

## Via Francigena From Pont San Martin to Pavia



### **From Pont St Martin to Garlasco**

*The second week of the Italian stretch of Via Francigena starts in Pont St Martin, which you can easily reach by train in 2h30 from Milano. This is the itinerary that leads from the Alps to the Pò river plain with a great variety of Landscapes: the Alps behind Ivrea, the hills around Viverone lake and the wide plain down below. Towns rich in history, alternate with natural pearls like the Viverone lake. Ancient medieval towers, churches and renaissance buildings take you back in times. You will find at the first hotel all the material you need for your trip: hotel vouchers, the detailed description of the walking, the “Credenziale” and the GPS maps.*

**Level:** Easy/Moderate - **Total distance:** 137km - **Daily average :** 23km - **Walking time :** 4/7hrs - **Duration:** 7 Nights

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## DAY BY DAY WALKING PROGRAM

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### PONT SAINT MARTIN

**Day 1 – Arrival in Pont St Martin – Height at departure: 345 m**

Nice day that continues the vineyards road entering Piedmont region. Sometimes hard to distinguish the way-marks of a white color that merge with the landscape.

The departure point of this first stage is Pont Saint Martin, little village located on the border between Valle d'Aosta and Piedmont. It owes its name to the Roman bridge dating back in the I century B.C. . In the neighborhood there is also the "Strada delle Gallie", a stretch of original Roman pavement with a column and an arch built in the granite.



### IVREA

**Day 2 – Pont St Martin – Ivrea**

**Height at arrival: 253 m - Length: 25 km – altitude gap: +368m/- 455m - Highest point: 380m -**

**Walking time: 5h30**

Today the itinerary winds among country areas, little villages and woods. From the hills located in the north of Ivrea, you will see, in the distance Montalto castle, a huge fortress with high towers dated back to 1300. The stage ends in Ivrea, located on the banks of the river Dora Baltea. In the towns you will find some important remains of the Roman Age and from medieval times, when Ivrea was protected by its walls and divided in "rioni" (quarters).

### VIVERONE

**Day 3 – Ivrea – Viverone**

**Height at the arrival: 287 m Length:22,8 km Walking time: 5h.00**

The first part of the today's stage take place through open countryside. Interesting, the little village of Bollengo, The second part goes across the hills and offers nice views on the valley and then on the Lake of Viverone, with crystalline water and rich in uncontaminated plant and wild life. Really nice to visit is the nearest village of Viverone, with the interesting Bell Tower.

### SANTHIA'

**Day 4 – Viverone – Santhia'**

**Height at the arrival: 183 m - Length: 17,00 km – Altitude gap: +213m/ -165m - Highest point: 329m – Walking time: 4h50**

This is the first of the Po valley stages. Beyond Roppolo Castle starts the monotonous land of open, endless rice fields interrupted only by the network of irrigation canals.

After a quite walk in view of the lake of Viverone, you continue through a nice wooded area to cross one of the last hills before the agricultural plain. The fields gets the upper hand little by little while you reach Santhià, first village you meet during the long passage of the Padana plain. Santhià is an agricultural and industrial centre where two branches of the Francigena Way join: one coming from the Gran San Bernardo Pass and the other one coming from the Susa Valley and France.

## VERCELLI



### Day 5 – Santhia’ – Vercelli

**Height at the arrival: 130 m Length: 30.5 km Walking time:6h30**

This is the first stage completely flat. During spring the wide area of fields around Vercelli became a boundless water expanse, thanks to a complex network of water canals built for rice cultivation. The city of Vercelli has old bourgeois feeling. The medieval Cavour square is entirely surrounded by ancient houses with porch and the renowned Basilica of

Saint Andrew is an absolute masterpiece of Romanesque-Gothic architecture of Northern Italy.

## ROBBIO

### Day 6 – Vercelli – Robbio

**Height at the arrival: 120m - Length : 30,55 km – Altitude gap: +26 m/ – 79m – Highest point: 188m - Walking time: 7h30**

**At present there are no accommodations in Robbio; therefore upon arrival in town catch a train to Mortara (15 minutes and 2 euros ) and spend the night there.**

Fewer way-marks than previous days. Some of the trails may be really muddy after heavy rain. Out of Vercelli, after a short walk in the countryside, you walk along the banks of the river Sesia. The itinerary becomes wooded and you cross the border between Piedmont and Lombardy. Near Palestro, you will leave the river and soon you will reach Robbio. This town is on the consular street that led to Gallie and had an important role since the ancient times. Today it is an agricultural and industrial centre in the pavese plain. Mortara(Mortis Ara = Altar of the dead) owes its name to a terrible battle that took place between Charles the Main and The Longobards . apparently, more than 70.000 people died that day. Spend the night near the railway station.

## GARLASCO

**Day 7 – Mortara – Garlasco – Height at the arrival: 93m Length:20 km- Walking time: 5h**

The today’s stage crosses the Pavia countryside: farm-houses and imposing rural houses are like little dots among the wide cultivated fields. A detour allows the visit of the Sanctuary of Madonna della Bozzola, 4 km from the town centre which is still famous among pilgrims today .



## DEPARTURE

**Day 8 – end our services**

## Accommodation



Ivrea



Viverone



Santhià



Vercelli



Mortara



Garlasco