



Exploring the Canale Cavour

The rice-growing landscape of Vercelli is marked by a network of canals and extraordinary hydraulic engineering works that irrigate the rice paddies: this complex water management is the basis of rice cultivation. With this itinerary that crosses the entire Vercelli plain, from the **Dora Baltea River to the Sesia River**, you will discover the **Canale Cavour** and the majestic hydraulic works of the Vercelli irrigation system. An incredible journey through canals, bridges, and monumental buildings along the **waterways of the land of rice**.

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 Canale Cavour on 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



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



HOW TO REACH THE CANALE CAVOUR VERCELLI

SP1 "Strada delle Grange" to Crescentino. SP37 to Saluggia

A26 GENOVA - GRAVELLONA T.

Exit Vercelli Ovest. SP1 to Crescentino. SP 37 to Saluggia

A4 MILANO – TORINO

Exit Rondissone. SP 29 to Saluggia

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Find out more:



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EXPLORING THE CANALE CAVOUR

Along the waters of the Vercelli area



1 CANALE CAVOUR AND THE VERCELLI IRRIGATION NETWORK

Almost 85 km long, the **Canale Cavour** is a fantastic example of hydraulic engineering work that connect the Po River in Chivasso to the Ticino River in Galliate. Strongly wanted by **Camillo Benso Conte di Cavour**, this colossal work represents, together with other canals such as the Naviglio d'Ivrea and the De Pretis Canal, the backbone of an extensive and efficient irrigation network that crosses the entire Vercelli plain, and thanks to which it has been possible, over the centuries, to **grow rice**.

3 LIVORNO FERRARIS

The village is known as the birthplace of **Galileo Ferraris**, an illustrious physicist and engineer of the 19th century. Do not miss, in the charming historical center of the village, the **Ferraris Civic Museum**, dedicated to the scientist and his brother Adamo, Garibaldi's personal doctor. Near the



CANALE CAVOUR

Along the 85 km of the route there are 101 bridges, 210 siphons, and 62 canal-bridges. The most beautiful viewpoints are those where the Canale Cavour crosses a watercourse (river or stream) by means of a **canal bridge** or a **siphon**. Among the most impressive there are the extraordinary **canal bridge over the Dora Baltea River** (Saluggia) and the magnificent **siphon of the Sesia River** (Greggio).

ITINERARIES IN RICE FIELD

6 LAME DEL SESIA NATURE PARK

The park, located along the right bank of the Sesia River, is a **protected oasis of 900 hectares** water pools, water sheets, and woods and natural habitat of rich fauna and lush vegetation. Several routes start from **Albano Vercellese** that will allow you to discover one of the most important ornithological oases in Italy and Europe.




LEGEND

- 1 Canale Cavour
- 2 Saluggia
- 3 Livorno Ferraris
- 4 Tenuta Colombara
- 5 Santhià
- 6 Lame del Sesia Nature Park

 Historical sites

 Natural sites

 Canale Cavour sites

2 SALUGGIA

The small town, which rises on a steep embankment on the left of the Dora Baltea, is known above all for its **beans**, much sought after for the traditional Vercelli "**panissa**" dish. Near the village you can admire the **intake of the Canale Farini**, a little jewel of engineering and hydraulic architecture of the 19th century.

village you can see the **Canale De Pretis**, an ancient canal of the 18th century.

4 TENUTA COLOMBARA - CONSERVATORIO DELLA RISICULTURA

In the middle of Vercelli's rice fields, the fascinating Tenuta Colombara hosts the **Conservatory of Rice Cultivation**. In the estate, a beautiful example of a **farmhouse with an inner courtyard**, there are areas in which some of the representative settings of the history

and life of the rice-growing have been reconstructed: artisan workshops, houses, the school and the beautiful dormitory of the rice-weders. This is indeed worth a visit.



5 SANTHIÀ

The city, where the oldest **historical carnival** of Piedmont takes place, is crossed by the **Via Francigena**, of which it is the 44th stop. Not far from the city center, along the Naviglio d'Ivrea, is located the **Experimental Hydrometric Station of Santhià**, a beautiful building of the 19th century, one-of-a-kind and built to measure the flow and distribution of water of the complex Vercelli irrigation network.

