



Welcome to the North West of Italy

From the highest summits of the Alps to the sea

There are thousands of good reasons for choosing to visit the North West.

You might feel for its wines and good food passionately. You might be interested in art in all its forms, from architecture to handicraft. You might be curious to find out something about the culture of people who are strongly bound to their own traditions but open to innovation. You might love its mountains and its mountain sports, from trekking to climbing. You might want to enjoy the quiet of its lakes or need to take up a devotional path.



Nature, taste, art, religion, water, mountains, sports, tradition and innovation.

A region in steady ferment - warm and hospitable, ready to receive the most demanding visitors, to astonish them, and to win them over.

In this wonderful scenery, Sentieri di Anthora is delighted to assist foreign travellers in discovering our countryside, through alpine and industrial traditions, medieval fortified citadels and Holy Mounts and Sanctuary, letting them discover and appreciate our traditions, culture and the typical products of our region.



Art and Culture

TURIN

City with more than two thousand years' history and increasingly forward-looking. Turin has a Baroque face and an Art Nouveau face, it has its Royal Residences, declared by UNESCO a "World Heritage Site", the Egyptian Museum, the most important in the world after Cairo's, its bridges and 18km of arcades lining the city centre, but there are innovative installations too, set on creating a brand new look.



A city that is accustomed to beauty. Chocolate and Gianduja crème, Martini and the rite of the aperitif, important wines and the best of Italian cuisine: in Torino, food is both pleasure and cult.

The VENARIA REALE PALACE and GARDENS

The palaces and castles of the House of Savoy have become museums and recount wonderful tales from the past; Dukes, Kings and warriors, patrons of the arts and their collections, connoisseurs of ballet and the theatre, sumptuous ceremonies and banquets amid parks, labyrinths and fountains famous throughout Europe.



Grandiose hunting residence commissioned by Carlo

Emanuele II and started in 1658 to designs by Amedeo di Castellamonte .

It was destroyed by the French in 1693 and then rebuilt and transformed into a luxurious dwelling by Michelangelo Garove, Filippo Juvarra and Benedetto Alfieri.

The SACRA DI SAN MICHELE

The Sacra di San Michele, sometimes known as Saint Michael's Abbey, is a religious complex on Mount Pirichiano. Located in a strategic military position, originally was a military stronghold. The abbey's foundation is set X century, with Byzantine influences in the crypt.

Later the abbey developed under the Benedictine rule, with the construction of a separate building with guest-rooms for pilgrims following the popular Via Francigena and of a church-monastery (1015-1035), probably on the remains of the ancient Roman castrum.

The monastery, fell into decline and was finally suppressed in 1622 by Pope Gregory XV.

BARD FORTRESS

Given its highly strategic position in the control of passageway, the imposing rock spur has been fortified since pre-Roman times. The



first written reference of a defence settlement dates back to 1034, reinforced and then destroyed by Napoleon. Rebuilt, almost intact from that times, the Fortress of Bard represents one of the best examples of early 1800 military strongholds.

FENESTRELLE FORTRESS

In the 1720's, King Vittorio Amedeo began to consolidate his kingdom and challenged Ignazio Bertola, his First Engineer, to design an impregnable fortification at Fenestrelle. The result became the largest single military construction in the world after the Great Wall of China.

The RICETTO of CANDELO



The word "receptum" comes from the Latin and it meant "shelter" in the Late Middle Age. The Ricetto of Candelo is a fortified structure, which dates back to the late Middle Age (XIII – XIV century) and built,

without any feudal intervention, by the local peasants.

It is the best preserved not only in Piedmont but also in Europe, thanks to its rural origins: used as a shelter during war times, it was a safe warehouse-deposit for the most precious things of the town (corn and wine among them), and its cells where used to produce wine until recent times.

Food and Wine

LANGHE

Where the Langhe begin, hills have a special shape. Vineyards joyfully cover them in a magic landscape with its colours changing along seasons.



It is famous for its wines and for its truffles - particularly the white truffles of Alba.

ALBA and its TOWERS

Alba, the main city of the Langhe, is a mixture of tradition and modernity. Also known as the "City with hundred towers", it preserve witnesses of its origins, from roman's times to middle age.

You can still see part of the Roman city, with its polygonal form and fortified gate, and the buildings with marbles and mosaics. From middle age are the numerous towers, as well as the Romanesque cathedral of san Lorenzo, and the Gothic church of *San Domenico*, the most artistically relevant church in town.

BAROLO

Not only a renowned wine, but also villages of charm!

Dominated by the 10th century Castle once residence of the local lords and now wine cellar, Barolo welcomes the tourists with the charm of the ancient village and the numerous wine cellars, where simply taste the King of wines.



Lakes, Villas and Gardens

LAKE MAGGIORE and BORROMEAN ISLANDS

Lake Maggiore is one of the largest of our peninsula. The climate is mild both in summer and winter, allowing a magnificent Mediterranean and exotic vegetation to be grown in the famous gardens on its banks. On the Isola Bella, one of the three Borromeo Islands, Vitaliano Borromeo built an attractive summer palace, surrounded by a system of ten terraces with a magnificent garden. Isola Madre, the biggest one, is also renowned for its gardens, maintained in an English style. Isola dei Pescatori is the only inhabited island, with its characteristic fishing village.



