

Roadbook

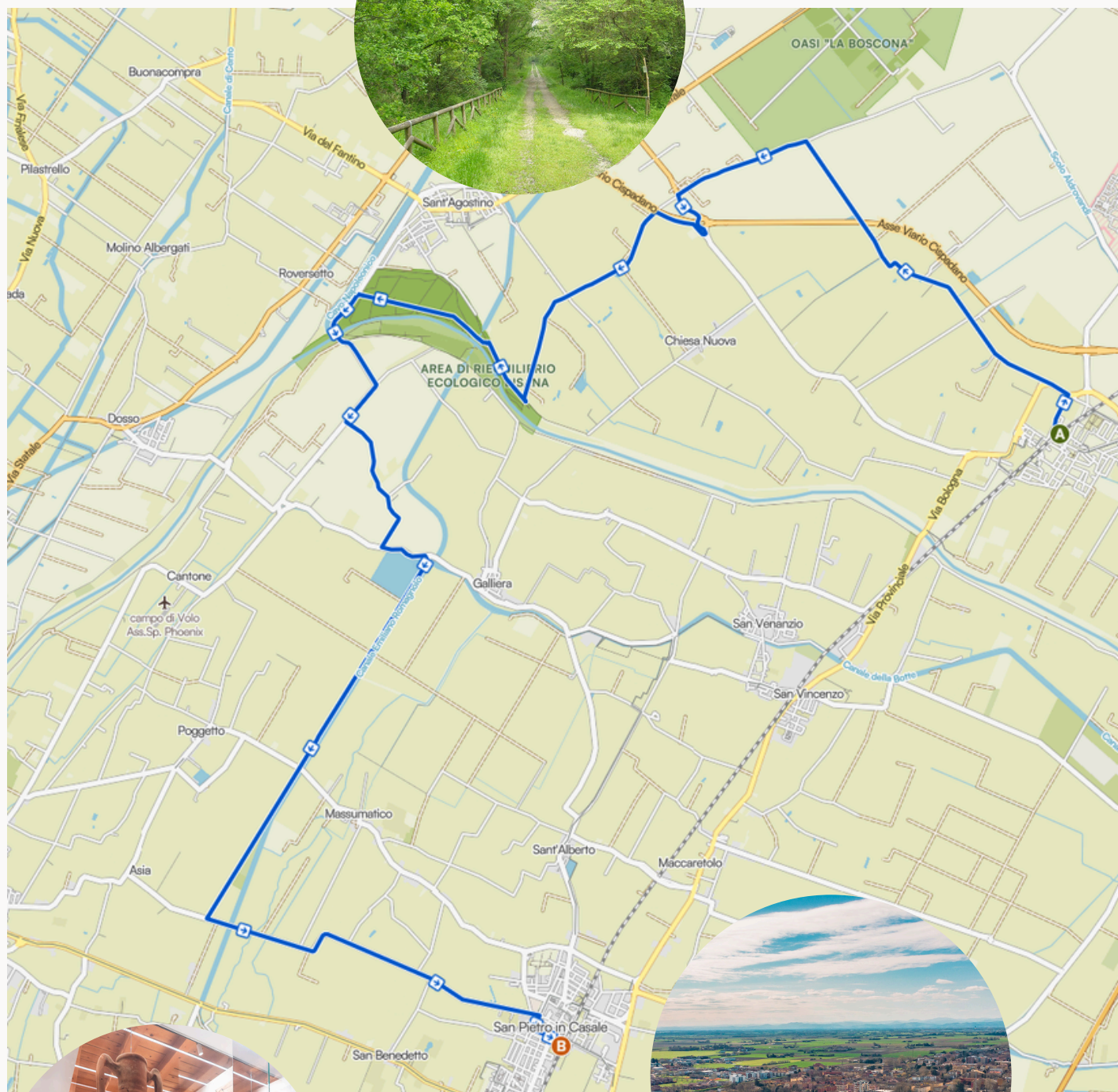
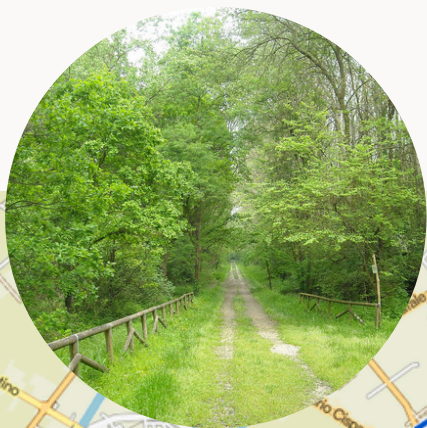


Rivers, forests and canals

From San Pietro in Casale to Poggio
Renatico through the Panfilia Woods



The map



The route is 29,5 km long

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The itinerary

A route starting at the Poggio Renatico station and ending at the San Pietro in Casale station: entirely flat and easy, yet offering the chance to explore the natural surroundings of the river and the woods by bike. The route alternates between paved sections and unpaved paths of gravel or dirt, passing through two towns but mainly winding through the countryside and along picturesque waterways and bike paths, such as the Canale Emiliano Romagnolo and the Ciclovía del Reno.

Route characteristics

Terrain: asphalt, gravel, and dirt

Elevation gain: negligible

Type: linear

Suitable for: touring, gravel, e-bikes, MTB

Technical data

Distance: 29.5 km

Travel time: approximately 2 hours (excluding stops and visits)

The route has been designed to prioritize bike paths and low-traffic secondary roads with mixed traffic. In sections where this was not possible, the route includes short stretches of busier roads. In any case, we recommend paying close attention and always obeying the rules of the road.



