

Second week | 4th day

Along the Lemene

Lignano Sabbiadoro - Concordia Sagittaria - Portogruaro

From the pine woods to one of the most interesting archaeological areas in the Veneto region, Concordia Sagittaria



Once you have visited the three centres on the **Lignano** peninsula (**Sabbiadoro**, **Pineta** and **Riviera**) you head towards the estuary of the Tagliamento river, crossing this means entering the Veneto region: we are already in **Bibione**, another well-know tourist resort situated at the estuary of the Tagliamento river and which can be reached with a detour on a protected cycling path.

We are now alongside the canals and fishing areas north of the **Caorle** lagoon, with beautiful swans and *casoni* - characteristic fishing huts made out of wood with thatched roofs, also used by the fishermen for sleeping – with landing areas, boats and wooden bridges; fields stretching out as far as the eye can see.

After Lugugnana you head towards Castello di Brussa, where we suggest a detour to visit the magnificent **Vallevecchia area**, with thick Mediterranean pine woods and a beautiful natural beach. Once you arrive near Sindacale, you head north and reach **Concordia Sagittaria**, an important Roman town with impressive monuments like the Cathedral of St. Stephan, the Bishop's Palace and the XI century Baptistery.

Just a few kilometres away, on the banks of the river Lemene, there is the picturesque town of **Portogruaro**.

ROUTE INFORMATION

Starting point: Lignano Sabbiadoro

Arrival: Portogruaro

Length: 52 km

Conditions: almost all the route is on mixed traffic roads, although light traffic apart from a couple of stretches along B roads

Indications: present

Inter-modality: bike + boat

USEFUL ADDRESSES

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1 Concordia Sagittaria, Cathedral of St. Stephan
2 Portogruaro, historical centre on the Lemene

3 Bibione, pine wood and lighthouse
4 Bibione, beach

TRAVELLERS' DIARY

You leave Lignano Sabbiadoro pedalling along the lively main road of the tourist resort, then you go once again into the marshy, salty area, among fishing areas and tortuous water flows, until you cross the Tagliamento bridge which brings you into the province of Venice. Here we are at Bibione, a spa and tourist resort just recently created with one of the busiest beaches in Italy.

The route goes along narrow roads which lead into a vast territory which was reclaimed at the beginning of the twentieth century and that transformed the marshy land into stretches of fields where, among others, the

famous white asparagus of Bibione is cultivated. When you arrive in Lugugnana after a short stretch on a B road, head south towards the Brussa Castle: nearby there is the nature area called Vallevicchia (or "Brussa"), which deserves a thorough visit. Carrying on pedalling among river banks and canals, you go west towards the offshoots of the Caorle lagoon, at a place called Sindacale you cross the B road and go up the Nicesolo canal, which flows into the Lemene river in the direction of the lovely town, Concordia Sagittaria. The town is of Roman origin (*Julia Concordia*) and still has a large

archaeological area enriched by the presence of the cathedral and baptistery. Following the calm waters of the Lemene river, continue north until you reach Portogruaro, a beautiful town with a typical Veneto influence; Gothic buildings line the main street, the fourteenth century town loggia and the Cathedral with its leaning bell-tower. It also gives us some magical views thanks to the bridges and mills on the Lemene. Don't miss a visit to the Concordia National Archaeological Museum. Portogruaro is in the centre of the area well-known for its wine production Lison Pramaggiore.