Third week | 3rd day

The road of the valleys

Chioggia - Porto Viro - Adria

An amphibian route amidst water and land in the heart of the Po Delta Nature Park



You start out from the historical centre of Chioggia pedalling triumphantly among the narrow streets and passing right next to the water along the picturesque Vena canal, which reminds us how the main economic activity here is still fishing. Then you can gaze onto the Lusenza lagoon and with a short detour you can visit Sottomarina, a well-known tourist resort.

Then it is time for the estuaries of the Brenta river followed by that of the Adige, where you can find the Nordio Woods, precious remains of an ancient wet woods plain area surrounded by great stretches of fields where *radicchio*, "the rose of Chioggia" is also grown. Once you have crossed the river Adige you can make a detour to reach the estuary, the beaches of Rosolina Mare and the Coastal Botanic Garden at Porto Caleri, an important natural oasis.

Now you go onto the "road of the valleys", a narrow asphalted road which leads into a rarefied and isolated environment: here you can come across colonies of pink flamingos. Near Albarella island the road is interrupted, but a ferry gets you to the other side near Porto Levante.

From the little fishing village you take up the road of the valleys once again and go by one of the most fascinating areas of the Po Delta Park until you reach Villaregia, where you meet the Po coming from Venice. You go up onto the wide embankment of the great river until Porto Viro, where the regional park is. Just a few more kilometres and you reach Adria which is reflected in the waters of the Canalbianco.

ROUTE INFORMATION

Starting point: Chioggia Arrival: Adria Length: 84 km Conditions: easy route, on secondary roads and embankments mostly asphalted Indications: present Inter-modality: bike + boat to Porto Levante

USEFUL ADDRESSES

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Chioggia, historical centre
Po Delta, valleys
Po Delta, flamingos
Adria





TRAVELLERS' DIARY

Once you have left the centre of Chioggia and the beaches of Sottomarina, go beyond the river Brenta towards Brondolo, Ca' Lino, Sant'Anna, this land is dedicated to market gardening. In fact, the agricultural landscape is characterised by small plots with huts and tunnels where mainly radicchio, carrots, onions and potatoes are grown. You ride close to the Bosco Nordio Integral Nature Reserve, where among the holly oaks, and maritime pines there are badgers, stone martens and many birds such as marsh falcons and serins. When you pass Cavanella d'Adige and cross the river Adige, you enter the road of the valleys, which greatly satisfies birdwatchers: large fishing lakes and lagoons, red sunsets, coots, herons and

pink flamingos. The narrow asphalted road makes its way into the Boccavecchia valley, Canelle valley, Passarella valley, Spolverina valley, Capitania valley, Veniera valley; you can also visit some centres where there are eel, sea bream, sea bass and mullet nurseries. It is advisable to make a detour to reach Rosolina Mare beach and the Porto Caleri Botanical Garden, a fascinating oasis spread over 40 hectares. Continue along the left bank of the Po di Levante, behind Albarella island which formed thanks to an accumulation of sediment carried by the great river and which is now an exclusive tourist resort. At the estuary of the Po di Levante, a ferry service gets you across the river so you can continue

the route along the delta, enhanced by magical views. Continue inside the Veneto Regional Park of the Po Delta, then you go to the orographic right of the Po di Maistra and then the Po di Venezia, passing through Villaregia and from the top of the riverbank you overlook never-ending stretches planted with cereals. You reach the town of Porto Viro and right after there is the Volta Grimana lock, with its beautiful naturalist oasis, which connects the Po di Levante to the Po di Venezia. Following the Canalbianco canal along its right bank you reach the beautiful old town of Adria, which gave its name to a whole sea.