



THE PARK AND THE SEA

Mesola - Lidi di Comacchio - Comacchio



Lidi di Comacchio

A journey of many destinations: art, woodlands, nature, seaside, which visits the most significant places in the Ferrarese part of the Po Delta Park. It leaves from Mesola Castle, the Este country retreat, visiting the woodlands of the Gran Bosco della **Mesola**, then Pomposa Abbey, and going all the way to the coast with its seven seaside towns. From the canal port in **Porto Garibaldi** there is a cycle path to the lagoon town of **Comacchio**, with its bridges and canals, the true capital of the Po Delta Park.

10 GPS + ROAD BOOK Technical notes

Depart: Mesola, Castello della Mesola

Arrive: Comacchio, Duomo di San Cassiano

Length: 55,870 km

Difficulty level: suitable for everyone. Level route mainly along minor roads. Some stretches along cycle paths on asphalt and some on dirt track (FE219 and FE301).

Railways

Ferrara/Codigoro

Bicycle transport available. Please check timetables and availability. Info: 800 91 50 30 • www.fer.it

Places of Interest

Mesola Castle, Pomposa Abbey. **Comacchio:** the Trepponti Bridge, the Roman Ship Museum, the Old Hospital, the Cathedral of San Cassiano, the Eel-Works, the Loggiato dei Cappuccini, the Church of Santa Maria in Aula Regia, the trails in the Comacchio lagoons.



www.ferrarainfo.com

Mesola: Castello Estense • tel. 0533 993358

Codigoro: Abbazia di Pomposa • tel. 0533 719119

Comacchio: Via Mazzini, 4 • tel. 0533 314154

Parco Delta del Po Emilia Romagna:
tel. 0533 314003 • www.parcodeltapo.it

Connections with other routes

1 Ferrara - Gorino Ferrarese

8 Ostellato - Pomposa

9 Argenta - Comacchio





Gran Bosco della Mesola woodlands

This route starts from the *Destra Po* cycle tour route at **Mesola** Castle, an Este country house built for Duke Alfonso II d'Este at the end of the 1500s on the edge of a large game reserve. At the castle visit the *Environmental Education Centre* and the *Deer Museum*. After passing Bosco di Santa Giustina and the interesting Torre Abate tower, we reach the Gran Bosco della Mesola woodlands, the last remaining example of the ancient forests that were found until a few centuries ago all along the Adriatic Coast.



For a pleasant excursion to the interior, the **Gran Bosco** has been equipped with a large area at the entrance laid out for cars and camper vans (with services), a green field to picnic in, and cycle hire. Time to walk though: at least one hour.



Pedalling along through agricultural land reclaimed from the sea with inter-linked drainage canals, pumping stations, and tree-lined roads with typical vegetation, we arrive at the magnificent **Pomposa Abbey**, a



The Canneviè-Porticino-Foce Volano Nature Reserve

magical place loaded with atmosphere from its religious role (but also economic and social) from the 9th to the 15th Century. Visit the church, the *Chapter House*, the *Refectory* and the *Museum*.

On the FE301 cycle track alongside the Po di Volano, we pass by the Canneviè-Porticino-Foce Volano nature reserves and the Torre della Finanza tower, to arrive at last at **Lido di Volano**; from here we take the Acciaioli panoramic road which gives a view over the beautiful Valle Bertuzzi and then Lago delle Nazioni. Here we get close to the sea, visiting in order the beach resorts of **Lido delle Nazioni**, **Lido di Pomposa**, **Lido degli Scacchi**, and **Porto Garibaldi**. On the other side

of the canal we finish the list of the coastal resorts with **Lido degli Estensi** and **Lido di Spina**, reached by a cycle/pedestrian ferry.

Follow the cycle track from the fishing centre of Porto Garibaldi and in time you arrive at the beautiful lagoon city of Comacchio, a precious jewel softly set among the warm red of its bricks and the and the sparkling green of its canals. Of ancient origin, it was a 'floating town' (unconnected by road) until 1821. Even today it seems designed by the water, with a network of canals instead of streets, bridges linking up quarters of terraced houses with their hidden androni passages leading to interior courtyards.



Discover the flavours

Comacchio gastronomy achieves its fullest expression in fish dishes from both salt and fresh water. The eel is king of the table, cooked in a thousand ways: grilled, in *brodetto* soup, with Savoy cabbage, or marinated. The *antipasti* of mussels, scallops or clams, lobsters, *canocchie* (the mantis shrimp), small mixed seafood, or prawns are all delicious; among first courses the same goes for risottos like the *di mare* or *alla pescatora*, spaghetti with clams, fish soup, everything washed down with DOC wines from the Bosco Eliceo.