.aireproteettessola.it
www.parcocalgrande.it
www.sesiaalengrandegeopark.it
www.neveazzurra.it
www.camminidevozionali.it
www.borgodellacultura.it
www.comune.domodossola.vb.it

DIRECTIONS FOR DOMODOSSOLA AND THE SACRED MOUNT

By plane:
Milano Malpensa

By car:
A26 (E62) + SS33 del Sempione, exit Domodossola and directions for Sacro Monte

By train:
station of Domodossola, lines for Milano, Losanna and Ginevra (CH), Novara - www.trenitalia.com; line for Locarno (CH) - www.vigezzina.com

By bus:
connections from/to Novara - Tel. +39 0324 240333 - www.comazzibus.com

Public transport info:
PRONTO TPL http://prontotpl.st.torino.it

SACRED MOUNT
With GPS:
borgata Sacro Monte Calvario, 5 - 28845 Domodossola (VB)
From the station, take a taxi or walk (50’ distance) up to the Sacred Mount
Access for small buses (25 seats) and quite difficult, notice must be given to the Rosminian Fathers

On foot:
directions beginning of Via Crucis from Domodossola (about 30’ distance)
Overlooking the wide panorama of the Torinese plain and the Canavese alpine view, the Sacred Mount of Belmonte project started in 1712 on the initiative of Franciscan Friar Michelangelo da Montiglio who, after spending some time in Palestine, called upon the local communities and a few noble families to create a religious path dedicated to Christ’s passion and death, with works by local artists most of which are still unknown.

The friars were turned away as a consequence of the religious order suppressions between 1802 and 1866 and returned in 1869 when they started restoring the chapels, redecorated by adding architectonic backgrounds and starring «colored statues of terra castellamontana». The thirteen chapels wind along a circular path embraced by luxuriant vegetation, rich of centenarian oaks and chestnuts interrupted by granitic rocks. The protected area houses an important Longobard archaeologic site.

The territory between Turin and Ivrea
Royalty, Nature and Industrial Archeology

In a territory characterized by one of the most renowned morainic amphiteaters of Europe dating back to the ice age, nature is mostly uncontaminated with lakes and soft hills, the valleys of the Gran Paradiso National Park and other nature sites such as the Five Lakes of Ivrea and the nature park of Lake Candia. Deserving special mention are also the top-quality oenogastronomy, the castles and ancient religious buildings, the local festivals, the traditional and historical events, the rock festivals and cultural activities, the UNESCO path dedicated to the Olivetti firm and its modern architecture buildings, but especially to its one-of-a-kind entrepreneurial, cultural and innovation spirit. In addition, Ivrea and the Canavese territory stand as the ideal destination for nature and outdoor sport lovers as they will enjoy the opportunity to practice a variety of competitive and amateur discipline.

TOURIST SERVICES
More details and information at www.sacrimonti.org/sacromonte-belmonte

CONTACTS
Località Sacro Monte di Belmonte - Borgata Trucchi - 10087 Valperga (TO)
Ente di gestione dei Sacri Monti - Riserva speciale Sacro Monte di Belmonte
Tel. +39 0124 510605 - E-mail: info.belmonte@sacri-monti.com
www.sacrimonti.org/sacromonte-belmonte

Franciscan Sanctuary of Belmonte
Tel. +39 0124 617204

DIRECTIONS FOR VALPERGA AND THE SACRED MOUNT
By plane: Torino Caselle
By car: Motorway A5 Torino - Aosta, exit San Giorgio, direction Valperga
By train - bus: connections to Torino - www.gtt.to.it
Public transport info: PRONTO TPL http://pronotopl5.torino.it

SACRED MOUNT
With GPS: località Sacro Monte di Belmonte, via Piemonte from San Giorgio follow directions for Rivarolo, Cuorgné, Prascorsano SP53+SP22+SP460+SP42+SP42
On foot: ancient pedestrian connection from Valperga (1 hour distance)
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ON FOOT AMONG THE SACRI MONTI - UNESCO
The Sacri Monti of Piedmont and Lombardy, a path where to meet art, landscape and spirituality
The Sacri Monti of Piedmont and Lombardy are connected by an articulated pedestrian path that intersects and overlaps the ancient Italian and European devotional paths. The complete route of the cammino dei Sacri Monti is being updated but it can be largely downloaded from the website www.sacrimonti.org
Project funded according to

Legge 20 febbraio 2006, n. 77
Misure speciali di tutela e fruizione dei siti italiani di interesse culturale, paesaggistico e ambientale inseriti nella lista del patrimonio mondiale posti sotto la tutela dell’UNESCO

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Alexa! Agenzia di Accoglienza e Promozione Turistica Locale della provincia di Alessandria
ATL Biella (p.13) - Distretto Turistico dei Laghi, Monti e Valli d'Ossola: G.Cavallini (p.7)
M.B. Cerini (p.17) - L.Framarini (p.19): Turismo Torino e Provincia s.c.r.l.(p. 21)
Comune di Varese (p.11) - Comune di Tremezzina (p.15) - DMO Piemonte s.c.r.l.
Ente di gestione dei Sacri Monti: M. Beck Peccoz (pp.2,3,4b,6,8,12a/b,14,16,18,20)
- G. Bergamo - M. Dallago (p. 4a) - A. Rege (pp,5,9) – C.Valazza (p.12c)
Regione Piemonte - Regione Lombardia