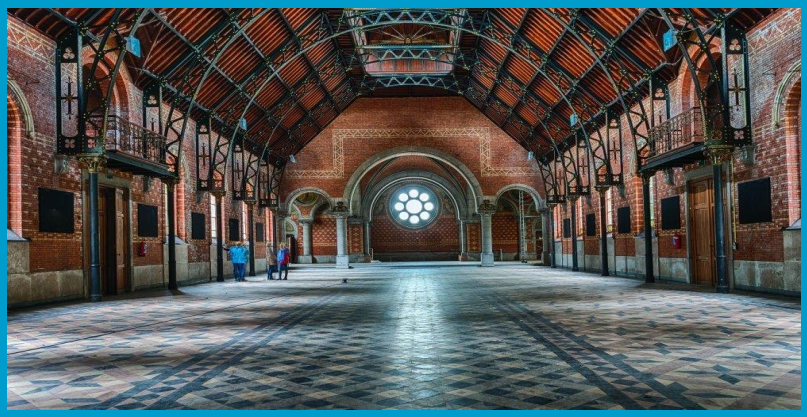
UNESCO and greenways by bike. Trip ideas for independent travellers



www.greenwaysheritage.org

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Acronym GREENWAYS HERITAGE.

Title: Development and promotion of a transnational cultural tourism product linked to greenways and UNESCO cultural sites.

Action Title: "SUPPORTING THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSNATIONAL THEMATIC TOURISM PRODUCTS LINKED TO CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES" COSME Work Programme [2017]

Lead partner/coordinator:

European Greenways Association (EGWA)
info@aevv-egwa.org
www.aevv-egwa.org

Partners:

Fundación de los Ferrocarriles Españoles (Spain)
Università degli Studi di Milano (Italy)
Latvijas Zalo Celu Asociacija (Latvia)
Provincie Antwerp (Belgium)
Turismo Vivencial (Spain)
Stad Mechelen (Belgium)
Comunidade Intermunicipal do AVE (Portugal)

www.greenwaysheritage.org

Greenways and UNESCO Heritage in Europe:
The high potential of their joint promotion.

Greenways are independent non-motorized routes, mainly using disused railways and canal towpaths. Safe, accessible and very attractive, they give easy access to areas of outstanding natural beauty (e.g. in mountainous areas, by way of tunnels and viaducts). (See Lille Declaration: https://www.aevv-egwa.org/lille-declaration/)

Greenways are a very appealing destination for active tourists who use non-motorized means of transports as their main way of exploring new territories, urban or rural. Especially for the later, greenways play a highly important role in the local economic development. Nowadays these sustainable itineraries increasingly expand all over the European continent.

They are undoubtedly, historic, cultural and natural assets with a huge tourist attractiveness. The future conversion of undeveloped disused railway lines into greenways represents a major growth potential; not to mention greenways based on canal towpaths, which exploit Europe's considerable hydraulic engineering heritage.

Cultural tourism linked to UNESCO World Heritage sites, is considered as a key asset for EU tourism. Many Greenways have UNESCO cultural heritage sites nearby although up until now there has been no joint promotional effort for these two important cultural resources to benefit from.

Therefore, the wealth and appeal of UNESCO sites and greenways as separate destinations could be multiplied if those destinations were to be combined. The two resources reflect the history of Europe, a shared identity, and the opportunity to reach a broader segment of tourists.

GREENWAYS HERITAGE:
Tourism product combining greenways and UNESCO sites

The aim of the project is the development and diversification of the European tourism offer by developing new tourism products combining UNESCO + Greenways as common destinations.

A particular emphasis on the use of Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI)-related technologies, linked to greenways and UNESCO sites, is foreseen to better inform the visitors and enhance their experience.

A) "GO AS YOU PLEASE" TRIP PROPOSAL

The project partners have created 15 independent travel proposals (greenways + UNESCO) relative to 10 countries. The proposals vary in duration from one to five days and include highly practical recommendations and complementary information for visiting these attractive destinations.

Here it is the list of the Trip Proposal created:

	Greenway	**UNESCO Site/s**	**Region / Country**
1	Valle del Eresma	Segovia Historic Quarter and Aqueduct	Castilla y León. Spain
2	La Campiña	Mezquita de Córdoba, Historic Centre of Córdoba, Los Patios de Córdoba and the Califal City of Madinat Al-Zahra	Andalucía. Spain
3	Ciclovia Destra Po	Ferrara, City of the Renaissance, and its Po Delta	Emilia Romana. Italy
4	Ciclovia Mantua-Peschiera	The city of Mantua & the fortified city of Peschiera del Garda	Lombardia – Veneto. Italy
5	Turnhout (B) – Baarle Hertog/Nassau – Tilburg (NL)	Beguinage of Turnhout	Belgium / Netherlands
6	Greenway De Mark	Beguinage of Hoogstraten	Campine, Belgium – The Netherlands
7	Bristol to Bath Railway path	Bath	United Kingdom
8	Chinon – Richelieu et la Loire Valley	The Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes	France
9	Mechelen and Leuven along the River Dyle	Mechelen	Belgium
10	Mechelen and Lier along the River Nete	Mechelen	Belgium
11	Leriķi – Gulbene	Old Town Riga	Latvia
12	Valmiera – Dikļi – Limbaži – Rīga	Old Town Riga	Latvia
13	Sabor Grenway	Alto Douro Wine Region	Portugal

14	Littoral Greenway	Historic Centre of Oporto, Luiz I Bridge and Monastery of Serra do Pilar	Portugal
15	Parenzana Greenway	Episcopal Complex of the Euphrasian Basilica in the Historic Centre of Poreč	Italy / Slovenia/ Croatia

Discover the city of Segovia and the Eresma Valley Greenway

Segovia - Valladolid	*Castile and León. Spain*
Description of the proposed trip	**We suggest...**
Discover the wonderful city of Segovia, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1985, and all the secrets of its huge cultural, artistic and gastronomic heritage. Along with the Roman Aqueduct, the Alcazar and the Cathedral, among other landmarks, its roast suckling pig is also famous. And then walk the Eresma Valley Greenway. Just 75 km from the city of Segovia following the River Eresma among the fields of Castile, verdant poplar trees and leafy pine trees line the roads to the Valladolid town of Olmedo. Before you get there, why not stop at the charming towns of Santa María la Real de Nieva or Coca, which have much to offer. A perfect plan for a long weekend or a holiday. Best times of the year: spring and autumn.	**Day 1**. To start, you could spend the entire day in the city of Segovia, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Don't miss the Cathedral, the Alcazar (a palace or fortress of Moorish origin), the old Main Synagogue and the San Antonio el Real Monastery. There are many other fascinating places and attractive museums to visit in Segovia. Enjoy the activities on its cultural agenda, festivals, experience good food and traditional beverages at one of its famous inns, take a city-bike tour or even see the city from a hot-air balloon. **Day 2**. Walk or cycle along the Eresma Valley Greenway on the old Segovia-Medina del Campo Railway. You could go all the way to **Santa María la Real de Nieva**, the capital of the Segovia countryside. At about 40 km passing through the Perogordo tunnel, you will see dry crops, the fertile plain of Eresma River, a few hermitages and a rural environment that is almost unaltered. In Santa María la Real de Nieva, enjoy the majestic church and Romanesque monastery with a beautiful cloister. **Day 3**. On the second day of the route along the greenway (about 35 km), you will be surrounded by lush pine forests; this is a spectacular walk that ends up in **Coca**, a historical and artistic town with a spectacular 15th century Gothic-Mudejar castle. Continue on the Greenway to the town of **Olmedo**, in the province of Valladolid, famous for 'The Knight From Olmedo', a play by Lope de Vega. Visit the Mudejar theme park to discover the great heritage there or rest and regain strength with a "sucking lamb" dish in the main square in a charming ambience surrounded by arcades. **Day 4.** On the last day, it's time to return to Segovia to enjoy another look around the city, do some shopping or visit another museum.

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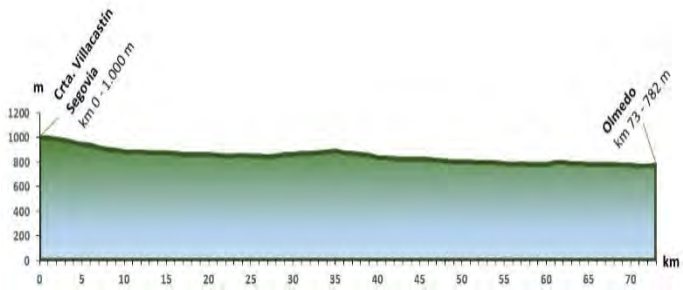
Visits that should form a part of all itineraries	How to get there
Segovia Historic Quarter and aqueduct Built probably around 50 AD, Segovia's Roman aqueduct is exceptionally preserved. This imposing double-arched construction is integrated in Segovia's magnificent historic quarter, where you can admire other superb monuments such as the Alcazar, whose construction began in the eleventh century, and the sixteenth-century Gothic cathedral.	Segovia is about 90 km from Madrid. **By train**: if you visit Segovia by train, you will arrive at the Segovia-Guiomar Station (AVE, High Speed Train), which is 6 km from the city centre. You can also get to the Segovia Station on the conventional network, on the commuter trains that connect Segovia and Madrid. See: www.renfe.es **By bus:** Linecar Company: Metro lines M1 and M2, Regular lines: Segovia – Hontanares del Eresma-Nava de la Asunción-Olmedo. Information: Bus Station in Segovia. Tel. (+34) 921 427 706 / 7

Other useful information		Altimetric profile:
Terrain type on the Greenway: compacted aggregate	**Type of users:** *Able and practicable. There are some slopes	
Length of the Greenway: 75 km	**Bicycle rental:** Naturcleta www.naturcletalagranja.com Tel. (+34) 609 965 148	

Further information:	Greenway management entity:
http://www.viasverdes.com/itinerarios/itinerario.asp?id=120 http://www.turismodesegovia.com/es/	Eresma Valley Greenway Consortium. Tel. (+34) 921 113 300. http://www.dipsegovia.es/consorcio-via-verde-del-valle-del-eresma

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Photo gallery:

Videos

Segovia : http://www.turismodesegovia.com/segovia-traves-imagenes/

Greenway: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kxmqhc4I3ng

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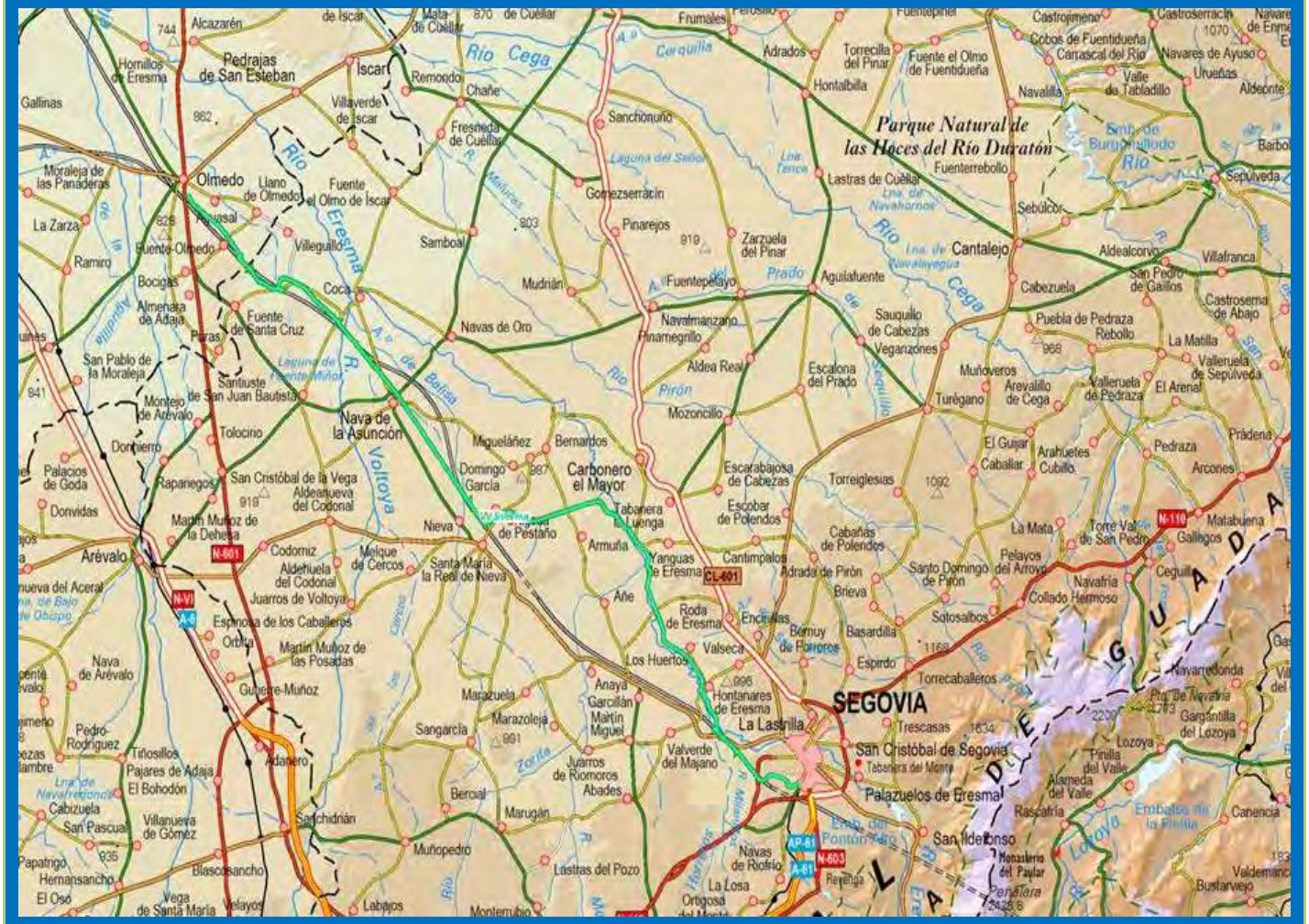
MAP:



The Greenways Heritage project aims to promote the Greenways and the UNESCO heritage around them as common destinations. Further information: **www.greenwaysheritage.org**

Trip itinerary proposed by: Fundación de los Ferrocarriles Españoles [Spanish Railways Foundation]

Project partners:

ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES VOIES VERTES
EUROPEAN GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION
ASOCIACIÓN EUROPEA DE VÍAS VERDES

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO

Provincie Antwerpen

MECHELEN

Co-funded by the C of the European Uni

Comunidade Intermunicipal do Ave

LATVIAN GREENWAYS ASSOCIATION

TURISMO VIVENCIAL

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Cordoba, its UNESCO sites and the Greenway of the countryside

Córdoba - Seville	***Andalucía. Spain***
Description of the travel proposal	**Te proponemos…**
A journey from the Caliphate city to the Sevillian Baroque. Córdoba, the first city in the world with four UNESCO World Heritage declarations: Mezquita de Córdoba, Historic Centre of Córdoba, Los Patios de Córdoba and the Califal City of Madinat Al-Zahra. Almost nothing! And after the Andalusian charm and having tasted some of its typical dishes such as the fresh *salmorejo* we submerged ourselves in the Cordovan countryside through its greenway, one of the longest in Andalusia and in all of Spain (91 km). If you dare and go through the entire route you can reach the Sevillian city of Marchena. On the way we advise you to get to know the Baroque town planning in La Carlota, the Roman baths in La Louisiana and the monumental complexes of Écija and Marchena with an enormous heritage between their streets. Advisable for a long weekend or a holiday. Best time to visit: spring.	**Day 1 & 2.** As a minimum, **Cordoba** deserves a full day, or two if your travel plan allows it. 4 World Heritage sites in the same city deserve almost everything. And as if that weren't enough, Cordoba is a unique, emblematic, lively, vibrant and enchanting city. Enjoy it on foot. **Day 3.** We're going along the Greenway of the countryside. Kilometer 0 is located to the southwest of the city, at **Valchillón** station, 8 km from the city. It can be easily reached by a small road from the Amargacena industrial estate. We propose to divide the route of the Greenway in 2 stages. The first to the city of Ecija (50 km). **Day 4.**The second day on the greenway (about 40 km) will take us to **Marchena**, but we recommend stopping before in La **Louisiana** to see its Roman baths that have the largest Roman swimming pool on the peninsula. As stop also in **Fuentes de Andalucia** is recommended: a good place to stock up and enjoy the architecture of baroque brick covers and balconies gratings. **Day 5.** The last day can be dedicated to return to Córdoba or make an extension to Seville located about 60 km from Marchena, or about 50 minutes by train.

