



The "Greenway" is a leisurely and pleasant walk of about 10 km that leads from Colonno to Griante following traces of the "*Antica Strada Regina*", an antique Roman road.

ITINERARY: Colonno - Sala Comacina - Ossuccio - Lenno - Mezzegra - Tremezzo - Griante

WALKING TIME: 3½ h

ASCENT: 100 m

DIFFICULTY: Easy

TRAIL SIGNS: Green metal signs on the pavement and road signs

CONNECTIONS: bus C10 Como-Menaggio or ferry



ROUTE: The Greenway starts at the south end of the town **Colonno** where there is a bus stop (bus stop Borgo delle Uve). Follow the signs indicating "*Greenway del Lago*" and ascend the road named via Cappella. Then continue along via Civetta that leads to the historic centre of the town. The typical small cobblestone streets of Colonno with narrow passages and alleys which lead down to the lake are typical of a medieval village (we suggest a brief deviation to the main square on the lake). Cross the bridge over the Pessetta stream. Here you find yourself on a part of the ancient Roman road called "*Antica Strada Regina*". This ancient road used to be an important connection between Como and the countries situated north of the Alps. After a pleasant walk of about 30 minutes you reach **Sala Comacina**. At the entrance of the cemetery take the cobblestone path on the left to continue along the Greenway. After 150 m you find a niche (Niche of St Roch): if you want to visit Sala Comacina, a picturesque medieval village, walk down the steps on the right, in the direction of the lake, following the sign "*Passaggio a lago n. 3*". To stay on the Greenway, walk straight along the cobblestone path that offers wonderful views of the lake and the Island Comacina. After about 600 m, the path joins the hamlet of Ossuccio and merges with the main traffic road. Cross it with caution in order to reach the 11th-century church of S. Giacomo. Keep on walking north on the right for about 200 m, then cross the main road again and take the cobblestone street on the left, up in the direction of the Madonna del Soccorso, a Sanctuary that stands at the foot of the Perlana valley at an altitude of 400 m. Follow the Greenway by taking via Andrea Castelli on the right with a lovely view of the Santa Maria Maddalena bell tower, one of the most famous symbols of Lake Como. The complex of Santa Maria Maddalena houses a small museum dedicated to the Island Comacina and its rich history. At the roundabout follow the road downhill and pass the church of S. Eufemia and Vincenzo.

Cross the main road and 20 metres further on take the small road on the right that leads to the gate of villa Balbiano, a 17th-century residence preceded by an entrance nymphaeum. Using a small bridge, cross Perlana stream and pass by Casa Brenna Tosatto, an Art Deco building which houses a fine Italian 20th-century art collection. Winding its way amid the stone houses and narrow streets of the picturesque hamlet of **Campo di Lenno**, after 700 m the Greenway reaches Dosso del Lavedo, an hilly peninsula on whose tip stands the famous Villa del Balbianello. To visit it, follow the



View of Sala Comacina (© J. Bents)

signs just past the Hotel Lavedo (1 km – open from mid-March till mid-November - closed on Monday and Wednesday). To continue the Greenway, walk past the lido of Lenno following the lake side, piazza Santo Stefano with its Romanesque baptistery till you reach the boat dock. Cross the bridge over the Pola stream and pass in front of the S. Giorgio hotel.

A small alley way leads to the main road. Cross it and continue uphill for about ten minutes so as to reach **Mezzegra** and via Pola where you turn right. At the next fork turn left into via Pola Vecchia. It ends onto via Brentano that you must follow on the right to the church of S. Abbondio. From the churchyard you have a splendid view of the lake. From here continue slightly downhill in order to arrive at Palazzo Brentano. This 17th-century palace was built by the Brentanos, an influent local family, who made their fortune as merchants mainly in Holland and Germany.

The route winds its way through the antique village of **Bonzanigo** and continues on the road near the 17th-century Palazzo Rosati. From here walk down towards the lake and then turn left in via delle Gere. Cross the bridge over the Bolvedro stream, and continue the descent towards the lake until you reach the main lake side road. Past the beautiful villa La Quiete with its Italian-style front garden and beautiful wrought iron gate, keep on the right and enter the scenic Parco Teresio Olivelli. Once out of the park, the Greenway follows the safe sidewalk that runs along the lakeshore and the main Regina road. It goes past antique arcades with shops and restaurants, the Grand Hotel Tremezzo, one of the finest Lake Como hotels, and the magnificent 17th-century Villa Carlotta, one of the most visited villas in the region. Its botanical park and museum are open daily from mid-March until the beginning of November (www.villacarlotta.it). The Greenway ends in the village of **Griante**; opposite the English Church, consecrated in 1891, you will find the Cadenabbia ferry dock and the bus stop.

