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Exploring the Canale Cavour

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

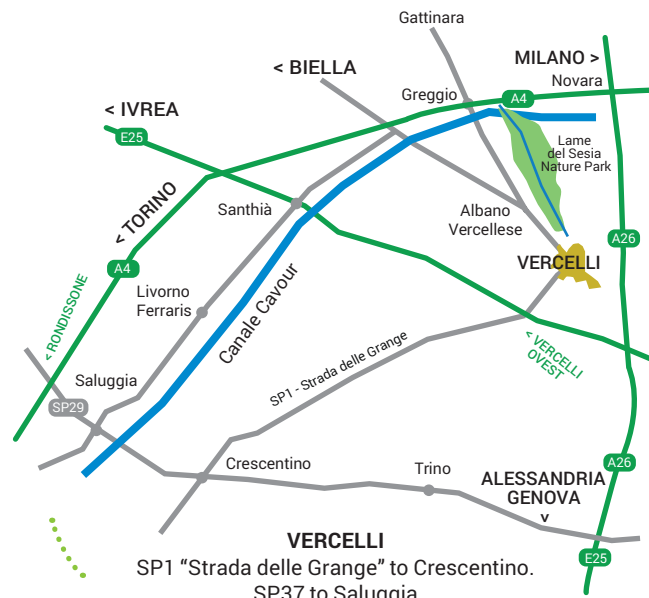
Farms and rice mills

To learn more about its cultivation and to buy excellent 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.visitvalsesiavercelli.it**

Cyclable rice paddies

Discovering Vercelli's rice fields by bicycle is the best way to explore the land: ancient farmsteads, ingenious hydraulic works and places that offer unique and different scenarios in every season. Discover all the cycling routes through the rice paddies at **www.visitvalsesiavercelli.it**

HOW TO REACH THE CANALE CAVOUR



A26 GENOVA - GRAVELLONA T.
Exit Vercelli Ovest.
SP1 to Crescentino. SP 37 to Saluggia

A4 MILANO - TORINO
Exit Rondissone - SP 29 to Saluggia



ATL TERRE DELL'ALTO PIEMONTE
AGENZIA DI ACCOGLIENZA E PROMOZIONE TURISTICA LOCALE
BIELLA NOVARA VALSESIA VERCELLI

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Itineraries in rice field Exploring the Canale Cavour

Along the waters of the Vercelli area





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



Canale Cavour

Along the 85 km route there are 101 bridges, 210 siphons and 62 canal bridges. The most striking points to observe are those where the Cavour Canal crosses a watercourse (river or stream) via a **canal bridge** or a **siphon tunnel**. Among the most spectacular are the splendid **canal bridge over the Dora Baltea River** (Saluggia) and the magnificent **siphon tunnel of the Sesia River** (Greggio).

1 CANALE CAVOUR AND THE VERCELLI IRRIGATION NETWORK

Almost 85 km long, the **Canale Cavour** is a fantastic example of hydraulic engineering that connects the Po River at Chivasso to the Ticino River at Galliate. Strongly desired by **Camillo Benso Conte di Cavour**, this colossal work represents, together with other important 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, over the centuries, the development of **rice cultivation** has been possible.



2 SALUGGIA

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

3 LIVORNO FERRARIS

The village is known for being the birthplace of **Galileo Ferraris**, an illustrious physicist and engineer of the 19th century. Don't miss, in the charming historic centre of the village, the **Ferraris Civic Museum**, dedicated to the scientist and his brother Adamo, Garibaldi's personal physician. Near the village you can see the **Canale De Pretis**, an ancient and important canal dating back to the 18th century.

4 TENUTA COLOMBARA - RICE CULTIVATION CONSERVATORY

In the middle of Vercelli's rice fields we find the charming Colombara estate, home to the **Rice Cultivation Conservatory**. In the estate, a splendid example of a closed courtyard farmhouse, there are spaces where the most representative environments of the history and life of the rice-growing world have been reconstructed: the artisan workshops, the houses, the school and the beautiful dormitory of the rice weeders. This is indeed worth a visit.

5 SANTHIÀ

The town, which hosts Piedmont's oldest **historical carnival**, has been crossed since ancient times by the **Via Francigena**, of which it is the 44th stage. Not far from the town centre, along the Naviglio d'Ivrea canal, we find the **Santhià Experimental Hydrometric Station**, a beautiful 19th-century building designed to measure the flow and distribution of water in the complex irrigation network of the Vercelli area.

6 LAME DEL SESIA NATURE PARK

The park, located along the right bank of the Sesia River, is a splendid **protected oasis covering 900 hectares** with marshes, ponds and woods, an ideal place for a rich fauna and lush vegetation to thrive. There are several trails starting from **Albano Vercellese** that allow visitors to discover one of the most important ornithological oases in Italy and Europe.