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What you can't miss	Cómo llegar
CÓRDOBA. "A must see" is a visit to the **Mosque-Cathedral** of Córdoba, declared a World Heritage Site in 1984. It is the most important monument in the entire Islamic West and one of the most amazing in the world. Its history summarizes the complete evolution of the Umayyad style in Spain, as well as the Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles of Christian construction. At the exit, immerse yourself in the streets of the **historic centre of Cordoba**, one of the largest old towns in Europe. It possesses a great wealth of monuments conserving great vestiges of the Roman, Arabic and Christian periods. Through its streets you will discover the **Patios of Cordoba**. In 2012 Unesco declared the **Festival of the Patios of Cordoba** Intangible Heritage of Humanity. At the beginning of May, and for a period of twelve days, takes place in this festival. Patio houses are collective dwellings inhabited by several families, or groups of individual dwellings, which have a common courtyard and are located in the old quarter of the city. The courtyards are decorated with countless plants of multiple varieties carefully and attractively arranged. Finally, at the end of 2018, the **Caliphate City of Madinat Al-Zahara** was added to the prestigious list of World Heritage Sites, which includes the majestic remains of the palatial city built in the mid-10th century by the Umayyad dynasty to house the Caliphate of Cordoba. This site is located 7 km east of the city. You can get there by bike, on foot or by tourist bus from Córdoba from Alcázar Avenue, on the side of the river where the **Alcázar** itself is located. (http://www.medinaazahara.org/) **ECIJA.** Historic artistic monument since 1966 and one of the oldest cities in southern Spain, known for its eleven towers and baroque monuments. Its extensive artistic heritage invites you to stroll through streets and squares, to get lost in its monumental surroundings and discover one of the most beautiful cities in Andalusia. **MARCHENA.** End of route and beautiful town rich in heritage, inheritance of a ducal city of centuries to which it is acceded through its Arab wall. The vestiges of the Arab period coexist perfectly with the churches and convents of the 15th and 16th centuries. Declared a Historic-Artistic Site) where the Puerta de Sevilla (Seville Gate) and the Church of San Juan Bautista stand out.	**By train and bus:** You can get to Córdoba by train (AVE, High Speed Train). Consult: www.renfe.es. Next to the train station is the bus station with departures to all directions. www.estacionautobusescordoba.es Marchena also has a train station with connection to Seville (Media Distancia trains)

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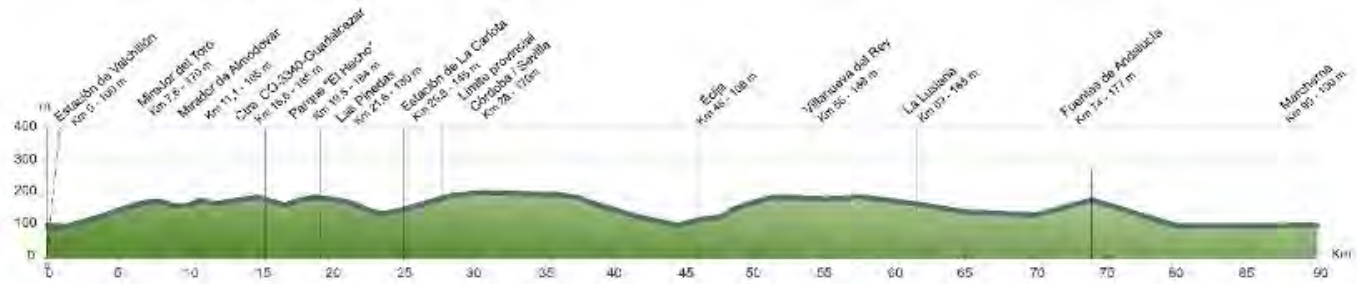
Additional interesting information about the greenway		Additional information:
Type of surface: Compacted gravel	**Type of users:** * Suitable and practicable. With some occasional slopes.	www.viasverdes.com/itinerarios/itinerario.asp?id=50 www.turismodecordoba.org/ (city) www.cordobaturismo.es/ (Córdoba province) www.turismosevilla.org (Sevilla province)
Length of greenway (km): 91,38 km	**Bicycle rental:** **Electric.es**www.rentabikecordoba.com. Telf. (+34) 957 943 700 / (+34) 671 41 78 14 **Ride Me! Córdoba.**www.ridemecordoba.business.siteTelf. (+34) 651 68 74 06 / (+34) 957 04 38 08 **By Bike**. www.bybikecordoba.comTelf.(+34) 670 288 802	

Altrimetric Profile:



Entity managing the Greenway

Provincial Council of Cordoba. Environment Area. www.dipucordoba.es/medio_ambienteTelf. (+34) 957 21 13 89

Écija Town Hall . www.ecija.es.Telf. (+34) 955 90 00 00

Fuentes de Andalucía Town Hall . www.fuentesdeandalucia.org Telf. (+34) 954 838 576

Marchena Town Hall . www.marchena.es Telf. (+34) 955 321 010

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Photo Gallery

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Vídeos.

Córdoba World Heritage Site>>

MAP:

Greenways Heritage project aim is to promote greenways and the UNESCO heritage in their vicinity as common destinations. Find out more: **www.greenwaysheritage.org**

Travel proposal made by: Foundation of the Spanish Railways

Project Partners:

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Go as you please, Trip Proposal

Ciclovia Destra Po

Location: Stellata – Gorino Ferrarese	Region/ Country: Emilia Romagna/ Italy
Description of the travel proposal:	**We suggest…**
The Destra Po cycleway follows the right bank of the river Po as it heads towards the sea at Gorino on the Adriatic coast. It's a high-quality surfaced cycleway along the top of the argine, the massive 10 metre-high flood defences along the river's banks. The cycleway forms part of the international Eurovelo 8 cycle route. The complete cycleway runs for 125 Km along the northern border of Emilia-Romagna from Stellata del Bondeno in the west to Gorino on the Adriatic coast. The major sights are at either end of the route: the city of Ferrara itself and then at the east the Parco del Delta del Po nature reserve, with the Castello Estense. Together these are included on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Other noteworthy points of interest are: the Fortress of Stellata, the bifurcation of the river Po at Serravalle, the Mesola Castle, and the towns of Goro and Gorino.	**Day 1. Stellata - Ferrara (35 km)** The itinerary starts from the Rocca Possente of **Stellata**, an elegant fortress from the 17th century that rises close to the Po river basin. The route leads to the town of **Bondeno** with the stately bell tower of the Nativity of Mary Church. Following the trail, you can visit the riparian **Bosco di Porporana** and see the “Biconca del Canal Boicelli", a waterway built in the 20th century for connecting Ferrara with the Po Grande and the Po di Volano. **Day 2. The City of Ferrara** Este family governed **Ferrara** for three centuries and gave the city the appearance it has today: a uniquely planned city, harmoniously fusing Medieval and Renaissance. Sights include Palazzo Schifanoia with its splendid Hall of the Months, frescoed in the 15th Century by the painters of the Ferrarese School; the Estense Castle, former residence of the Este dukes; the harmonious Romanesque and Gothic Cathedral. In the medieval part of town, you can discover jewels of religious art like the Monastery of Sant’Antonio in Polesine with its Giotto-esque frescoes. You shouldn't leave without having walked around the medieval streets and taken a bike ride around its Renaissance city walls, which remain nearly complete. **Day 3. Ferrara - Serravalle (50 km)** The journey continues to **Guarda Ferrarese** where the 17th century church rises with the facade facing the river. The greenway leads to **Serravalle** where the Po forks, creating its delta: on the left, the main course continues, while on the right originates the branch of the Po di Goro. **Day 4. Serravalle - Mesola (20 km)** Following the Po di Goro, you can reach the picturesque **Ariano Ferrarese**, where the Canal Bianco flows through the town, giving a Venetian atmosphere to the houses reflected in its waters. Then you reach **Mesola**, recognizable from afar thanks to the profile of the Estense Castle, built at the end of the 500 on the border of an immense hunting estate. **Day 5. Mesola - Gorino Ferrarese (25 km)** Here the trail cross one of the most important natural areas of the Po Delta Park. You can admire the **Bosco della Fasanara** and the Isola Rossi, where the white willow abounds. At **Goro**, a town devoted to fisheries, it’s possible to take a boat trip, going up the Po or exploring the river mouth. In **Gorino Ferrarese** you can see one of the last existing bridge of boats on the river.

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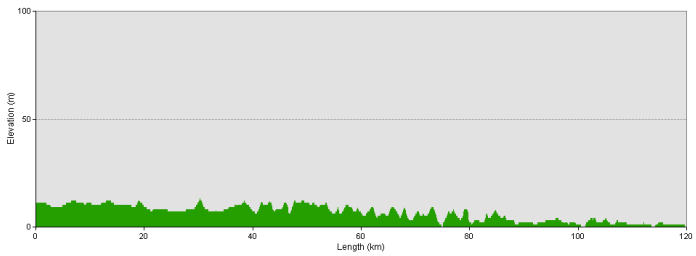
What you can't miss	How to get there
Ferrara, City of the Renaissance, and its Po Delta Ferrara, City of the Renaissance, and its Po Delta is a remarkable cultural landscape. The area comprises the urban centre of Ferrara and adjoining agricultural lands within the ancient and vast Po River Delta. From the 14th to the 16th centuries, the ruling Este family carried out extensive land reclamation and building projects. These works included the construction of Ducal residences (*delizie estensi*) as political sign of magnificence; the *delizie* were designed to mirror the image of the Court beyond the urban confines and formed part of a process of integration and continuity between the city and the surrounding countryside. The city of Ferrara became an intellectual and artistic centre that attracted the greatest minds of the Italian Renaissance in the 15th and 16th centuries. Here, Piero della Francesca, Jacopo Bellini and Andrea Mantegna decorated the palaces of the House of Este. The humanist concept of the 'ideal city' came to life here in the neighbourhoods built from 1492 onwards by Biagio Rossetti according to the new principles of perspective. The completion of this project marked the birth of modern town planning and influenced its subsequent development.	On train: • You can reach the rail station of **Stellata** (Stellata-Ficarolo), using the Suzzarra-Ferrara railway line (Trasporto Passeggeri Emilia-Romagna (TPER), https://www.tper.it/) • The city of **Ferrara** is reachable from Bologna (30 minutes) and Venezia (1 hour) using the railway line Bologna-Ferarra-Venezia. (Trenitalia, https://www.trenitalia.com/)

Additional interesting information about the greenway		Altimeter profile:
Type of surface: hard and smooth	**Type of users:** pedestrian, cyclist	
Length of greenway (km): **125 km**	**Bicycle rentals:** Complete list at the following link: https://www.ferraraterraeacqua.it/en/travel/getting-around/rentals/bike-rentals	

Additional information:	Entity managing the Greenway:
Main Tourist Information Office of Ferrara Castello Estense, Largo Castello, 1, 44121 Ferrara FE	Agenzia Mobilità Impianti Ferrara-AMI Via S. Trenti, 35 - 44122 Ferrara

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+39 0532 209370 http://www.ferrarainfo.com infotur@comune.fe.it	http://www.ami.fe.it/ ami@ami.fe.it

Map:

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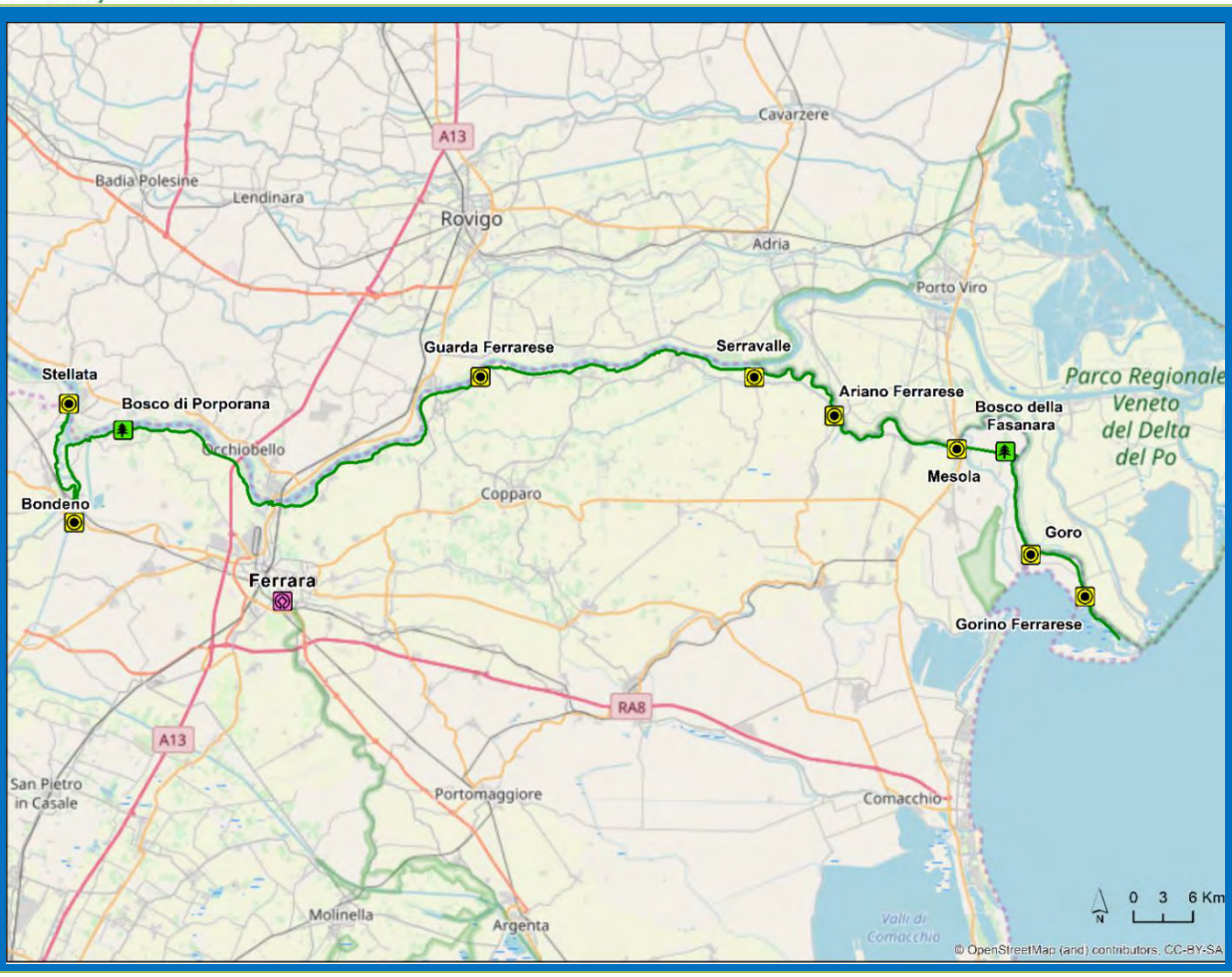