Description

The route starts at the **Poggio Renatico** train station, which you can reach by train on the Bologna-Ferrara line. From there, after a short ride through the countryside, you'll enter a stretch of the route nestled within the **Panfilia forest**, one of the most picturesque natural settings in the Emilian Plain.

The route winds through shaded forest trails, offering your first direct encounter with the **river landscape and the biodiversity** associated with the Reno River. Once you emerge from the woods, you can see the confluence of the river and the **Cavo Napoleonico**.

From here, we set off again to reach the **Emiliano-Romagnolo Canal**, along which we come across the **Crevenzosa Plant**, a strategic infrastructure for water distribution and a tangible example of the complex water management system of the plain.

In the shadow of the Galliera tower, follow the course of the Emiliano Romagnolo Canal along a dirt road to reach **the center of San Pietro in Casale** via country roads, and then take the train back to your accommodation.



In-depth look:

The CER's Crevenzosa lift facility

The Crevenzosa Pumping Station is one of the **main hydraulic infrastructure facilities in the system managed by the Second-Level Land Reclamation Consortium for the Emiliano-Romagnolo Canal**. It is the second most important facility in the entire network of the Emiliano-Romagnolo Canal Consortium in terms of flow rate and head, playing a fundamental role in the distribution of water throughout the Emiliano-Romagnolo plain.

Located in Coronella, within the municipality of Galliera, **the plant lifts water to an elevation of approximately 14 meters above sea level**. From there, the water continues its journey along the canal network for over seven kilometers until it reaches the next hydraulic node, the Pieve di Cento Plant.

The facility is designed to handle very high flow rates: in fact, the plant can move **up to 50 cubic meters of water per second**, thanks to a total installed capacity of approximately **3,975 kW**. These technical characteristics make Crevenzosa a strategic component of the CER system, indispensable for ensuring the transfer and regulation of water resources intended for irrigation, hydraulic safety, and sustainable water management across a vast area of the plain between Bologna and Ferrara.



San Pietro in Casale

Upon entering **San Pietro in Casale**, visitors are immediately struck by the harmonious urban layout of the historic center, characterized by typical Bolognese arcades and elegant historic buildings that reflect the town's development between the **19th and early 20th centuries**.

Among the most notable buildings is the **Church of Santi Pietro e Paolo**, built in the 19th century and flanked by a Romanesque bell tower that evokes the medieval origins of this place of worship. Inside, there are interesting paintings attributed to the Ferrara school of the first half of the 16th century, bearing witness to the cultural and artistic ties between this lowland region and the nearby Este area.

The tradition of the **San Pietro in Casale Carnival** is also deeply cherished by the community; documented as far back as 1871, it is still celebrated today with allegorical floats, events, and festive gatherings. The symbolic protagonist of the festival is **King Sandron Spaviron**, the irreverent local mascot who embodies the ironic and folksy spirit of the event.

The town center is also home to the **Casa Frabboni Museum**, an exhibition space dedicated to contemporary art and the venue for temporary exhibitions. It also houses the permanent archaeological section "**Roman Plain. Villa Vicus Via**" which features important artifacts discovered in the surrounding area: evidence of the Roman presence in the Bologna plain, particularly dating back to the **Augustan era**.



Poggio Renatico

The territory of Poggio Renatico has historically served as a **border** between Bologna—under whose jurisdiction the town remained until the 19th century—and Ferrara. This strategic role is still evident today in the **widespread presence of ancient watchtowers** and defensive structures that dot the plains.

The origin of the name likely dates back to the early Middle Ages: the term “Podium,” from which “Poggio” derives, referred to an artificial mound of earth rising above the surrounding valley areas, while “Renatico” may derive from the term “reunatico,” associated with a fortified hill or a motte—that is, a man-made defensive mound.

Since the early Middle Ages, the area has been equipped with a network of towers and fortifications built by the Bolognese to control fishing, river traffic, and defend the territory from Ferrara’s expansionist ambitions.

Among the most significant buildings is the **Castello Lambertini**, a complex that over the centuries evolved from a defensive fortress into an elegant stately residence, while the **Abbey of Santa Maria di Poggio Renatico** is one of the oldest religious buildings in the area and bears witness to the settlement’s medieval origins: founded as a monastic complex linked to the reclamation and management of the surrounding lands, the abbey played an important religious and agricultural role for centuries in the plain between Bologna and Ferrara.



In depth-look:

The Rhine Floodway and the Panfilia Forest



On the edge of the Panfilia, you can see the large **Reno floodway**, a **vital water management infrastructure** for the safety of the Bologna plain, designed to reduce the risk of flooding from the Reno River during the heaviest floods.

The Panfilia Forest is one of the most important natural environments in the plain between Ferrara and Bologna and represents a **rare example of a lowland forest** that has survived human activities that have transformed much of the area. It stretches for several kilometers along the course of the Reno River, between the municipalities of Cento and Sant'Agostino.

The area preserves a biodiverse environment, with oaks, elms, poplars, and willows creating an ideal habitat for numerous species of birds, insects, and small mammals. The forest is now protected as an area of natural interest and serves as an important ecological corridor along the Reno.

Thanks to its network of trails and bike paths, the Bosco della Panfilia is also a popular destination for walks, bike rides, and environmental education activities, **offering a valuable opportunity to experience the original landscape of the Po Valley up close.**

Thank you for cycling with us!

For more information and itineraries:

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Canale
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