



This circular walk leads through the Valsolda, an area situated on Lake Lugano. It starts at S. Mamete and leads up to the pastures of Rancò (710 m), touching some nice towns and offering wide views of the Valsolda and Lake Lugano.

ITINERARY: S. Mamete - Loggio - Drano - Rancò - Dasio - Puria - Loggio - S. Mamete

WALKING TIME: 3 h

ASCENT: 430 m

DIFFICULTY: Steep descent from Rancò to the bridge over the stream Soldo

TRAIL SIGNS: From S. Mamete to Rancò path No. 2, from Rancò to Loggio path No. 1

CONNECTIONS: to/from S. Mamete bus line C12 (Menaggio-Lugano)



ROUTE: When you arrive in **San Mamete**, get off the bus in Piazza Roma, a nice porticoed square. Before starting the walk, we recommend to stop to admire the view of Lake Lugano from the picturesque lakeside. Back to Piazza Roma, walk up the steps at its far right end; pass the former Praetorium Palace with the archbishop's coat of arms and reach the church of SS. Mamete and Agapito. It already existed in the 12th century as testified by the Romanesque bell tower, but it was modified between 1600 and 1800.

Continuing on the cobbled steps, you pass, on the right, a little chapel dedicated to St. Charles Borromeo, from where you can have a wonderful view of the lake. You then pass the cemetery of Loggio where there is another chapel dedicated to Saint Charles. Both chapels were built in 1610 on the occasion of the canonization of Charles Borromeo, Archbishop of Milan and leading figure of the Catholic Counter-Reformation. Now turn left onto via alla Cascata, which leads to the church of S. Bartolomeo in **Loggio**. We recommend to visit the old village center. On the walls of some houses you can see frescoes representing the Shroud of Turin. This bears witness to a time when local artisans moved to Turin to work for the Royal House of Savoy. Past the church take via Tericà to the right. It crosses the road several times before arriving at the hamlet of

Drano. Turn right to enter the historic centre. Pass under a porch and turn left. At the fork in the road keep to the right and follow the trail sign No. 2. Walk up a wide cobbled track which leads into the valley. After crossing a little bridge over the stream of Val Canale, and through the pastures, you reach **Rancò** (743 m). The track heads to the other side of the valley, surrounded by the limestone peaks of Pizzo Ravè (1285 m),



View of Castello Valsolda (© J. Bents)

Monte Pradé (1607 m) and Sass di Mont (1262 m). At the fork turn left and follow the trail sign No. 1 and those of "Il Sentiero delle 4 Valli" (a 50 km long hiking trail that takes you from Breglia, above Menaggio, to Dasio above Lake Lugano). You then follow a steep, narrow trail through the woods which leads down to the stream Soldo. Past the bridge you reach Dasio where you turn left onto via Garibaldi. Once you reach the road, walk past the church of S. Bernardo and, at the bus stop in via Barca, turn left onto via Marisem in the direction of **Puria**. Cross a little bridge and take the road near the cemetery. At the next bend of the road, turn onto via d'Ampollo and after 20 m turn left into via Rivo, which leads down to the beautiful church of S. Maria Assunta. The church is traditionally attributed to Pellegrino Tibaldi, famous painter and architect, born in Puria in 1527. From the church turn into via Fontana Vecchia and, after crossing the road, follow the old track until you reach a wash house, where you cross the road and continue on the track along the valley with a nice view of the village Castello. You cross the bridge over the stream Soldo near a waterfall. Then take the track called via alla Cascata, which leads back to the church in **Loggio** and from here back to **S. Mamete** the same way round.

Waterfall near Loggio