Photo Gallery:

Photo Credits: Archivio Fotografico Provincia di Ferrara

Video *(Include if available)*

Greenways Heritage project aims to promote greenways and UNESCO heritage sites in the vicinity as common destinations. For more information: **www.greenwaysheritage.org**

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Travel proposal made by: University of Milan

Project Partners:

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Go as you please, Trip Proposal

Title (Name of Proposal): Ciclovia Mantua - Peschiera

Location: Mantua - Peschiera del Garda	Region/ Country: Lombardia-Veneto/ Italy
Description of the travel proposal:	**We suggest…**
The Mantua-Peschiera del Garda cycle path (part of the itinerary number 7 of the Eurovelo) is one of the most beautiful in northern Italy. With a length of 43 km and a very slight slope, it is suitable for people of all ages. The greenway connects two heritage UNESCO sites: the beautiful City of Mantua and the Venetian Fortified City of Peschiera del Garda. The trail runs along the Mincio river crossing the whole Mincio Park and its moraine hills, an area of great natural value. From the cycle path is also possible to reach different historic towns where you can enjoy the local food and wine.	**Day 1. The City of Mantua** Surrounded by its lakes in the middle of the plain, **Mantua** is a splendid example of a small and sophisticated ducal city. Since 2008, with the nearby Sabbioneta, it is a World Heritage Site for the numerous monuments and architectural and cultural features left by the Gonzagas. You mustn't miss the Duomo, the Rotonda di San Lorenzo and the Clock Tower in Piazza delle Erbe, the Palazzo Ducale and the other numerous civil buildings scattered around the historic center. **Day 2. Mantua - Valeggio sul Mincio (30 km)** The first itinerary destination is the picturesque fishermen's village of **Rivalta sul Mincio**. From Rivalta you can start various excursions by canoe or boat along the Mincio river in order to explore the Natural Park or engage in birdwatching. Continuing north, the greenway leads to **Volta Mantuana** where you can admire its 11th century castle and visit the noble Gonzaga-Guerrieri palace. Of great interest is also the town of **Valeggio sul Mincio**, dominated by the suggestive Scaligero castle. The town is best known for the neoclassical Sigurtà villa and, from the gastronomic point of view, for the excellent tortellini. Close to the village, the cycle path crosses one of the most characteristic places along the route: Borghetto. Enlisted among the most beautiful villages in Italy, Borghetto boasts some mills and a picturesque bridge from where you have a beautiful view on the small village. **Day 3. Valeggio sul Mincio - Peschiera del Garda (15 km)** **Peschiera del Garda** still preserves evidences of its history, attracting every year many visitors curious to discover signs of the work of man. Near the military defensive works you will find houses and religious buildings such as the 16th century Sanctuary of Madonna del Frassino (Our Lady of Ash). In addition to this, Peschiera offers its visitors peaceful and relaxing moments in the natural environment surrounding it. In the oasis of the Laghetto del Frassino you will have the possibility of walking in contact with an unpolluted and luxuriant nature. You can also explore the near Lake of Garda by boat: it's a very pleasant and relaxing way to discover the natural beauty of the area.

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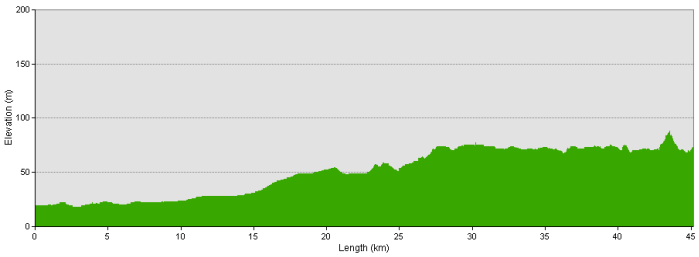
What you can't miss	How to get there
The City of Mantua Mantua offers exceptional testimonies to the urban, architectural and artistic realizations of the Renaissance, linked through the visions and actions of the ruling Gonzaga family. The city is important for the value of its architecture and for its prominent role in the dissemination of Renaissance culture. The ideals of the Renaissance, fostered by the Gonzaga family, are present in the town's morphology and architecture. **The Fortified City of Peschiera del Garda** The Fortified City of Peschiera del Garda belongs to the Venetian Works of Defence between the 16th and 17th Centuries: Stato da Terra – Western Stato da Mar. The city acted as the "hinge" between the City of Venice and its territories further to the west beyond the Mincio River (such as Bergamo). It is a fortified city, located in relation to the lake and river systems (and termed a 'freshwater' fortification). The fortification system consists of the city walls (5 ramparts in a 'pentagon' plan) with two gates, canal and associated urban fabric.	On train: **Mantua** rail station is located in P.zza Don Leoni, 14 The city is reachable: • From Verona (45 minutes) and Modena (55 minutes) using the railway line Modena-Verona • From Milan (2 hours) using the railway line Milan-Codogno-Cremona-Mantua

Additional interesting information about the greenway		Altimeter profile:
Type of surface: hard and smooth	**Type of users:** pedestrian, cyclist	
Length of greenway (km): 45 km	**Bicycle rental:** Bicigrill Mantua giardini barbato, 2, 46100 Mantua +39 338 120 8689 http://www.Mantuabikexperience.com/itinerari-bicicletta/bicigrill-Mantua/	

Additional information:	Entity managing the Greenway:
Tourism InfoPoint Mantua	Provincia di Mantova, Area Lavori Pubblici e Trasporti

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Piazza Mantegna, 6 - 46100 Mantua Tel. 0376 432432 info@turismo.Mantua.it	https://www.provincia.mantova.it/context.jsp?ID_LINK=553&area=7

Map:

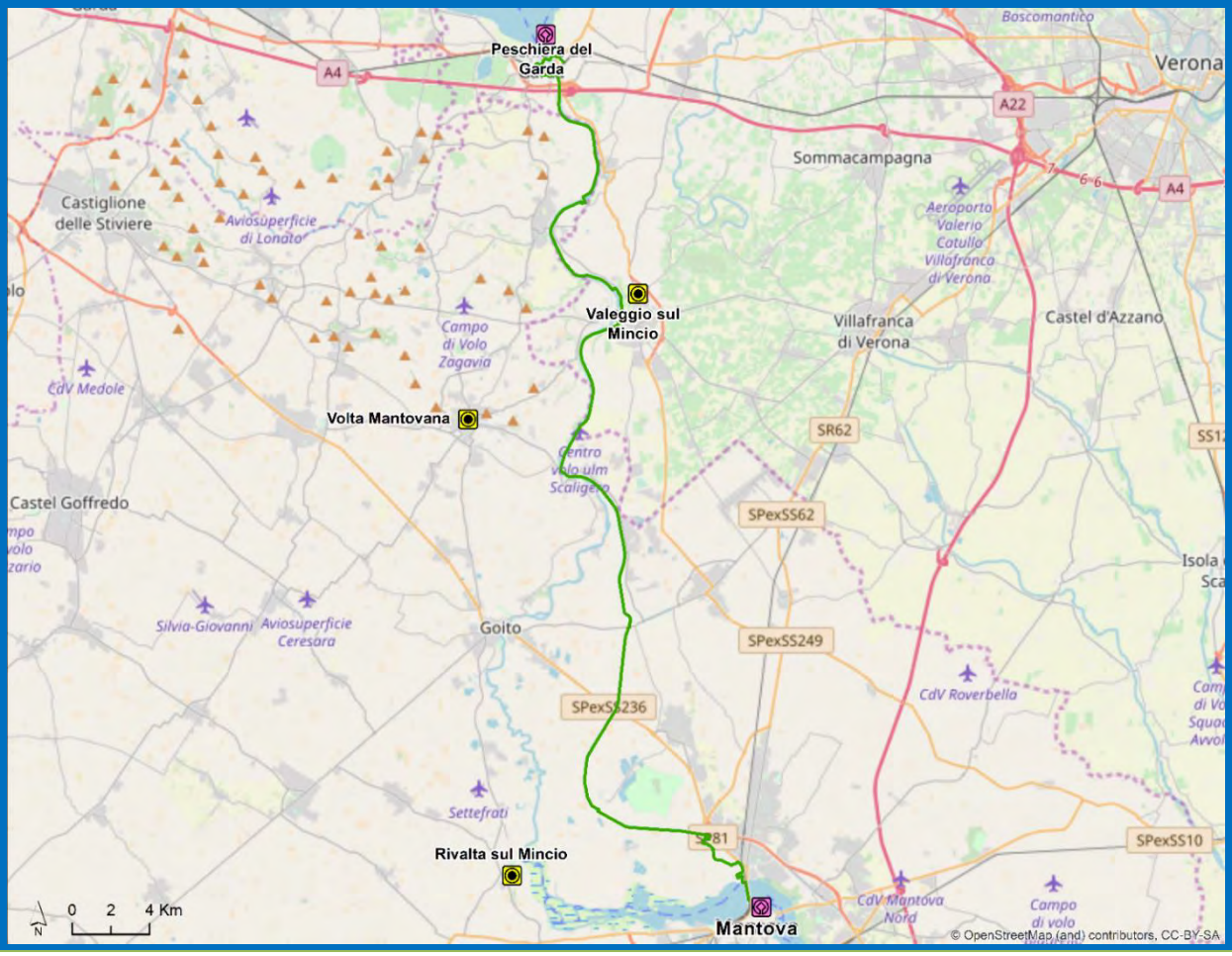

Photo Gallery: *(Include one or more photos that characterize the travel proposal and are copyright)*

Video *(Include if available)*

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Greenways Heritage project aims to promote greenways and UNESCO heritage sites in the vicinity as common destinations. For more information: **www.greenwaysheritage.org**

Travel proposal made by: University of Milan

Project Partners:

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Greenway Bels Lijntje: Turnhout (B) – Tilburg (NL)

Turnhout (B) – Baarle Hertog/Nassau – Tilburg (NL)	**Region: Campine, Belgium – The Netherlands**
Description of the travel proposal:	**We suggest…**
Bels Lijntje is a former railway between the city of Turnhout in Belgium and the city of Tilburg in the Netherlands. It was inaugurated in 1867 with the intention to be part of the connection between Paris and Amsterdam. Several external causes (e.g. WWI and WWII, the invention of tram and bus,…) made the railway unsuccessful even though high potential was attributed to it. In 1973, the last train rode on the rails. The railway got into decline. In 1990 a popular greenway (30 km) was installed on the former railway. Currently we coordinate a project to develop a vision and identity on how we can revive this rich cultural railway heritage along the greenway. The nearby UNESCO-world heritage site is situated on 1 km from the greenway, in the centre of Turnhout. It's the beguinage of Turnhout, since 1998 connected as UNESCO world heritage. We advise to discover this greenway in combination with a stay in Turnhout (B) or Tilburg (NL). A long weekend (three overnights) for this experience is preferable.	Bels Lijntje is situated in the north of the province of Antwerp, in the region called 'Kempen' ('Campine' in English). Bels Lijntje connects the largest city in the Campine, Turnhout, with the most nearby larger city in the Netherlands, Tilburg. It crosses several rural communities. By discovering the Bels Lijntje and connecting it with its surroundings, you can have a great experience with city-vibes, nature and cultural heritage. Day 1. Visit to the city centre of Turnhout and walking around in the UNESCO-beguinage of Turnhout. As the 'capital' of the 'Kempen', Turnhout has a lot to offer! Burgundians can find what their looking for in the many restaurants of the city. Culture vultures can visit museum, such as Cultural Centre 'de Warande', the 'Taxandria'-museum, the National Museum of Playing Cards… We recommend the authentic beguinage in Turnhout! The green countryside in which the city has developed itself is great for fans of nature, with a variety of paths for hiking and biking. We suggest to sleep in the former storage location for goods next to the Turnhout railway station: https://www.turnhoutcity-hotel.be/en/ This hotel is also the departure of the greenway Bels Lijntje. Day 2. Cycling along the greenway from Turnhout to Tilburg with lunch break in the enclave Baarle-Hertog/Baarle-Nassau. It's a special village that belongs to

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	two different countries: Belgium and the Netherlands! Nice to explore this place. When you prefer to stay here for the second night: you will find a green ****camping in the forest (3 km away from the greenway): https://www.ponderosa.nl/camping-at-ponderosa/ Day 3. Cycling to Tilburg: at the end of the greenway, you will find a sparkling city with a dynamic university, several museums and trendy bars for foodies. These days the vibrant cultural climate and student population make the town highly inviting and fully future-proof. Several hotels and budget friendly hostels are waiting for you. You can take here the train back to Turnhout (via Breda, Roosendael and Antwerp) and put your bike on the train. Or cycling back to Turnhout when your body is in good condition.
What you can't miss	How to get there
Beguinage of Turnhout, 1 km from greenway. Official description of UNESCO site: *http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/101181* You can also book a guided tour in the museum of the beguinage: **https://begijnhofmuseum.turnhout.be/vr-in-a-box**	By train to Turnhout: frequent connections from Brussels and Antwerp. Those trains have a compartment for transport of bicycles. You can also rent a bike in the railway station of Turnhout.
Additional interesting information about the greenway	Altimeter profile:

Type of surface: **Asphalt pavement**	**Type of users:**	No graduations on the route: 90% flat track
Length of greenway (km): **30 km**	**Bicycle rental:** **'Fietspunt' in railway station of Turnhout**	

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Additional information: http://www.belslijntje.com/ https://www.kempen.be/ https://www.visitbrabant.com/en/places-to-go/tilburg http://www.erfgoednoorderkempen.be/2017/02/belslijntje-turbulentbestaan/	Entity managing the Greenway Province of Antwerp (Leisure department) The communities Ravels, Baarle-Hertog/Baarle-Nassau, Alphen-Chaam, Goirle. The cities of Turnhout and Tilburg.

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Map:

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Provincie Antwerpen

Dienst Vrijetijds- en Landschapsbeleving
Departement Vrije Tijd

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Photo Gallery:

Beguinage of Turnhout: UNESCO World Heritage and 1 km from the greenway Bels Lijntje.

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Former guardhouse next to the greenway Bels Lijntje: witnesses of railway history along the route make it more attractive for cyclists and tourists.

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High quality standards of signposting on the greenway Bels Lijntje , both in Belgium and the Netherlands.

