





Gran Bosco della Mesola woodlands

This route starts from the *Destra Po* cycle tourism route at **Mesola** Castle, an Este country house built for Duke Alfonso II d'Este at the end of the 1500s on the edge of a large game reserve. At the castle visit the *Environmental Education Centre* and the *Deer Museum*. After passing Bosco di Santa Giustina and the interesting Torre Abate tower, we reach the Gran Bosco della Mesola woodlands, the last remaining example of the ancient forests that were found until a few centuries ago all along the Adriatic Coast.



For a pleasant excursion to the interior, the **Gran Bosco** has been equipped with a large area at the entrance laid out for cars and camper vans (with services), a green field to picnic in, and cycle hire. Time to walk though: at least one hour.



Peddalling along through agricultural land reclaimed from the sea with inter-linked drainage canals, pumping stations, and tree-lined roads with typical vegetation, we arrive at the magnificent **Pomposa Abbey**, a



The Canneviè-Porticino-Foce Volano Nature Reserve

magical place loaded with atmosphere from its religious role (but also economic and social) from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. Visit the church, the *Chapter House*, the *Refectory* and the *Museum*.

On the FE301 cycle track alongside the Po di Volano, we pass by the Canneviè-Porticino-Foce Volano nature reserves and the Torre della Finanza tower, to arrive at last at **Lido di Volano**; from here we take the Acciaioi panoramic road which gives a view over the beautiful Valle Bertuzzi and then Lago delle Nazioni. Here we get close to the sea, visiting in order the beach resorts of **Lido delle Nazioni**, **Lido di Pomposa**, **Lido degli Scacchi**, and **Porto Garibaldi**. On the other side

of the canal we finish the list of the coastal resorts with **Lido degli Estensi** and **Lido di Spina**, reached by a cycle/pedestrian ferry.

Follow the cycle track from the fishing centre of Porto Garibaldi and in time you arrive at the beautiful lagoon city of Comacchio, a precious jewel softly set among the warm red of its bricks and the and the sparkling green of its canals. Of ancient origin, it was a 'floating town' (unconnected by road) until 1821. Even today it seems designed by the water, with a network of canals instead of streets, bridges linking up quarters of terraced houses with their hidden androni passages leading to interior courtyards.



### Discover the flavours

Comacchio gastronomy achieves its fullest expression in fish dishes from both salt and fresh water. The eel is king of the table, cooked in a thousand ways: grilled, in *brodeto* soup, with Savoy cabbage, or marinated. The *antipasti* of mussels, scallops or clams, lobsters, *canocchie* (the mantis shrimp), small mixed seafood, or prawns are all delicious; among first courses the same goes for risottos like the *di mare* or *alla pescatora*, spaghetti with clams, fish soup, everything washed down with DOC wines from the Bosco Eliceo.