In the mainland, the botanic gardens of Villa Taranto, in Verbania, allows to discover many thousands of plants, brought from the far corners of the world, and rare collections, acclimatized after long laborious efforts, have been arranged with art in this beautiful setting, between the mountains and the lake.

ORTA LAKE

The area around Lake Orta has long been a favourite tourist area, thanks to the quiet beauty of the landscape, its fascinating history and its wealth of artistic treasures - Romanesque and Baroque architecture especially.

The Island of San Giulio is today a place of great mysticism. The Basilica of San Giulio was originally founded by St. Giulio in 390, after St.

Giulio cleared the islands of the snakes that infested it. Orta San Giulio is also well-known for the nearby Sacro Monte, which is a site of pilgrimage and worship.



VIVERONE LAKE

Viverone Lake is a popular resort, both for water sports and for pleasant rambles on foot, bicycle or horseback. On its shores many prehistoric artifacts have been found, particularly from the bronze age. Nearby lies the Roppolo Castle, headquarters of the Enoteca Regionale della Serra, where all the region's wines can be tasted and purchased. The Serra morainic complex is one of the most significant in Europe, for its extension and continuity, witnessing the presence of the glacier Baltea during the last quaternary freezing.

Faith and Sacri Monti

OROPA SANCTUARY

The greatest examples of the 17th century architecture are the sanctuaries, scattered on the slopes of the mountains and linked together by long and quiet streets, which offer magnificent views: the splendid complex of Oropa, where the best architects of the Savoy Court measured themselves in the



17th and 18th centuries.

A popular legend has it that Saint Eusebius, Bishop of Vercelli in the IV C. A.D., was the founder of the Christian cult in Oropa.

The Saint supposedly carried the wooden statue of the Virgin, sculpted by

Saint Luke, all the way from Jerusalem to Oropa.

The sanctuary is sided by a Sacro Monte (holy mount) made of twelve chapels full of life-size statues in terracotta (baked clay).

VARALLO SACRO MONTE

The Sacro Monte in Varallo is the oldest and most evocative religious place in North-western Italy. From the mid 16th century the "instructions" given to the clergy opposed to the Protestant Reformation led in northern Italy to the development of sacri monti.

At the present time the layout comprises the earlier recreations of Nazareth and Bethlehem set in a wooded landscape, a carefully designed garden area, and 45 chapels located along the main path. The top of the hill is devoted to an evocation of the city of Jerusalem.

SAN GIOVANNI DI ANDORNO

In the Cervo Valley lies a charming road that winds up the green hill leading to the Sanctuary of Saint John the Baptist of Andorno. The origin of this sacred place is unknown; around the icon of the Saint's image which was brought here in ancient times and venerated in a natural cave, rose the primitive Church in the XVII C.. This was later enlarged up to its present size, with the suggestive Burnell cloister, the colonnade and the church in the back.

Outdoor Activities

For every season, in winter with snowshoes, in summer in altitude, in springtime to discover the first buds, the waking up of the nature when snow melts, and in autumn, with its vivid colours and clear sky: trekking, mountaineering, rock climbing, Nordic walking, rafting, snowshoes.



This region offers the best scenarios for each activity, from the peaks of Monte Rosa and Mont Blanc, to the storming waters of Sesia river, from the rock walls of Valchiusella and Machaby, to the smooth and wild slopes of Valsesia.



Followed by sport instructors, trekking and naturalistic guides, to discover nearby and far-away mountains, always on tiptoes, at the right pace in order to appreciate and discover traditions, environment and cultures of the mountain people of our region.





About us

In the slow lane, to discover destinations off-the-beaten-path, disregarded by mass tourist circuits.

We offer quality and depth of experience, convinced - after more than 20 years around the world - that travel must be more than crossing hot spots off a checklist.

To travellers who rely on us for their holiday's dreams we offer emotions, a story to bring back home, not only an object or even a picture. Travel is a way of expressing oneself, and interactions with locals a way of experiencing and sampling new customs.



A tourism that set the human being at the centre of the travelling experience: that's our mission.

Meeting and exchanging with others are the main reasons to get off for a true traveller: respectful for people, cultures and environment, to limit contaminations and discover unexpected treasures.

"Sentieri di Anthora - The world off the beaten path" stems from the experience of his founders, travellers - not tourists, offering an alternative approach to travel.



We differentiate our offer from conventional and crowded tours. Our destinations are often unknown and ignored by major itineraries, but nevertheless full of charm and attraction. We go round the corner, that's it!



We believe in responsible and sustainable tourism. Responsible means knowledge and comprehension of traditions, habits and peculiarities of the people we meet during our travel. Sustainable means that we try not to contaminate with our presence those peculiarities, leaving behind nothing else than our footprint.

That is why we carefully select around the world partners with whom we share vision and goals.

We privilege operators engaged in developing the well-being of local population, in order to let them re-appropriate of the enormous wealth that can originate from tourism - if well managed - for their present and the future of their children.



Sentieri di Anthora aims to:

- Show you very special parts of the world through the eyes of the people who live there, outside of the classic routes of mass tourism
- Offer you excellent service and comprehensive information and preparation to the travel
- Select accommodations and services locally owned and managed in order to empower local people in host destinations to control their own destinies.
- Promote local projects, harnessing the tourism pound for development projects.
- Conserve biodiversity and cultural diversity through tourism, in order to preserve the world's heritage.