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Travel proposal made by:

Project Partners:

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Greenway De Mark: Hoogstraten-Meer (B) – Breda (NL)	
Hoogstraten-Meer (B) – Breda (NL)	**Region: Campine, Belgium – The Netherlands**
Description of the travel proposal:	**We suggest…**
Hoogstraten is a pleasant tourist center between Antwerp and Breda that was an important trading center on the trade route between Antwerp and 's Hertogenbosch in the Middle Ages. The 16th century marked a high point in the history of Hoogstraten. There are still a lot of traces from this period. Today Hoogstraten offers a fascinating mix of heritage, culture, nature and gastronomy: for you to discover. The nearby UNESCO-world heritage site is situated on 8 km from the greenway, in the centre of Hoogstraten. It's called beguinage of Hoogstraten and since 1998 reconnected as UNESCO world heritage. We advise to discover the greenway De Mark in combination with a break in Hoogstraten (B) or Breda (NL). A weekend (with at least one overnight stay) for this cultural cycling experience is preferable.	Day 1. Visit to the city centre of Hoogstraten and walking around in the UNESCO-beguinage of Hoogstraten We recommend to visit the authentic beguinage in Hoogstraten. Yu can book a guided tour, started in the museum of the beguinage. Definitly also try to cycle to the Colonies of Wortel (district of Hoogstraten) and Merksplas: two amazing heritage places proximity to the city who are both in the running to become UNESCO Word Heritage sites in 2020: https://www.kolonie57.be/en/colony-5-7 Day 2. Cycling along the greenway De Mark from Hoogstraten to Breda. It's a high level greenway: a towpath that starts in district Meer, follows the small river De Mark and leads to a brilliant city in another country: Breda. Located in the South of the Netherlands, only 10 km from the Belgium border, Breda is the 9th largest city in the country and features a wealth of historical buildings and cultural attractions. In the 11th century, Breda owed allegiance to the Holy Roman Emperor and saw many changes in ownership and allegiance until the 1500's where it became a residence city under the House of Orange-Nassau. Later in the 1500's, the city was practically burnt to the ground during a huge fire, and then conquered by Spanish troops.

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	Continuing Breda's tumultuous history, the city was occupied in WW2 and then liberated by Polish forces. Today it stands as an important city in the Netherlands with a wealth of service orientated business. Breda is a fantastic tourist destination and its old architecture, beautiful parks and quiet charm attract many visitors per year. Hotels and B&B's are waiting for you. You can also sleep in an amazing historical setting: http://www.hotelnassaubreda.nl/en/ Take here the next morning your train back (with bike on the train) to Hoogstraten (via Roosendael and Antwerp to Noorderkempen-Brecht). Or cycling back to Hoogstraten when your body is in health condition.
What you can't miss	How to get there
Beguinage of Hoogstraten, 8 km from greenway De Mark. Official description of UNESCO site: *http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/101178* You can also book a guided tour in the museum of the beguinage: *https://www.hoogstraten.be/museum*	By train to railway station Noorderkempen-Brecht. Frequent bus-connections from Brecht to Hoogstraten. Those trains have a compartment for transport of bicycles.
Additional interesting information about the greenway	Altimeter profile:
Type of surface: Asphalt pavement **Type of users:** all users are welcome **Length of greenway (km):** 17 km **Bicycle rental:** 'OV Fiets' in railway station of Breda .	No graduations on the route: 85% flat track. In summer 2018 the greenway - section in Hoogstraten was totally renewed and made 0,5 meter wider for more comfort. The section in The Netherlands will follow with this widening.
Additional information: **https://www.kempen.be/** **https://www.visitbrabant.com/en/places-to-go/breda**	Entity managing the Greenway The infrastructure departments of the cities Hoogstraten, Alphen-Chaam and Breda.

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http://www.breda-en-alles-daaromheen.nl/het%20fietspad%20langs%20de%20Mark.htm https://www.ns.nl/en/customer-service/ov-fiets	

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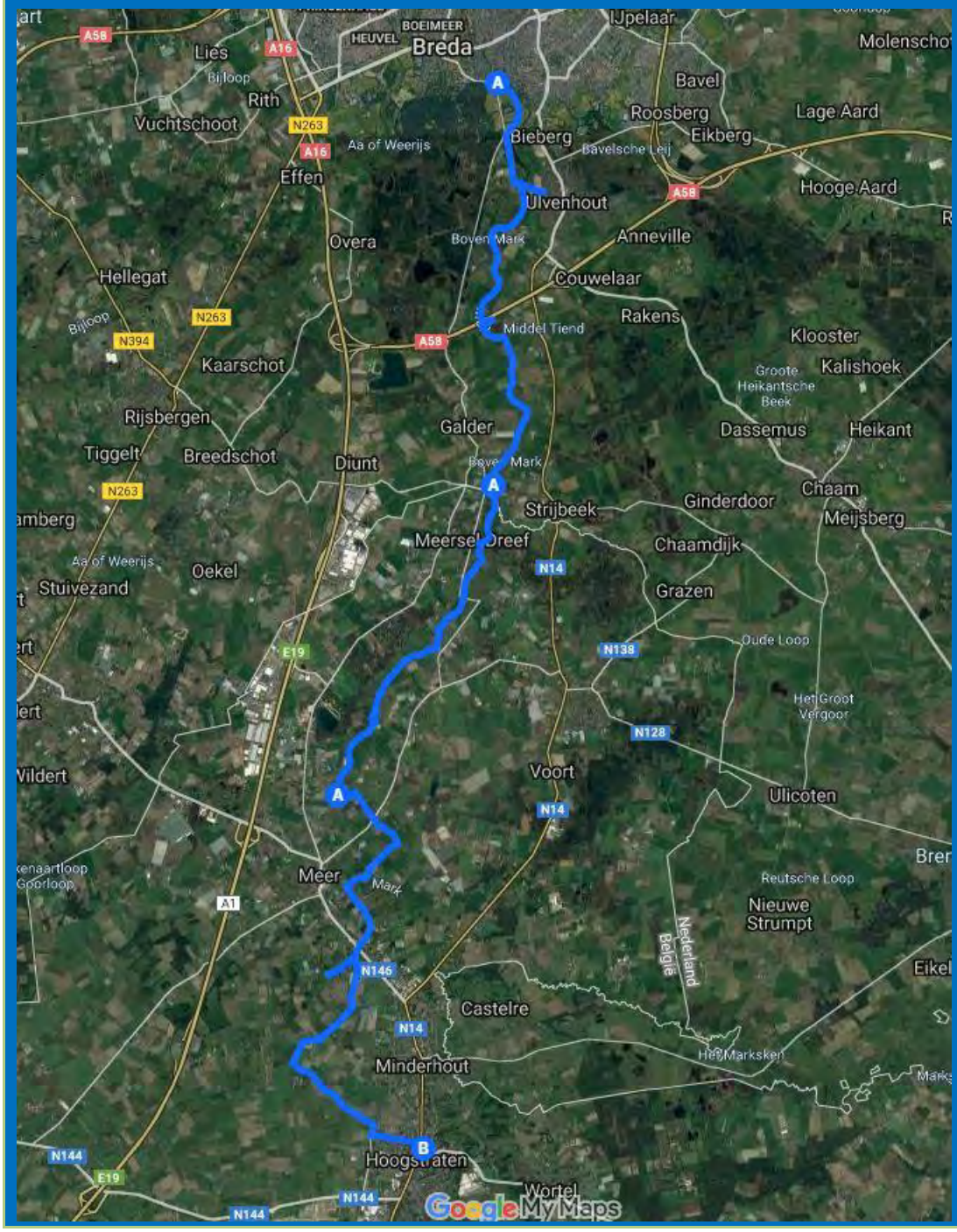
Map: Greenway De Mark: cycling connection between Hoogstraten and Breda



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End point of greenway De Mark: from here you only need 3 km of cycling to reach the historical heart of Breda.

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Greenway De Mark: halfway between Breda and Hoogstraten, surrounded by meadows with cows.

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Beguinage of Hoogstraten: UNESCO World Heritage, 8 km away from the greenway De Mark.

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Colonies of Wortel (district of Hoogstraten) and Merksplas are two amazing heritage places proximity to the city of Hoogstraten. Both are in the running to become UNESCO Word Heritage sites in 2020. Learn more about this huge project in the visitors center (free entrance) where you also can rent a bike and sleep in the B&B.

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Breda is a green city with water, lot of cyclists and less cars every year.

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Bristol to Bath Railway path

Bristol to Bath	United Kingdom
Description of the travel proposal:	**We suggest…**
This path begins in the historic port of Bristol, and passes via Mangotsfield, Warmley and Saltford before arriving in the heart of Bath. The Bristol-Bath railway path created in 1997 was the first major project undertaken by Sustrans and inspired the creation Nacional Cicle Network in UK. The greenway is open to walkers and cyclists with access provided for disabled users. The greenway Bristol to Bath has several stops along the way and is perfect for a one day trip or for a weekend. The best time to go on the path is from spring to September where it's a bit warmer and the rest stops are opened. But you can go any time during the year. The path can start in any of the two towns, but if one finishes in Bath in a few meters more you can find another very attractive cycle or walking greenway the Two Tunnels greenway. The path also features a variety of sculptures (including a drinking giant!) and working steam engines at the old train station at Bitton. **Bath** is part of the **World Heritage Site by UNESCO** since 1987. One can explore different architecture and learn a bit of our past while exploring the ancient Roman bath and relaxing, art galleries, shopping and Botanical Gardens. In **Bristol** one can walk and see the historic harbour, ther Clifton Suspension Bridge; there are several museums and one take more cycling or walking paths. Also discover the Banksy's street art. The greenway offers a variety of view; it is also an import wildlife corridor and a commuting route for several people. Along the way one can see the old train stations that have been converted into shops or you could go to one of the pubs in the two towns or along the way.	**Day 1.** We can start the journey exploring the town of Bristol which is the largest city in the southwest. There yu can see historic sites like ruins of a Norman castle, museum like the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery or take one of the many walking or audio tours. **Day 2.** Head to the Temple Meads Railway station to start the path. Along the way one can notice changes in scenery and sculptures allow the way with several rest stops. There are also old train stations that have been turned into cafes along the way. The path can be done in one day and is accessible for anyone. **Day 3.** For the final day, you can take a tour around the UNESCO World Heritage site of Bath. There you can visit the old Roman baths, stunning architecture like the Pulteney Bridge, museum and the scenery. If there is extra time, one can go to the Two Tunnels Railway and explore it by bike or cycling (a one day or less journey). If it's a one day trip, You can start in Bristol and explore the town. The path takes about 2-3 hour to get to Bath, not including pit stops. Then in Bath you can explore the town and take a train back to Bristol or take a train or bus to another location. *Route gpx download* This route is available as a gpx download that is compatible on all major gps devices. Download: Bristol and Bath Path.gp • **Distance:** 13 miles / 27 Km aprox. • **Terrain:** Disused railway path, traffic free and flat. Tarmac surface. • **National Cycle Network**: National Route 4

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What you can't miss	How to get there
Bath: A World Heritage Site mostly known for its Roman Baths and 18th Century architecture. Its social settings and 18th century town planning are other two elements that make it a UNESCO site. Most of the old Roman remains in the city are centered around the Roman baths and the remains of a Roman temple of the Goddess Sulis Minerva. Aquae Sulis is an old Roman town that is walled in. There are hill forts, field systems and villas form the Roman and Iron Age beyond the city walls. Buildings with a neoclassical architectural style dominate the city. With the use of local limestone and a uniform scale and height of the buildings. In the 18th century Bath was reformed to a fashionable health resort and with this came and expansion of the city limits. This architecture reflected the 18th century social ambitions of a city designed for pilgrimage and a high end spa culture. The city of Bath lies within the hollows of the hills. From every point of the city center you can enjoy views of green landscape. In those green landscapes one can find elegant terraces and villas due to the 18th century architects and ideas. The **Bristol and Bath Railway Path** is one of Sustrans Art Trails. Sustrans worked with artists Cod Steaks, Steve Joyce, Gordon Young, Barbara Disney, Kevin Hughes, Jim Paulsen to commission and install unique and memorable art. Main attractions: - Bristol Cathedral - Explore-At-Bristol - SS-Great Britain, Bristol - Banksy's street art. - Bitton Station - Thermae Bath Spa - Bath Abbey - Roman Baths, Bath	You can get to Bristol and Bath by road, rail, bus and coach. Train services run from Bristol to Bath Spa every 10 minutes and take a mere 12-15 minutes. By bus: there is an hourly direct bus link from Bristol airport to Bath city centre. More information about how to get to the cities is on their sites (Bristol https://visitbristol.co.uk/your-visit/travelling-to-bristol, Bath https://visitbath.co.uk/plan-your-visit/travelling-to-bath/) Access by train: Bristol Temple Meads & Bath Spa railway station link to the greenway. *Bikes are allowed on the train.*

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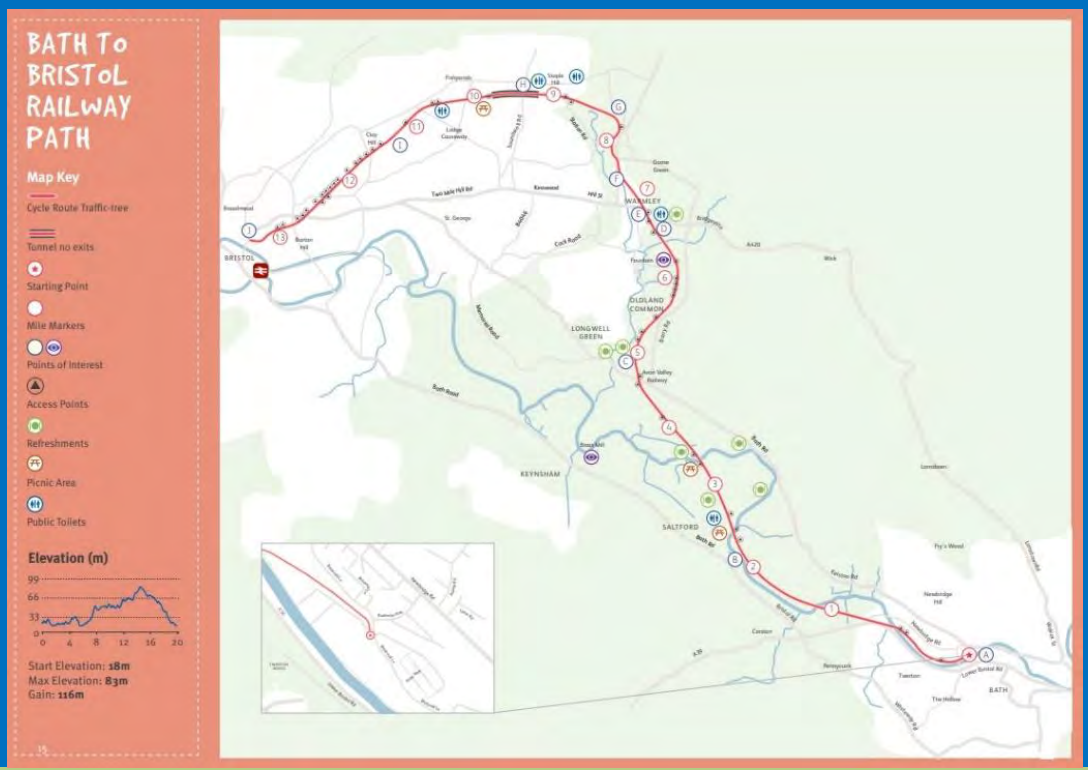
Map:



Entity managing the Greenway :

The Avon Frome Partnership of

Bristol City Council

South Gloucestershire Council https://www.southglos.gov.uk/

Bath & North East Somerset Council https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/

Sustrans https://www.sustrans.org.uk/

Go as you please, Trip Proposal

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Photo Gallery:

Video

https://betterbybike.info/rides/bristol-bath-railway-path-3

Greenways Heritage project aims to promote greenways and UNESCO heritage sites in the vicinity as common destinations. For more information: **www.greenwaysheritage.org**

Travel proposal made by: European Greenways Association

Source: Internet Web site's mentioned and own information.

