

# Ivrea, two towns in one

Text by Davide Battaglia / Photos by Franco Voglino and Atl del Canavese and Valli di Lanzo

## Località di partenza:

Regione Piemonte, Provincia di Torino, Ivrea

## Tipo di itinerario:

a piedi

## Fondo stradale:

Strada asfaltata

## Difficoltà a piedi:

Turistica

## Difficoltà in bici:

Facile

## Dislivello in salita (m):

assente

## Dislivello in discesa (m):

assente

## Tempo (hh:mm):

3:30

## Periodo consigliato:

the whole year round

## Uffici informazioni:

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## Accesso al percorso e note:

Departure and arrival point

ATL Office, corso Vercelli, 1

Time

About 3 and a half hours

Difference in level

negligible

To start, we take Via dei Cappuccini and, after passing no. 7, turn left onto a small dirt road that will soon bring us to the Roman Amphitheatre, a monument that bears witness to the Roman presence in the area and has a seating

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capacity of fifteen thousand.

We go back to Via dei Cappuccini, and continue to the left until we reach and skirt the Naviglio (Canal), created in the Sixteenth century for the purpose of diverting the waters of the river Dora Baltea to irrigate the countryside of the Canavese and Vercelli area. Walking alongside the Naviglio we come to Via dei Mulini, whose name derives from the presence of the impressive Oderio Mill and then, after turning left again, we come to Piazza del Rondolino, dominated at the centre by an enormous building, currently housing the post office; from here the red brick chimney stack and the building of the Rossari & Varzi cotton mill, built at the beginning of the twentieth century, can still be seen.



After crossing the square we come to a Romanesque, square-based tower, dating back to the XI century; this is the only element remaining today of the Benedictine Abbey of Santo Stefano. We now continue along Lungo Dora until we come to the Police Headquarters, housed in what, during the Middle Ages, was the convent of San Francesco. Just after this we come to the monument that Emilio Greco dedicated, in 1957, to Ingegnere Camillo Olivetti, the founder of the factory with the same name.

We cross Ponte Isabella, coming to Corso Nigra and Via Dora Baltea skirting two buildings dating back to the Twenties that used to house workmen and transformed into Barracks during the fascist era. We pass a panoramic point from where we can admire a view of the historic centre and come to the Soie de Chatillon building, the most important industry in the town before the founding of Olivetti.

We cross the railway using the Movicentro underpass and turn into Via Jervis; here, on the left side of the road, we find the building where, in 1908, Camillo Olivetti's adventure started. Today, this and the other buildings that composed the "Fabbrica Nazionale Macchine per Scrivere Olivetti" (the Olivetti National Typewriter Factory), part of the MAAN, an open-air museum dedicated to one of Italy's most important industries.

We continue along the road until we turn right into Via Carandini and then take Via Tupiun Riva, passing close to the "Talponia" building, built in the Sixties, and also part of the Olivetti complex. When we reach Via Miniere we climb up Strada Monte Ferrando, continue along Via delle Rocchette and descend again towards the river, coming to the Borghetto, a small area full of boutiques and artisan businesses. We then cross Ponte Vecchio (destroyed in 1704, rebuilt in 1716 and extended in 1830), taking Via Guarotta. In Piazza Gioberti we turn right into Via Arduino and just after this, left into Via Marsala. We cross what remains of the Porte Toupe (gates dating back to the Fourteenth century) and come to the splendid Palazzo della Credenza. We descend towards

Piazza Pistoni and after passing Porta d'Aosta we come to the oldest part of the town. We reach the fine fourteenth century Castle commissioned by Count Amedeo VI of Savoy and climbing alongside it up Via delle Torri, we come to the Cathedral of Santa Maria, built in the eleventh century by Bishop Warmondo Arborio, and the nearby Bishop's Palace. We turn from the square into Via della Cattedrale and descend towards Piazza del Municipio admiring the remains of the medieval internal city walls and a red brick spur, built into it, that was the Eporedia Theatre, during the Roman period (1st century A.D.).

We follow Via Palestro, a decumanus maximus during the Roman period and turn left into Via



Giacosa, where we can admire the nineteenth century Civic Theatre named after Giuseppe Giacosa; we go back to Via Palestro and arrive in Piazza Ottinetti, then Via dei Patrioti as far as Palazzo Giusiana, that used to belong to the noble Ivrea Perrone and Garda families and, finally, to Colonel Amedeo Giusiana. From here, crossing the public gardens, we come to the "La Serra" Conference Centre, a strange building (it looks like a typewriter) built at the end of the Seventies - beginning of the Eighties, established initially for Olivetti, before being used for other purposes. We walk along Corso Botta and then Corso Massimo D'Azeglio before reaching our point of departure.