



### Exploring the Po River

In a predominantly agricultural area with many villages, the short stretch of the **Po River** near Vercelli separates the plain of rice fields from the green hills of Monferrato. With this itinerary, you can discover the charming area between **Trino and Crescentino**, where the largest Italian river flows in territories different in terms of environment, history and traditions, but linked since ancient times. A wonderful journey through small villages, forests, and farms where the **border between the river and the rice fields** seems to fade.

### Farms and rice mills

To learn more about its cultivation and to buy some of our best qualities of rice, your best option is to visit a farm or a rice mill. Discover the list of farms and rice mills available for visits along the Po River on [www.atlvalsesiavercelli.it](http://www.atlvalsesiavercelli.it)



### Cyclable rice paddies

Discovering Vercelli's rice fields by bicycle is the best way to explore this land: ancient farmsteads, ingenious hydraulic works and places that offer unique and different scenarios in every season. Discover all the cyclable rice paddies itineraries on [www.atlvalsesiavercelli.it](http://www.atlvalsesiavercelli.it)



Stampa: Industria Grafica Borgosesia - Progetto Grafico: www.enesi.it - Materiale fotografico: Archivio ATL Biella Valsesia Vercelli - Donatello Lorenzo



#### HOW TO REACH THE PO RIVER

##### VERCELLI

SP1 "Strada delle Grange" to Crescentino

##### A26 GENOVA - GRAVELLONA T.

Exit Vercelli Ovest. SP1 to Crescentino

##### A4 MILANO - TORINO

E25 highway to Vercelli. Exit Vercelli Ovest. SP1 to Crescentino

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Find out more:



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# EXPLORING THE PO RIVER

Nature and rice fields just a stone's throw away from Monferrato



## 1 PO RIVER AND THE NATURE PARK

The **Po Nature Park** was created with the aim of safeguarding the river's last natural environments. The protected areas, in the stretch between Crescentino and Trino, are particularly interesting for **birdwatchers**, who can admire numerous colonies of resident birds. Near the river and within the protected areas, there are several marked paths, huts, and rest points to enjoy nature in full relaxation.



## 3 FONTANETTO PO

The village, that took its name from the numerous fountains across its area, is known as the birthplace of **Giovan Battista Viotti**, one of the greatest musicians of the 18th century. Remarkably interesting along via Viotti, where the artist was born, is the **Parish Church of S.**



## CHECKERED SEA

Heading towards the hills of lower Monferrato, it's possible to travel a beautiful **scenic route** that, in many places, allow you to enjoy wonderful views of the Po River and the Vercelli rice plain. This route is particularly charming in the clear spring days when the flooded rice fields create the spectacular view of the "**checkered sea**" framed by the Alps and Monte Rosa.

## ITINERARIES IN RICE FIELD

## 5 PALAZZOLO VERCELLESE

This small agricultural village was founded by Romans along the Ticinum-Augusta-Taurinorum Road, which, passing along the Po River, connected Turin to Pavia. From the village, looking at the hills of Monferrato, it is possible to admire the beautiful **ravines** and the very steep walls created by rainwater.



## LEGEND

- 1 Po River and Nature Park
- 2 Crescentino
- 3 Fontanetto Po
- 4 Mulino - Riseria "S. Giovanni"
- 5 Palazzolo Vercellese
- 6 Trino

 Historical sites

 Natural sites

 Viewpoints

 Churches

 Castles/Towers

## 2 CRESCENTINO

The town, located at the confluence of the Po River and the Dora Baltea River, in the Middle Ages was an important "free commune". Downtown, where the medieval urban plan is still preserved, you can trace the symbol of the town: the **Civic Tower**, dating back to the 14th century, it houses the largest bell in the province of Vercelli known as the "Crescentina". Also the **Isola S. Maria Nature Reserve**, one of the protected areas of the Po Nature Park, is located not far from town.

**Martino** with its sumptuous bell tower in Romanesque-Norman style. It is 56 meters high.

## 4 MULINO - RISERIA "S. GIOVANNI"

Near Fontanetto Po, you can find the **Mulino - Riseria S. Giovanni**, the only surviving example in the Province of Vercelli of a rice mill powered by water. The rice mill, which preserves the old machinery for processing rice, is part of the **Ecomuseo of Water Lands**.



## 6 TRINO

This interesting example village in the lowlands of Vercelli, located at the foot of the hills of Monferrato, was within the feud owned by the Paleologis, a noble family that ruled the fate of the Marquisate of Monferrato from 1305 until 1532. There are many artistic and architectural jewels here: **Palazzo Paleologo** hosted the court of the Paleologis; the **Church of San Bartolomeo** was built in the Middle Ages; the "**G.A. Irico**" **Civic Museum** hosts several local finds.