Project Partners:

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Go back in history, discover the Chinon Richelieu Greenway / Voie verte Chinon Richelieu and the Loire Valley

Near the confluence of the Loire and Vienne rivers	France
Description of the travel proposal:	**We suggest…**
The Chinon Richelieu Greenway is about 20 kilometres long and uses the former railway line that connected the two towns, municipalities known for their exceptional heritage. A safe itinerary for cycling and walking, the route combines heritage, land and nature, and passes near or at the foot of some emblematic places, such as the Château du Rivau or the Royal Fortress of Chinon, extending the Loire à Vélo through the Vienne valley. The greenway has 4 old railway stations being renovated: Richelieu will host a kind of railway museum, Champigny will be dedicated to art, Le Coutureau will promote the Château du Rivau and Ligré will provide accommodation for 21 people. Since it is a short itinerary, the trip can be made in two days in order to have time and enjoy all the patrimonial elements found along the route. It is recommended to make this visit especially in spring and/or autumn, when the temperatures are soft and the vegetation creates a spectacular visual spectacle. **The Loire Valley**, also known as the Cradle of the French and the Garden of France, is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000. It represents a territory of great historical, cultural, natural and landscape importance unique in the world. **Chinon** is a picturesque locality where the medieval air is breathed by all its corners. The narrow streets are filled with beautiful buildings and in 'Rue Voltaire' and 'Rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau' in particular are lovely mansions and churches very from the Middle Ages that are conserved. **Richelieu** is a historic city created by Cardinal Richelieu in 1631 and is considered a masterpiece of urban planning in the 17th century. La Fontaine called it the most beautiful town in the universe.	**Day 1.** You can start your journey in the city of Chinon, a picturesque historic-cultural city near the confluence of the Loire and Vienne rivers. A must visit is the Chateau du Chinon, which actually consists of three castles: the Middle Castle, Fort Coudray and Fort Saint George. The old town of the city represents another point of special tourist attraction whose visit you do not have to miss out. You can have a picnic on the Vienne riverside, combining this way the visit to heritage elements with nature. Highly recommended would be the visit to the famous 'caves' i.e. the 'Cellar' made famous by Rabelais, and today managed by local vine-cultivators. From there, just beside the river shore begins the Chinon Richelieu Greenway tour on Quai Danton Street. Continue your trip around the Greenway and explore the Chinon wineries. **Day 2.** For the second day, we propose a visit that combines historical heritage elements with those of railway origin. Continuing pedaling along the Greenway, you reach the Chateau du Rivau, an authentic dream place full of history. Close by is the Coutureau Station where you can admire its railway architecture. We finished the tour in the historic city of Richelieu. Here you can explore the Richelieu's former Palace and the Eglise Notre Dame, among Many others. **Optional.** If you have more days, we recommend complementing the Chinon Richelieu Greenway, with some section of the route **La Loire à vélo**, a unique cycle route being one of the most beautiful in France. With over 900 km, of which 280 Km are included **in the perimeter inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.**

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What you can't miss	How to get there
The Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes The Loire Valley is an outstanding cultural landscape of great beauty, containing historic towns and villages, great architectural monuments (the châteaux), and cultivated lands formed by many centuries of interaction between their population and the physical environment, primarily the river Loire itself. This tourist destination retains a high degree of authenticity of the whole, including the main urban centers and monuments through their uses and materials, thanks to numerous conservation works. However, several factors may affect the property: agricultural changes, urban sprawl, the establishment of activity areas on the edge of cities and roads, the construction of major equipment (bridges, highways).	**Getting to The Loire Valley** By train: Tours is the Loire Valley's main rail hub. TGV trains connect St-Pierre-des-Corps (4km east of Tours) with Paris' Gare Montparnasse (one hour), Charles de Gaulle Airport (1¾ hours), Nantes (1½ hours) and Bordeaux (2¾ hours). Orléans, Blois, Amboise and other Loire towns also have quick, direct rail links to Paris. TGVs from Angers to Paris' Gare Montparnasse (1½ hours) go via Le Mans. Approximate travel times to other cities: Bordeaux (2h), Reims (3h), Lille (3h), Metz & Nancy (3h30), Brussels (3h40), Lyon (4h), Strasbourg (4h), London (5h)), Marseille (5h30).

Additional interesting information about the greenway		Additional information:
Type of surface: Asphalt and Tarmac surface	**Type of users:** pedestrians, cyclists and people with disabilities.	Richelieu-Chinon Voie Verte: https://www.voie-verte-richelieu-chinon.fr/ Loire Valley: https://www.loirevalley-france.co.uk/loire-valley-chateaux/royal-fortress-chinon Experience Loire: https://www.experienceloire.com/richelieu.htm Louire Valley guide: https://www.loirevalley.guide/ Loire Valley France: https://www.loirevalleyfrance.net/ **La Loire à Vélo**: https://www.loireavelo.fr/la-marque-accueil-velo/ The **Chinon Richelieu Greenway Audio Guide APP**, an innovative mobile application available for Androids and IPhones, where you can find all the necessary information for your trip: cultural and patrimonial information, accommodation and restaurants ideas, etc. In addition, the audio guide information on the heritage sites, historic interesting data and gastronomy tips enriches the traveller experience. Safe and very attractive the trip is recommended for families.
Length of greenway (km): 20 km	**Bicycle rental:** **CHINON** - Service Vélos. 129 Avenue François Mitterrand **RICHELIEU -** Point de dépôt Loire Vélo Nature. Relais du Plessis Route du Thuet **It is possible to rent a bike in the Tourism Offices along the « la Loire à Vélo" and give back the bike in a different Tourism Office on the way. It is very well organized**	

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Entity managing the Greenway : Touraine Val de Vienne Council

Map:

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Photo Gallery:

Video **Richelieu-Chinon: une histoire de France à parcourir (recorded before the conversion in greenway)**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lBLS2ueIX5E

Greenways Heritage project aims to promote greenways and UNESCO heritage sites in the vicinity as common destinations. For more information: **www.greenwaysheritage.org**

Travel proposal made by: European Greenways Association

Source: Web site: https://www.voie-verte-richelieu-chinon.fr/ and https://www.touraineloirevalley.com/voie-verte-richelieu-chinon/

Greenways Heritage Project Partners:

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Mechelen & Leuven along the River Dyle

Location: Mechelen

Region/ Country: Belgium > Flanders > provinces of Antwerp and Flemish-Brabant > cities of Mechelen & Leuven

Description of the travel proposal:

River Dyle: the most beautiful link between the art cities of Mechelen and Leuven.

For centuries, the river Dyle determined life in both cities. Goods were imported from all over Europe by boat. Magnificent merchant houses, lively market squares and several breweries were built along the river's banks. But things changed by 1750.

The brand-new Leuven-Dyle canal took over the Dyle's economic role. Nowadays the river mainly has a recreational function, with colourful marinas and inviting riverside terraces.

You can also take a fun boat trip on the Dyle. And thanks to the floating Dyle path in Mechelen, you can now even walk on water! Outside the city the wetlands in the river valley attract rare animals and vegetation.

The meandering Dyle without a doubt is the most beautiful link between the art cities of Mechelen and Leuven. Where you can discover the rich history of both cities, including Unesco world heritage as fe. both cities have beguinages and are famous for its brewery culture.

We suggest…

Day 1:

- Check-in hotel in Mechelen
- **Visit the city of Mechelen**
  - City walk 'In the footsteps of Margareta': dive into the Burgondian history of the city of Mechelen
  - Climb of the St Rumbolds' Tower (Unesco)
  - Must-sees:
    - The Beguinage (Unesco)
    - Climb the St. Rombold's tower (Unesco)
    - Museum Hof van Busleyden
    - Boattrip on the Dyle
    - The floating Dyle path: walk on the river

Day 2

- Check-out hotel in Mechelen
- **Cycle the 'Dyle Valley Route'**
  - Mechelen – Leuven
  - Nodes & junctions: 57 - 64 - 73 - 22 - 23 - 25 - 71 - 72 - 30 - 35 - 81 - 80 - 33
- Check-in hotel in Leuven
- **Visit the city of Leuven**
  - Must-sees:
    - Beguinage (Unesco)
    - Town Hall
    - Oude Markt (Beer culture)
    - Museum M

Day 3:

- **Cycle the 'Dyle Valley Route'**
  - Leuven - Mechelen
  - Nodes & junctions: 33 - 93 - 31 - 32 - 28 - 97 - 20 - 77 - 54 - 80 - towards 93 – road to the centre – 57
  - Eye-catchers:
    - World War I Experience centre in Tildonk
    - Leuven-Dyle Canal

What u can't miss

How to get there

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Mechelen - Large Beguinage - St. Rumbold's tower Mechelen - Belfry - Carillion culture (St Rumbold's Tower) - Beer culture Leuven - Large Beguinage - Beer culture	Thanks to its central location, Mechelen is easy to reach by train from practically any Belgian or European city. It only takes 20 minutes from Brussels, Leuven and Antwerp. Mechelen has 2 stations: Mechelen Central and Mechelen-Nekkerspoel. Both stations are walking distance from the city centre. From Mechelen Central it is about a 5 minute drive by bicycle to the Grote Markt, whilst it takes barely 3 minutes from Mechelen-Nekkerspoel. Getting to Mechelen: an overview

Additional interesting information about the greenway		**Altimeter profile:**
Type of surface: concrete & cobble stones	**Type of users: all**	- The terrain is flat. - About 37 kilometre of this route is car-free, with 19 kilometres of unpaved roads.
Length of greenway (km): **Mechelen – Leuven – Mechelen: 57 km**	**Bicycle rental:** **Possible in the cities of Mechelen and Leuven.** **Mechelen:** - www.fietsptunten.be - www.atelier-mechelen.be - www.visitmechelen.be/fietsenverhuur	
Additional information: n/a		**Entity managing the Greenway: n/a**

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MAP: Dyle Valley Route

Trip 1: Mechelen – Bonheiden – Keerbergen – Tremelo – Rotselaar – Leuven

Trip 2: Leuven – Haacht – Kampenhout – Boormeerbeek – Mechelen

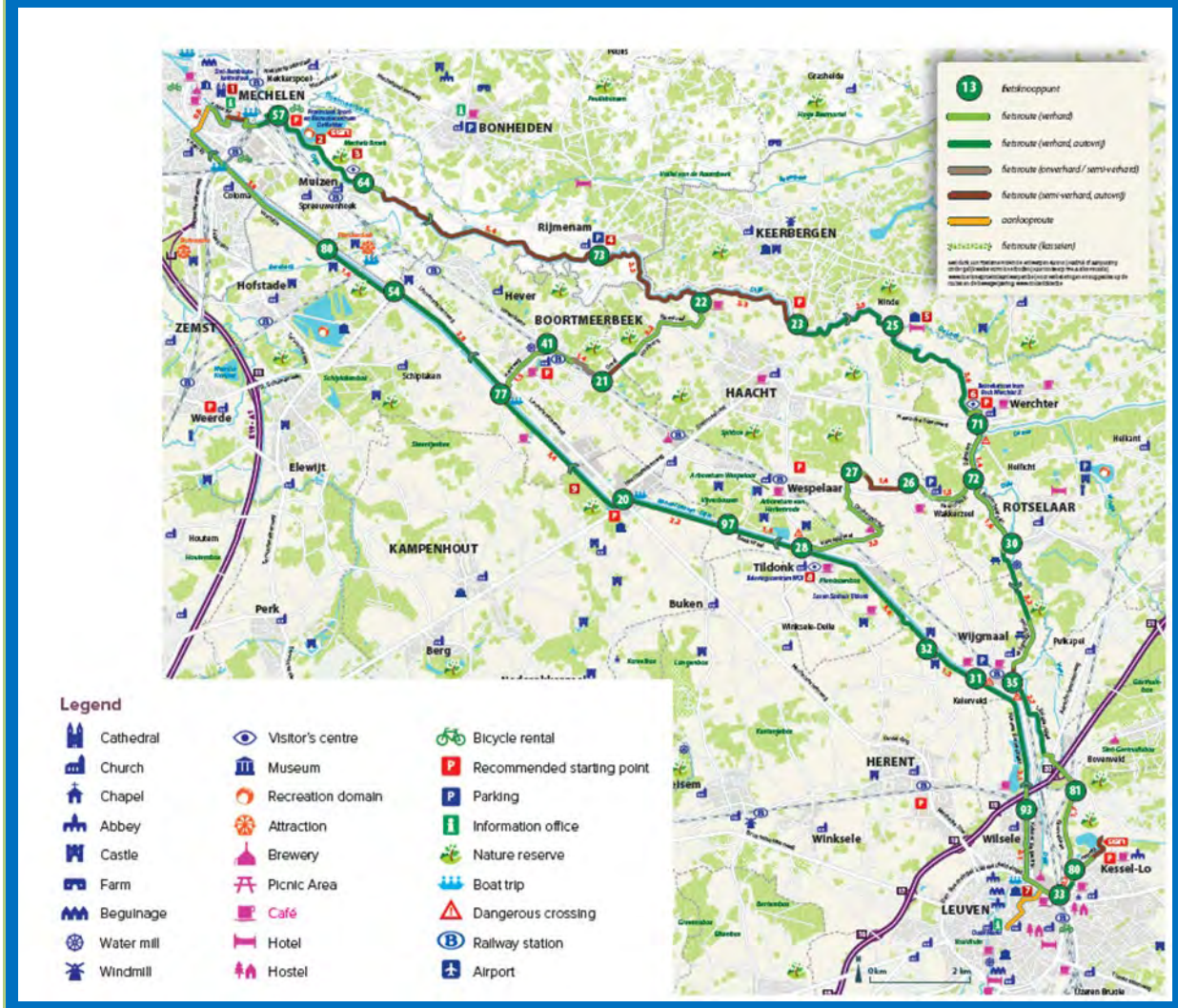

Photo Gallery: more pictures on www.visitmechelen.be & www.visitleuven.be

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Skywalk Sint-Romboutstoren, Mechelen

Mechels Broek

Grote Markt, Leuven

Video

n/a

Greenways Heritage project aims to promote greenways and UNESCO heritage sites in the vicinity as common destinations. For more information: **www.greenwaysheritage.org**

Travel proposal made by: City of Mechelen, Visit Mechelen

Project Partners:

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Mechelen & Lier along the River Nete

Location: Mechelen & Lier

Region/ Country: Belgium > Flanders > province of Antwerp > cities of Mechelen & Lier

Description of the travel proposal:

Tourists, from Belgium and abroad, always admire the magnificent heritage of Mechelen. But this art city has many more assets to offer, including its central location and the beautiful river landscape around the city centre. Mechelen constitutes a crossroads of rivers. Follow the carfree towpaths and you will soon find yourself in green and more peaceful surroundings.

Bicycletour 'This Nete Valley Route' links Mechelen with Lier, the gateway to the Kempen Region. The city of Pallieter is situated at the confluence of the Grote Nete and the Kleine Nete. Downstream from Lier the river is simply called Nete. The author Felix Timmermans described his native city as the place "where three meandering Netes come together in a silvery knot". The dikes along the Nete are a safe, comfortable and pleasant place for a bike excursion.

Two fascinating cities, beautiful landscapes, nature and tranquillity. What's not to love about the Nete Valley Route.

