

ROUTES ALONG THE RIVER – Pescantina/Dolcè

This route connects the settlements in Valpolicella that lie along the river Adige.

Parona, today part of the municipality of Verona, was an independent municipality until 1929, the first one in Valpolicella for those coming from the city. Nature lovers can walk, ride or cycle along the towpath, the track on the riverbank once used by horses or oxen to tow boats upstream towards Trento.

PESCANTINA, so-called perhaps because the settlement once had a river port and therefore "fished" (pescava) in the water. Today the name is referred to the peach (pesca) trees planted extensively and an important economic resource for the area. Once Pescantina was an important hub for trade with the Trento area. Typical river boats, barges and paniciani, were built here.



Lungadige stroll
Parona/Pescantina

If you are interested in a local culture, we recommended a visit, in the neighbourhood of Mandella, to the parish church of **San Lorenzo Martire (St. Lawrence Martyr)**, built in 1753 in a Neoclassical style by Alessandro Pompei, enriched by the bell tower more than 80 meters high designed by Giuseppe Barbieri in the first half of the 19th century. San Lorenzo was built on a pre-existing Romanesque church whose remains are still visible on the east side.



Chiesa di San Michele. Arcè, Pescantina

Other the riverbank neighbourhoods with interesting artistic features are **Settimo**, with its villas, **Arcè**, which has a Romanesque church with frescoes, dedicated to **San Michele (San Micheal)** and **Ponton**, home to **Villa Nichesola**, attributed in the past to Sanmicheli and more recently to Giulio Romano, with magnificent frescoes of Paolo Farinati.

If you make the journey northwards by car you will reach **Volargne**, in the municipality of **Dolcè**. Here you will find Villa del Bene, a complex divided into several buildings that was completed in 1560. The main entrance, in line with the mooring on the river, is perhaps the work of Michele Sanmicheli. The villa is decorated inside by Domenico Brusaporzi, Gian Francesco Caroto, Nicola Crollanza and Bernardino India with frescoes extended throughout the main floor.



Forte di Rivoli (Rivoli or Wohlgemuth fort)

The territory of Dolcè in this area is characterized by impressive Austrian fortification, vestiges of the Empire's domination here until 1866. These structures were built between 1849 and 1852 to protect the Brenner route and the access to the Adige valley.

The Austrian border barrier of Rivoli-Ceraino consisted of four strongholds: **Chiusa Veneta** and **Hlawaty** in Ceraino, **Mollinary** in **Monte di Sant'Ambrogio** and, on the right bank, **Wohlgemuth** in **Rivoli**. The first three, on the left bank of the Adige, can be reached by the main road towards the Brenner.



Adige River, chiusa di Ceraino (Ceraino gorge)

The first one is 2km after Volargne, in the spectacular gorge (Chiusa) of Ceraino: the **Chiusa Veneta** fort, right next to the eponymous hotel (with parking space). You can visit the ruins, although they are partly covered by vegetation. The **Hlawaty** and Monte forts are more difficult to reach (only by foot), located along a steep, narrow track of which climbs up the cliffs of the gorge. It starts in the nearby village of **Ceraino**. Follow the signs for Forte Hlawaty and Forte Monte.



Forte di Hlawaty (Hlawaty Fort)