We suggest…

Day 1:

- Check-in hotel in Mechelen
- **Visit the city of Mechelen**
  - City walk 'In the footsteps of Margareta': dive into the Burgondian history of the city of Mechelen
  - Climb of the St Rumbolds' Tower (Unesco)
  - Must-sees:
    - The Beguinage (Unesco)
    - Climb the St. Rombold's tower (Unesco)
    - Museum Hof van Busleyden
    - Boattrip on the Dyle
    - The floating Dyle path: walk on the river

Day 2:

- **Cycle the 'Nete Valley Route'**
  - Mechelen – Lier
  - Nodes & junctions: 57 – 99 – 98 – 65 – 55 – 25 – 56 -66 – 31 – 05 – 89 – 88
- Check-in hotel in Lier
- **Visit the city of Lier**
  - Must-sees:
    - Beguinage of Lier (Unesco)
    - Zimmer Tower

Day 3:

- **Cycle the 'Nete Valley Route'**
  - Lier – OLV-Waver – Mechelen
  - Nodes & junctions: 88 – 20 – 30 – 40 – 48 – 49 – 35 – 36 – 27 – 01 – 46 – 44 – 99 – 57
- **Visit of the Wintergarden in Onze-Lieve-Vrouw-Waver** (node 36)

What u can't miss

Mechelen

- Large Beguinage
- St. Rumbold's tower Mechelen
- Belfry
- Carillion culture (St Rumbold's Tower)

How to get there

Thanks to its central location, Mechelen is easy to reach by train from practically any Belgian or European city. It only takes 20 minutes from Brussels, Leuven and Antwerp.

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- Beer culture Lier - Beguinage of Lier	Mechelen has 2 train stations: Mechelen Central and Mechelen-Nekkerspoel. Both stations are walking distance from the city centre. From Mechelen Central it is about a 5 minute drive by bicycle to the Grote Markt, whilst it takes barely 3 minutes from Mechelen-Nekkerspoel. Getting to Mechelen: an overview
Additional interesting information about the greenway	**Altimeter profile: .**
Type of surface: concrete & cobble stones **Type of users: all**	*(Include altimeter profile if there is one)* **The terrain is flat.** **About 28% of this loop is car-free**
Length of greenway (km): **Mechelen – Lier – Mechelen: 50 km** **Bicycle rental:** **Possible in the cities of Mechelen and Lier.** **Mechelen:** - **www.fietspunten.be** - **www.atelier-mechelen.be** **www.visitmechelen.be/fietsenverhuur**	
Additional information: n/a	**Entity managing the Greenway: n/a**

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Map: Nete Valley Route

Trip 1: Mechelen – Duffel – Lier

Trip 2: Lier – Sint-Katelijne-Waver – Mechelen

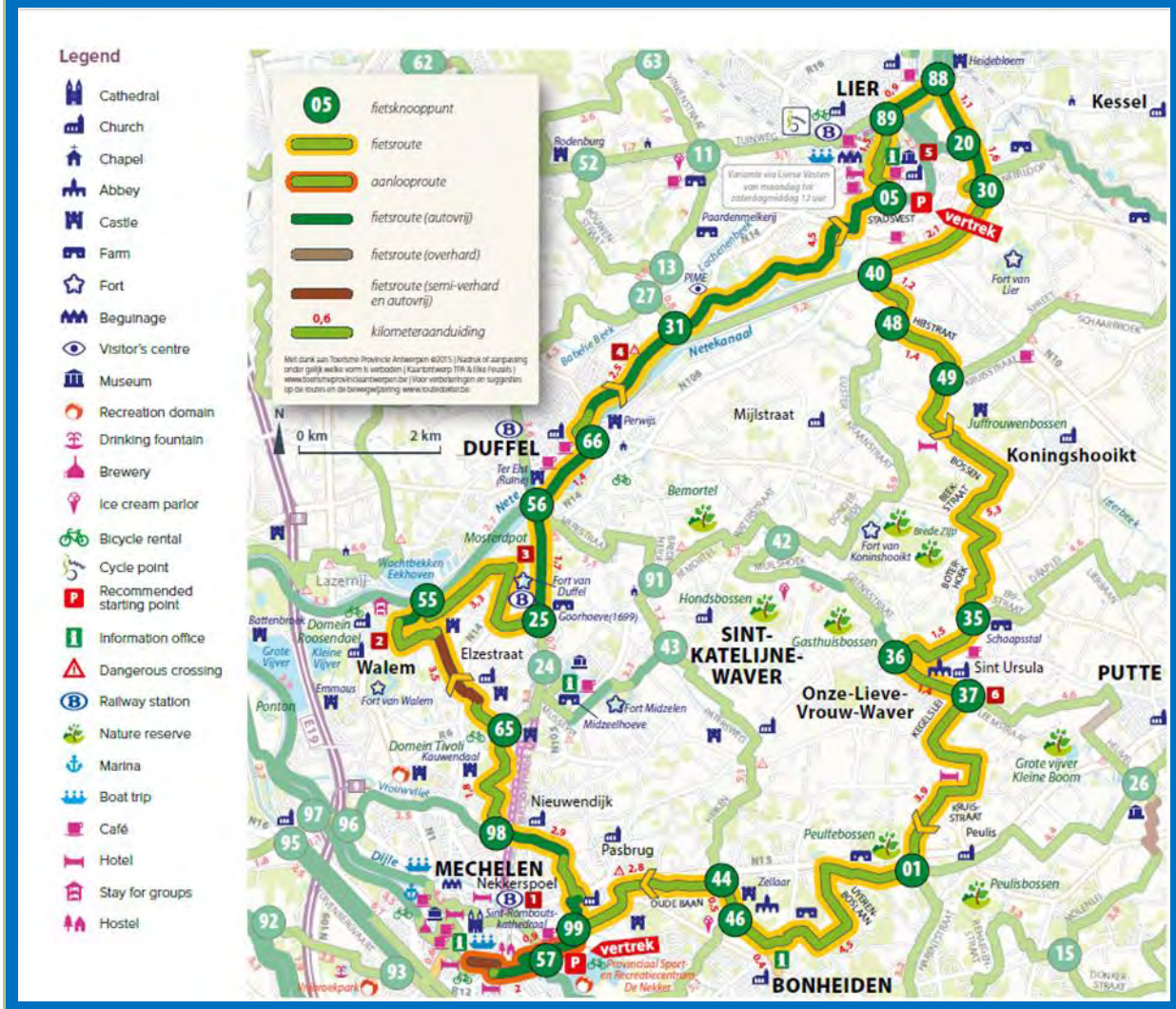

Photo Gallery: more pictures on www.visitmechelen.be & www.uitinmechelen.be

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Wintertuin, Onze-Lieve-Vrouw-Waver

Zimmertoren, Lier

Grote Markt, Mechelen

Fort van Duffel

Domein Roosendael

Video

(Include if available)

Greenways Heritage project aims to promote greenways and UNESCO heritage sites in the vicinity as common destinations. For more information: **www.greenwaysheritage.org**

Travel proposal made by: City of Mechelen, Visit Mechelen

Project Partners:

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Leriķi – Gulbene

Location: Vidzeme	Region/ Country: Latvia
Description of the travel proposal:	**We suggest…**
A Nordic blonde with a fiery heart, there's much more to Riga than meets the eye. In its 800 years of turbulent history, everyone from German knights to Swedish kings and Soviet commissars have left their footprints, and today Latvia's capital is an exciting European metropolis at the crossroads of eastern and northern Europe. From vibrant Old Riga to charming small town Gulbene via greenway. Along the way, there is a wide variety of natural objects, beautiful rivers and lakes, districts with natural heritage. During the wintertime, it is possible to use the greenway in Latvia to ski or to enjoy the ride with the horse. Do not miss the exhibitions in Gulbene and Alūksne stations. The Vidzeme Banitis or Gulbene - Alūksne railway is the last operational narrow gauge railway in the Baltics. The small railway with regular passenger traffic between two district centres has become a much loved tourist destination, attracting visitors on account of its historical rolling-stock and infrastructure, as well as its heritage value and frequent entertainment activities.	**Day 1. Visit Day 1. Visit Old Riga**. Have a walk around the centre and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere in UNESCO site. **Day 2. Melturi – Dzērbene:** Start your journey with the train ride (approx.1h30min) to Melturi station where starts the greenway towards Gulbene. Here you can start cycling until Dzērbene (30km). On the way you can enjoy the beautiful and calm landscape, with the resting spots, have a swim in a lake and enjoy the peaceful environment. Do not miss Dzerbenes manor. **Day 3.Dzērbene – Ranka:** Continue the cycling trip until Ranka (30km). On the way in Jaunpiebalga you can get to know the local heritage with the old church, middle age settlement and local history museum. Visit the healthy environment farm "Lielkrūzes" that has a variety of flora and fauna. The area is nature reserve. Make the arrangement with the coffee roastery "Tīrs miers" and enjoy the cup a coffee and workshop about the coffee brewery process. Stay the overnight in Rankas manor. **Day 4. Ranka – Gulbene – Alūksne**: From Ranka you can follow until Gulbene (40km). On the way do not miss Lizums manor and the Windmill. You will finalize the cycling with Gulbenes station with the exhibition "Railway and steam", try your strength to move the draisine or the rail bike. From Gulbene enjoy the romantic ride to Alūksne with the unique Bānītis: functioning narrow gauge railway line. In Alūksne enjoy the multimedia exhibition at the railway station.
What you can't miss	**How to get there**
(Official description of UNESCO site) Old Town Riga is a popular entertainment district in the historical and geographical center of the Latvian capital, featuring cobble-stone streets and an abundance of architectural gems.	Use the train : more info pv.lv From Alūksne back to Riga there is no train. Better to use the transfer services or the public bus. www.autoosta.lv www.1188.lv/en/transport

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Additional interesting information about the greenway:		**Altimeter profile:**
Map: greenways.eu; printed versions in local Tourism Information centres *(Include GWH GIS map or other)*		
Type of surface: **Gravel roads**	**Type of users:** **Local commuters, visitors and tourists**	*(include altimeter profile if there is one)*
Length of greenway (km): **100km**	**Bicycle rental:** **In Riga there is a variety of bycycle rentals**	
Additional information: On some of the greenway parts there might be local transportation from the local farms and habitants. On the trail there are several resting spots and information. The route goes thought the small villages and towns. Therefore, it is good to take the meal on the way. There are limited shop possibilities on the way. The route goes thought the forests. During the bad weather there might be some puddles and mud.		**Entity managing the Greenway :** *For further information contact: Latvian Greenways association, info@greenways.lv,*

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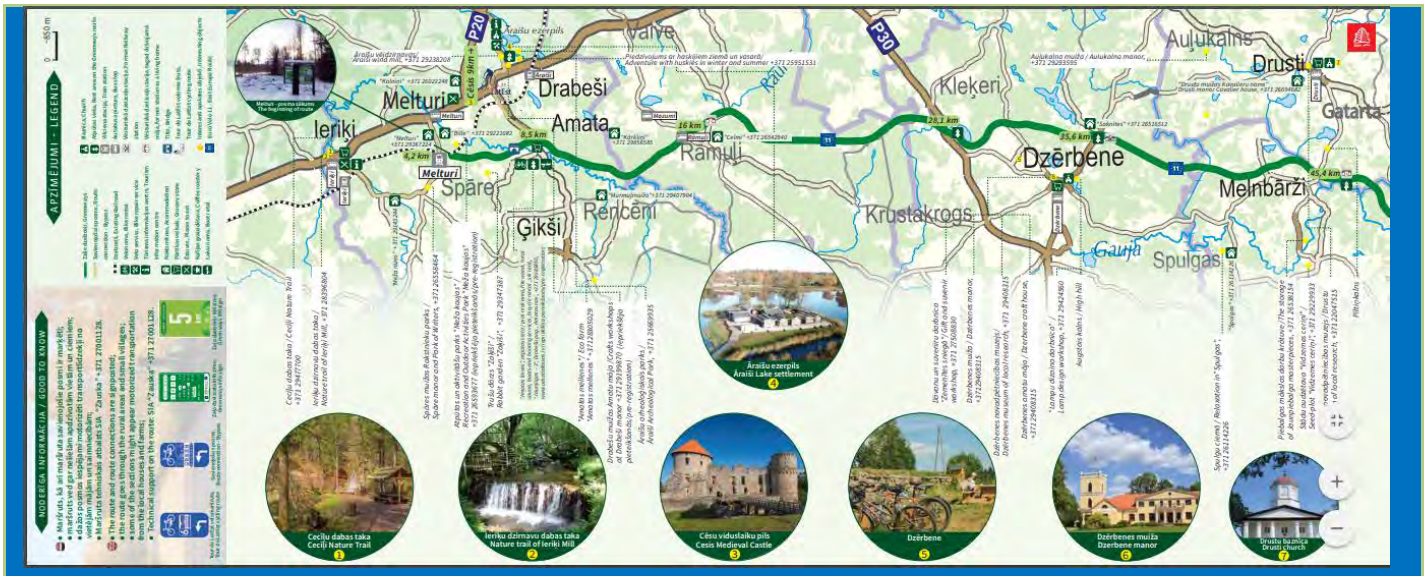

Photo Gallery:

1) Jaunpiebalga

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2) Railbike in Gulbene

3) Bānītis – Narrow Gauge railway

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4) Alūksne exhibition

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Video: https: //vimeo.com/314217643

(Include if available)

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Travel proposal made by:

Project Partners:

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UNESCO and Greenways a common destination

Go as you please, Trip Proposal

Valmiera – Dikļi – Limbaži – Rīga

Location: Vidzeme	Region/ Country: Latvia
Description of the travel proposal:	**We suggest…**
A Nordic blonde with a fiery heart, there's much more to Riga than meets the eye. In its 800 years of turbulent history, everyone from German knights to Swedish kings and Soviet commissars have left their footprints, and today Latvia's capital is an exciting European metropolis at the crossroads of eastern and northern Europe. You can start your cycling trip from Valmiera railway station where the train goes to Riga – Valga. Green Railways trail and connection routes are all signposted. The trail goes through countryside, over the rivers, through swamps. Dikļi palace - after a long day of cycling or hiking you are welcome for a dinner / stay overnight at the magnificent palace hotel, located just a bit more than 2 kilometers away from the greenway. Along the way, there is a wide variety of natural objects, beautiful rivers and lakes, districts with natural heritage. The Greenway goes through North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve where you can find great biological diversity, variety of landforms, natural springs, sandstone outcrops, picturesque views and unique natural, cultural and historical monuments.	**Day 1. Visit** Day 1. Visit Old Riga. Have a walk around the centre and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere in UNESCO site. **Day 2.Valmiera – Dikļi:** Start your journey with the train ride (approx.2h) to Valmiera station where starts the greenway towards Ainaži. in Valmiera you will pass the former railway bridge. You can make a short detour to Zilaiskalns and visit soviet style, peat factories town. Here you can start cycling until Dikļi (30km). On the way you can enjoy the beautiful and calm landscape, with the resting spots and enjoy the peaceful environment. You can stay overnight in Dikļi. In Dikļi do no miss to visit the fairytale park, song festival promenade, nature concert hall. **Day 3. Dikļi - Limbaži (30km):** From Dikļi continue the cycling trip until Puikule. Here, at the old, abandoned train station you will see the other greenway. Puikule used to be a major station where to lines where crossing (Ainaži – Valmiera adn Limbaži – Rūjiena). Continue your ride towards Limbaži. On the way you can stop at the farm "Priedītes", where you will be able to visit the rabbits, goats and have a ride on the greenway with the horse. Limbaži is one of the oldest towns in the middle of the beautiful green scenery of Vidzeme. The Hanseatic League brought times of alacrity to Limbaži, for the historic trade route went straight through the small town in north Latvia. Even though the times have changed, Limbaži has retained a unique, historical magnetism due to the unchanged planning of the old city centre. Here you can spend the overnight or head back to Riga.
What you can't miss	**How to get there**
(Official description of UNESCO site) Old Town Riga is a popular entertainment district in the historical and geographical center of the Latvian capital, featuring cobble-stone streets and an abundance of architectural gems.	From Riga to Valmiera use the train : more info pv.lv From Limbaži back to Riga there is no train. Better to use the transfer services or the public bus. You can use the transfer to Skulte, where the trains are going to riga. www.autoosta.lv

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		www.1188.lv/en/transport
Additional interesting information about the greenway		**Altimeter profile:**
Type of surface: **Gravel, forest roads**	**Type of users:** **Local commuters, visitors and tourists**	*(Include altimeter profile if there is one)*
Length of greenway (km): 100km	**Bicycle rental:** **In Riga there is a variety of bycycle rentals**	
Additional information: On some of the greenway parts there might be local transportation from the local farms and habitants. Some of the spots there might be dogs from the local houses.		**Entity managing the Greenway :** *For further information contact: Latvian Greenways association, info@greenways.lv,*

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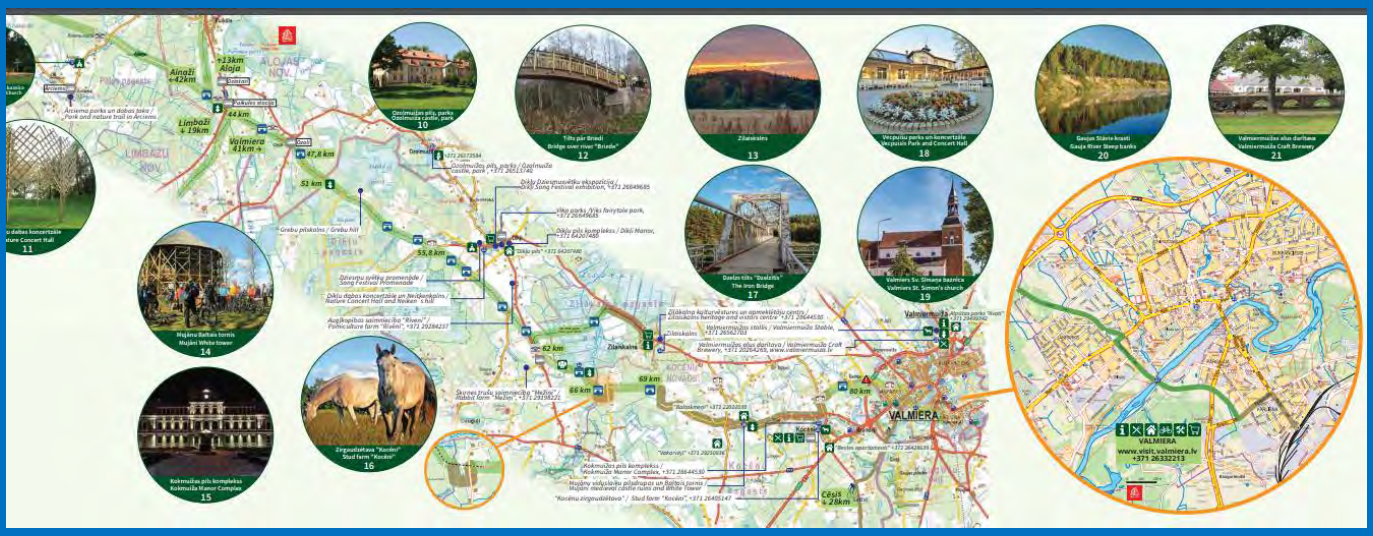
Map: greenways.eu; printed versions in local Tourism Information centres

(Include GWH GIS map or other):

https://www.greenrailways.eu/ainazi-valmiera-greenway-map



http://greenways.lv/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Lade-Rujiena-map.pdf

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Photo Gallery:

1)Valmiera Railway bridge

2) Mujāni White tower

3) Dikli manor

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4) Dikļi – Ozoli bridge

5) Limbaži castle ruins

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6) Greenway near Limbaži

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Video: https://vimeo.com/314217643

(Include if available)

Greenways Heritage project aims to promote greenways and UNESCO heritage sites in the vicinity as common destinations. For more information: **www.greenwaysheritage.org**

Travel proposal made by:

Project Partners:

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SABOR GREENWAY – AT THE CORE OF HIGH DOURO

Location: Torre de Moncorvo / Miranda do Douro

Region/ Country: NORTH OF PORTUGAL

Description of the Travel proposal:

Discover one of the secret treasures of the interior of Portugal by going through the Sabor Greenway in Torre de Moncorvo. Torre de Moncorvo is an important county in the desertified north interior of Portugal. Less than one km away from UNESCO Alto Douro Vinhateiro World heritage Landscape, the town is also connected to the Sabor River valley, to one of the most important iron mining regions in the history of Portugal, served by a deactivated narrow gauge railway and neighbour to the international natural park or Arribas do Douro, one of the most beautiful regions in the whole Iberian Peninsula.

Facing Torre de Moncorvo on the other side of Douro is another UNESCO classified landscape, the Sacred Valley of Côa. This last valley has an extraordinary quantity of Palaeolithic art engravings spread throughout 18km. Sabor Greenway is as so, at the heart of an astonishing region, waiting to be better discovered.

Appropriate for four visiting days.

We suggest…

Day 1. Take the train in Porto to Peso da Régua. The trip is immediately compensatory since, a large part of it, follows river Douro majestic course. In Régua you can visit the Douro Museum and understand how human determination transformed an almost desertic land into a paradise of vineyards, now treasured by the whole world. You can then find a way to follow route 222, after crossing the river, and experiment what was classified in 2015 as the best road in the world by Avis Driving Ratio, in an almost flat road that goes along river Douro. Either in Régua or Pinhão, (the next stop in the railway) you will find excellent tourism units to rest from your trip and restore your strengths.

Day 2 . Take the Douro train line again and address Pocinho at the limits of UNESCO classified vineyards landscape. At Pocinho you find, since 2019, the beginning of the Sabor Greenway. From Pocinho follow the greenway until the historic town of Torre de Moncorvo. The main church is a must see, as it is the Iron Museum. Continue in the greenway passing by the Carvalhal Iron mines and a memory from industrial age, the Ferrominas workers village and the Mines of Cabeço da Mua. Keep on going uphill until you arrive to the Monastery of the Carmelo of Sagrada Família, a beautiful spot in the way. End the Greenway and go to Carviçais, once an important mining village and today one of Portugal's gastronomy sanctuary. Stay in one of the excellent rural hotels of the region.

Day 3. Take the day to visit Coa Valley, an UNESCO classified area due to an extraordinary complex of Palaeolithic engravings. Placed on the left bank of river Douro the engravings have a fabulous museum, and the valley of Côa river is not called the Sacred Valley by chance. The landscape is extraordinary, and spirituality of the place is more than evident. If you can, visit the valley at least until the medieval abandoned town of Marialva, one of Portugal's most beautiful places,

Day 4. – Take the last day to visit the beautiful valley of Vilariça, close to Torre de Moncorvo, visit at least one Port Wine producing farms and go down river Douro, by boat or train and watch again the magnificence the Douro Valley, with spots as S.Salvador do Mundo, or Galafura, that are, in the words of a famous Portuguese poet (Miguel Torga) like "geological poems."

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What you can't miss:

The long tradition has produced a cultural landscape of outstanding beauty that is at the same time a reflection of its technological, social, and economic evolution. The visually dramatic landscape is still profitably farmed in traditional ways by traditional landholders. Criterion (iii): The Alto Douro Region has been producing wine for nearly two thousand years and its landscape has been moulded by human activities.

Criterion (iv): The components of the Alto Douro landscape are representative of the full range of activities associated with winemaking – terraces, quintas (wine-producing farm complexes), villages, chapels, and roads. Criterion (v): The cultural landscape of the Alto Douro is an outstanding example of a traditional European wine-producing region, reflecting the evolution of this human activity over time.

Since the 18th century, its main product, Port wine, has been world famous for its quality. This long tradition of viticulture has produced a cultural landscape of outstanding beauty that reflects its technological, social and economic evolution. Source : https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1046

How to arrive:

You can arrive to Pocinho by Train, coming from Porto. A stop in Régua will allow you to rent bikes that can be transported by train to Pocinho (even though you can rent them in Pocinho, as well).

You can arrive by car, taking Highway A4 and then IC5 Road and finally IP2 to Pocinho.

It is very difficult to arrive by bus, since there is no direct bus to Torre de Moncorvo or Foz Côa and therefore you can have around 3h55 wandering around in a bus, from town to town, until you arrive in one of these towns.

Additional interesting information about the greenway

Type of Surface

Compressed earth block

Type of users:

Fit or occasional.

Length of the Greenway (km):

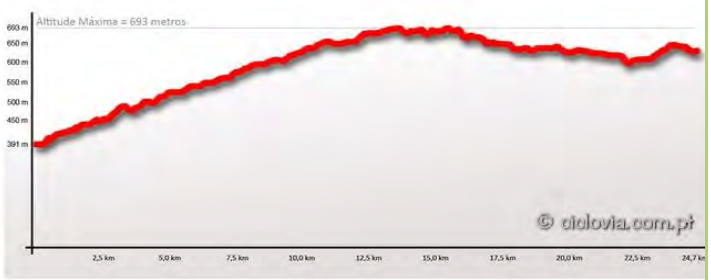
24,7 KM

Bicycle rental:

http://naturimont.im-here.pt/pages/13?cta_product_id=853
Phone:+351926992135

www.sabordouro.com
+351) 279 258 270

Altimeter profile



Informação adicional:

http://www.ciclovia.pt/ciclovias/1norte/5braganca/sabor/smoncorvo.php
http://www.cm-moncorvo.pt/percursos-pedestres/ecopista-do-sabor

Entity managing the greenway :

Câmara Municipal de Torre de Moncorvo –

Phone: +351 223 742 400

Go as you please, Trip Proposal

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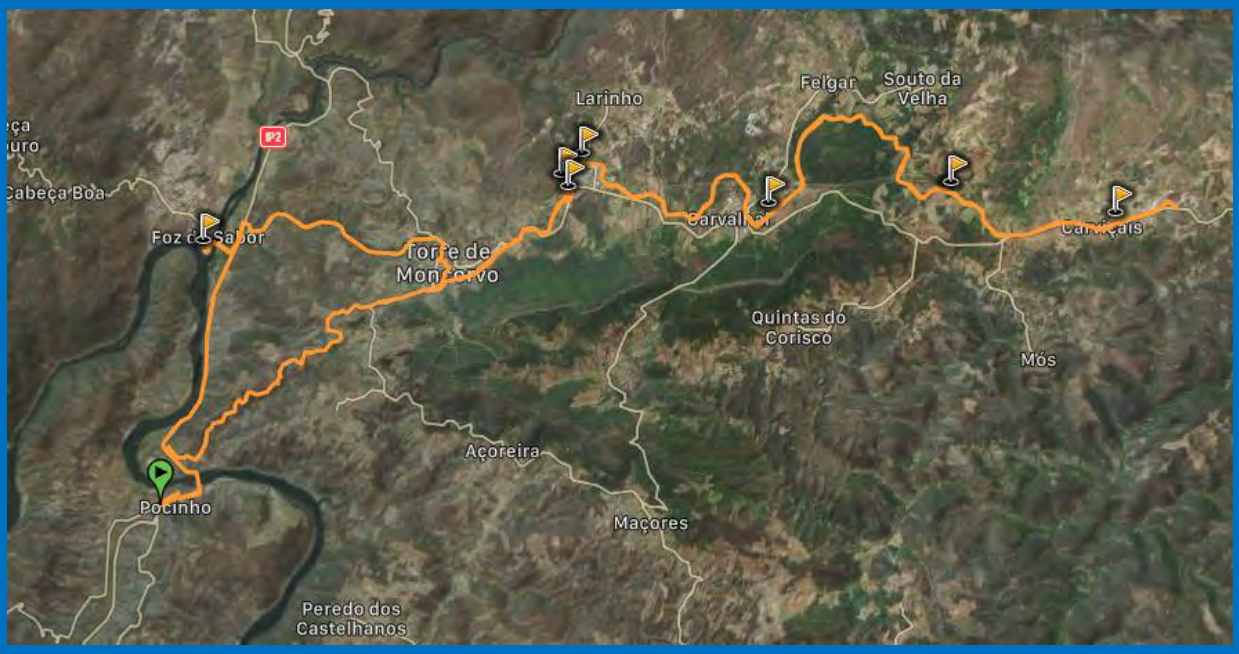
Map:

(Include GWH GIS map or other)



Source: https://pt.wikiloc.com/trilhas-mountain-bike/ecopista-do-sabor-pocinho-torre-de-moncorvo-carvicais-foz-do-sabor-4615861

Photo Gallery:

Wikimedia Commons/José Moutinho

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By Chris - Douro Boat trip, CC BY-SA 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=44323637

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Source: http://www.ippatrimonio.pt/ecopistas

Video

https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1046/video

Greenways Heritage project aims to promote greenways and UNESCO heritage sites in the vicinity as common destinations. For more information: **www.greenwaysheritage.org**

Travel proposal made by: Comunidade Intermunicipal do Ave

Project Partners:

Co-funded by the COSME programme of the European Union

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Title:

Discovering South of Porto Littoral Greenway

Location: Vila Nova de Gaia Porto	Region/ Country: NORTH OF PORTUGAL
Description of the Travel proposal:	**We suggest…**
Discover the south seaside of the World Heritage city of Porto, going along river Douro until the old fishermen village of Afurada and going down te Atlantic coastline until the aristocratic Granja seaside resort village. Follow the narrow streets of the city that gave name to Portugal (Portus Cale) and was declared UNESCO World Heritage on the 4th December 1996. Dive in Porto's hills, in its ancient and charismatic stores. Visit monuments that remind the struggle for autonomy of a community known for having forbidden religious extremism in name of the higher value of work and, for centuries, didn´t allow nobles to have a house inside the city walls, given the "fact" that they were not workers. Discover the margins of river Douro, the ancient shipyard of the Castle of Gaia, where the typical Rabelo boats were built, touch the monumental Arrábida bridge, with, when constructed the largest reinforced concrete arch in the world, the Atlantic Coast and the leisure seaside villages of the industrial and commercial elite of Porto and meet the core of Porto's old and strong economy – Port Wine- Appropriate for three days of visit.	**Day 1.** Begin your visit in the privileged arrival point to Porto wish is S. Bento railways station. There, in a building that is by itself an architectural testimony of the Porto's open relation with the world, glazed tiles panels allow you to immerse into two thousand years of history , from a warrior past to industrial achievements , evidence of the life of a working people at same reverential and deeply irreverent. Once outside, go up hill to the Cathedral, form there have a sight of the whole historic town and go down to the river side - the Ribeira area. Walk in the downtown area and visit the Stock Exchange Palace and the gothic and baroque treasure church of Saint Francis. End the day tasting one of the many and succulent gastronomy wonders of the town. **Day2 .**Departing from bridge Luis I lower deck, in the left bank of the river, you enter the Greenway immediately after the Port Wine Cellars, when arriving to the hill known as Castelo de Gaia. The greenway, although autonomous, is shared with pedestrians until Afurada Village. Right before Afurada the Greenway passes under the stately bridge of Arrábida, major achievement of Portuguese Engineering. From there you pass in Afurada, a large fishermen village. Here the greenway turns south, passes in the local natural reserve of Cabedelo, and sides the Atlantic coast in 10 kms of soft sand beaches, going all the way to the unique sanctuary of Senhor da Pedra, (a church built in a beach rock, often surrounded by the ocean waves) and ends in the Aguda Biology Littoral Station and Granja village, a place of art and beautiful architecture. Both are worthy of a visit. From that point on you can continue south to Espinho, go back north or take the train back to Porto at Granja. **Dia 3.** Devote this day to visit Porto and Gaia. Begin in Foz do Douro, today a part of Porto, once the main seaside leisure village of the region, which grew under English influence. There you can visit a peculiar urbanism and a remarkable fort guarding river's Douro mouth. By bike or in one of the historic trams, go back to the city centre. This time visit Cordoaria area, the two beautiful baroque Carmo churches, the University Museum, the astonishing Tower of Clérigos and the lovely Lello bookshop, one of the world's finest. Then just "lose your self" in Porto and end a perfect day with a very good Port Wine in Gaia's cellars.

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What you can't miss:	How to get there:
The city of **Oporto**, built along the hillsides overlooking the mouth of the Douro river, is an outstanding urban landscape with a 2000-year history. Its continuous growth, linked to the sea (the Romans gave it the name Portus, or port), can be seen in the many and varied monuments, from the cathedral with its Romanesque choir, to the neoclassical Stock Exchange and the typically Portuguese Manueline-style Church of Santa Clara. https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/755/	You can arrive right at the heart of Porto, from the airport Francisco Sá Carneiro, by Metro. By train you arrive in a hub - Campanhã Station, and get either the Metro Line to a large network, or the train to the city centre station of S. Bento. By Bus you can arrive to Porto in different places with lines arriving from the whole country and many from the main European capitals.

Additional interesting information about the greenway		Altimeter profile.
Type of Surface **Concrete and asphalt**	**Type of Users:** **Fit or occasional**	
Length of the Greenway (km): **16.2 KM**	**Bicycle rental:** **www.portorentabike.com** **Phone: +351 222 022 375** **vieguiniscooters@gmail.com** **Phone +351 914 306 838**	
Additional Information: **http://www.ciclovia.pt/ciclovias/1norte/3porto/gaia/gsrpedra.html** http://www.ciclovia.pt/ciclovias/1norte/3porto/gaia/gafurada.html http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/755/video Co-funded by the COSME programme of the European Union		**Entity managing the greenway :** Câmara Municipal de Gaia - Telef: +351 223 742 400 **geral@cm-gaia.pt**

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Map:

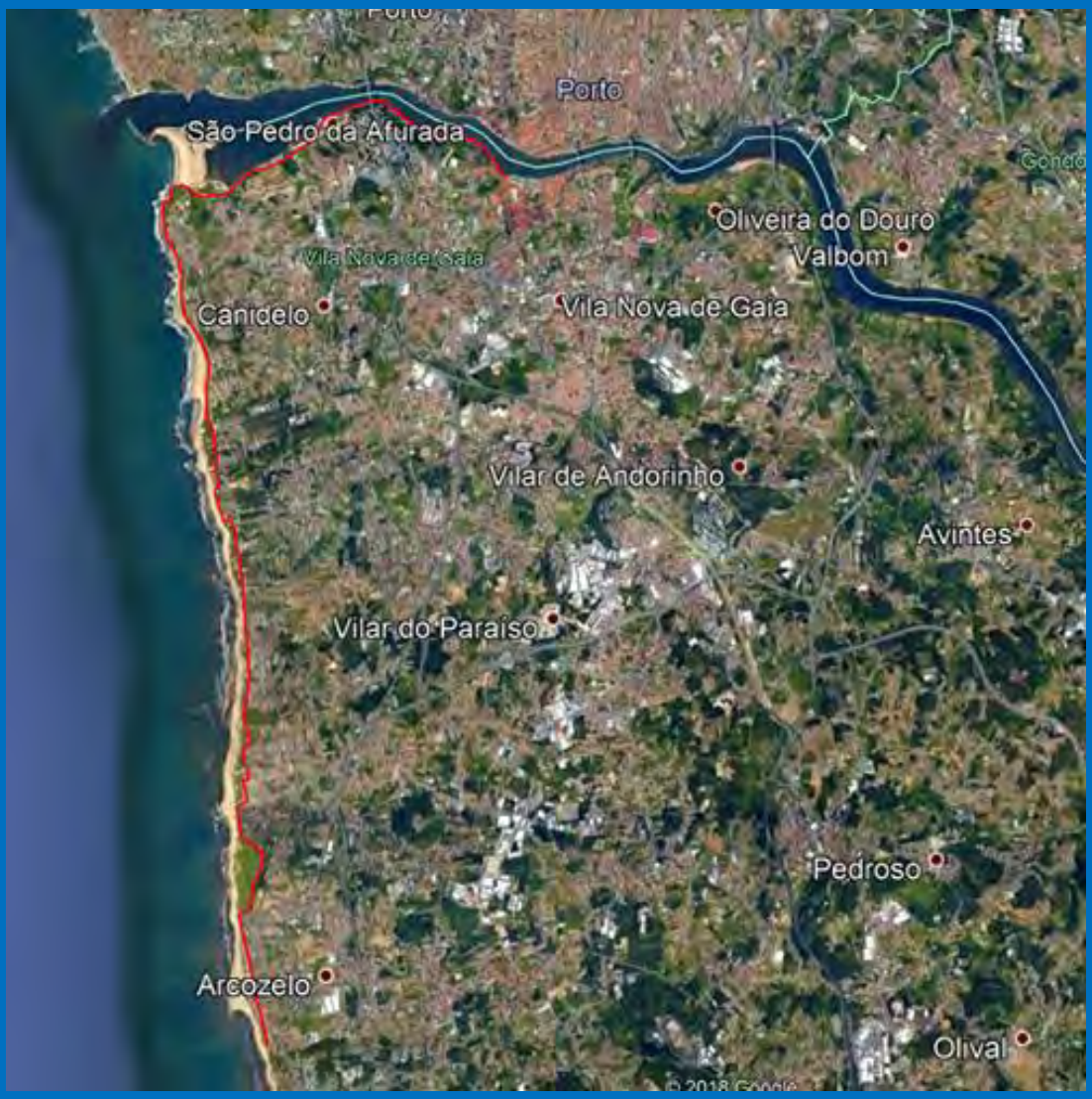

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Photo Gallery:

https://flickr.com/photos/141620872@N06/30547314852

https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=User:Fernando.glz.sanz&action=edit&redlink=1

Video

(Include if available)

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Travel proposal made by: Comunidade Intermunicipal do Ave

Project Partners:

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Parenzana the route of Health and Friendship. Discover Italy, Slovenia and Croatia through the Parenzana Greenway.

Discover the historic Istria peninsula by bike. An amazing trip for three countries in 6 days.	Italy, Slovenia and Croatia.
Description of the travel proposal:	**We suggest…**
The greenways runs on a disused railway line witch linked Trieste (Italy) and Porec /Parenzo (Croatia) and it has a length of 123 km. The Parenzana stands out by its transnational dimension: Italy, Slovenia and Croatia that collaborated to develop the whole disused railway and to make it the longest greenways in the Norther Adriatic area. All along the way you can discover valuable heritage and natural landscapes that completed with a tasty gastronomy and poured with the popular Istria wine will make your trip an unforgettable experience. **Highlights and places of interest along the route:** • Trieste - grand canal, promenade city centre & castle • Istrian Hills - hilltop medieval villages & vineyards • Piran - Stunning medieval small town seashore • Portorož - the Slovenian Las Vegas • The salt-pans of Sicciole / Sečovlje • Motovun- hilltop walled medieval town. • Porec - the 6th century Euphrasia Basilica (UNESCO) **Trieste** is a heritage city located in the north of Italy on the Adriatic Sea. **Pirano:** You don't reach Piran riding the Parenzana, but is worth a Visit! Located in a small long shape peninsula, the preserved beautiful town has much medieval architecture, with narrow streets and compact houses. **Portorož**, is known as the Slovenian Las Vegas. **The salt-pans of Sicciole / Sečovlje** are still an active operation today. The salt-pans had a decisive role in these area (Trieste, Piran, Izola and Koper), the commerce of the famous salt made possible the medieval boom of the picturesque city of Piran. Today, in the cosmopolitan city of Portorož, salt is part of the wellness offering, one of the most complete in Europe.	**Day 1. Trieste** We advise you to start your trip in the Italian city of Trieste, Crossing cultures, in this delightful Adriatic port city you will discover a historical-cultural heritage of the most appreciable. If you are only going to have a day of visit, we recommend seeing the Castle of Miramare, getting lost in the streets of the city center and around the grand canal and the water front, as well as having a coffee in one of its historic cafes. To reach Muggia it is recommended to go by boat: pick up the Delfino Verde, a convenient alternative to busy roads, and to enjoy the beautiful view of Trieste and its Gulf. **Day 2. Muggia – Portorož** It is the place where your adventure begins for the Parenzana. This village is located some 5km south of Trieste, is the only Italian settlement on the historic Istrian peninsula and still conserves a Venetian influence. The visit is worth. Ride your bike, today you'll cross the Slovenian border, with the only notice of the name of the country and the EU flag in both sides of the greenway. Parenzana track borders the port city of Koper, the only port of Slovenia. You can reach the city, and visit the old town, see Tito Square and the Praetorian Palace. Later on you will ride continue along the coast, with stunning views. You can finish the day arriving in Portoroz. **Day 3. – Portorož- Buje** Enjoy the view over the salt-pans of Sicciole the only one that have remained, from once numerous salt-pans in the Gulf of Trieste. Before you finish bordering the salt-pans you have to cross the border. Don't forget to bring your passport!! Crossing the border is not as friendly as crossing Italy – Slovenia. From the Croatia side, you climb to enter to the inner Istria peninsula, still with beautiful view of the sea and salt –pans. Continue your cycling itinerary to Buje. **Day 4. Buje– Motovun** This stage of the Parenzana Greenway is possibly the most interesting of all in terms of railway heritage and landscape. True

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The Sečovlje saltworks are also famous as a rich treasury of flora and fauna and are classified as one of the most important natural heritage sites in Slovenia.

Motovun. An authentic hilltop walled medieval town. Stunning views from the walls

Porec, a heritage city par excellence, is known thanks to its Episcopal Complex of the Euphrasian Basilica, declared UNESCO World Heritage Site and whose visit is essential!

The duration of the bicycle trip on the Parenzana Greenway is proposed in 6 days. It can be realized to taste, desires, needs and availability of each person, but we recommend to be realized in the months of autumn and/or spring when the temperatures are soft and the vegetation creates visual spectacles of dream.

mountain in the Inner Istria, with several well maintained tunnels and viaducts that permit to solve the mountains and valleys of this beautiful area, well covert by forest.
Climb towards Motovun, one of the most popular Istrian medieval towns. See spectacular views from the walls and enjoy the dining in a beautiful setting of a local tavern. Try some dish with truffle, it's one of the local star products.

Day 5. Motovun - Porec
This day you will make the largest number of km of the Greenway still in Croatian territory. Until we reach Porec, our final destination, the Greenway passes through different landscapes, mountains at the beginning of the day that become crops y vineyards mixture areas later on. In the agriculture areas there are hardly any signs of the route.
The end of the route goes largely close to the car routes, but has separate lane, is the less attractive part, but it is compensated with the fantastic view and the visit to Porec.
Arriving in Porec, it is essential to visit its Episcopal Complex of the Euphrasian Basilica, declared UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 6. Porec and return to Trieste
On the last day, if you did not manage to see the UNESCO Heritage City of Porec, we recommend you to visit and get ahead in its narrow streets full of charm.

From here you can take the ferry to Trieste for an hour or 1 hour and a half. In the high season it runs 4 times per week from Porec. In the low season this boat route does not run.

What you can't miss

Episcopal Complex of the Euphrasian Basilica in the Historic Centre of Poreč

The small town of Porec (Parenza) is one of the places to see in Istria, a beautiful peninsula located in the north of Croatia.

The typical red roofs, its cobbled streets or its tranquil fishing environment are enough reasons to dedicate a morning of relaxed walk, but it also has an important monument: the Episcopal Complex of the Euphrasian Basilica in the Historic Centre of Poreč, declared UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The group of religious monuments in Porec, where Christianity was established as early as the 4th century, constitutes the most complete surviving complex of its type. The basilica, atrium, baptistery and episcopal palace

How to get there

Getting to Trieste

Train → offers routes from all over northern Italy. The most frequent is the line from Venice to Trieste that in just two hours takes us between both cities. Turin and Milan also link with Trieste. If we come from Slovenia we must know that there is no direct line, and that it makes a long journey that goes to Sesena on the border between Slovenia and Italy, and from there another train goes by Gorizia and Montefalcone..

Bus → lines that travel from Venice all the Gulf of Trieste towards Croatia: Eurolines, Sita, the Valley.

Plane→ the Ronchi dei Legionari airport has connections to all Italian main cities and operates international flights to and from London, Munich, and Frankfurt. The main companies that operate: Alitalia, Lufthansa, Ryanair.

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are outstanding examples of religious architecture, while the basilica itself combines classical and Byzantine elements in an exceptional manner.		
Additional interesting information about the greenway		**Additional information:**
Type of surface: asphalt and gravel. In Croatia most of the track is rough surface.	**Type of users:** pedestrians and cyclists. Due to **rough surface** in some places, the trail is suitable for mountain bikes, but not for road and trekking bikes.	**Prenzana Greenway:** http://www.parenzana.net/en , https://www.cyclingslovenia.com/short-trips/86-short-istrian , http://www.istria-bike.com/en/information/parenzana_route , https://www.itinari.com/parenzana-a-wine-railway-that-connects-three-countries-bc4e **Poreč :** https://www.lacroacia.es/porec/ , https://www.myporec.com/ , http://www.vercroacia.com/porec-croacia.html https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/809 Guide: *La Parenzana in bicicleta. Da Trieste a Parenzo lungo la ex ferrovia istriana. ViaggiaeSlow.* Ediciclo editors. 2018
Length of greenway (km): 123 km	**Bicycle rental and transfer:** **Viaggiare slow** Via Manzoni 2 – MUGGIA (TS) – Park Caliterna – Info/Bike Point **http://www.viaggiareslow.it** **Ferry from Porec to Triste :** Liberty Lines Fast Ferries	
Entity managing the Greenway: Municipality of Koper and others. No information.		

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Map:

Photo Gallery:

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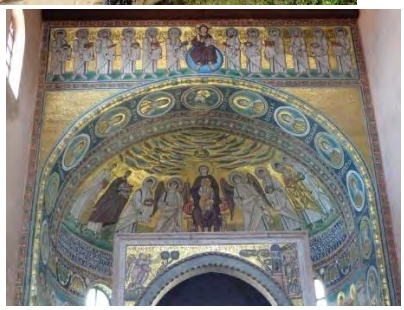

Video : The Slovenian part : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3OSzuCKCFk

Greenways Heritage project aims to promote greenways and UNESCO heritage sites in the vicinity as common destinations. For more information: **www.greenwaysheritage.org**

Travel proposal made by: European Greenways Association

Source: Web site: http://parenzana.net/public/uploads/documents/Parenzana-brochure.pdf , http://www.parenzana.net/en , https://www.cyclingslovenia.com/short-trips/86-short-istrian

Greenways Heritage Project Partners:

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Greenways HERITAGE

Lead partner/coordinator

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Partners:

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Università degli Studi di Milano (Italy)
Latvijas Zalo Celu Asociacija (Latvia)
Provincie Antwerp (Belgium)
Turismo Vivencial (Spain)
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