

THE LAGOONS OF THE PO DELTA PARK

From Argenta to Comacchio



Argine Agosta

This journey links two of the most important natural zones in the whole province of Ferrara, the freshwater lagoons of **Argenta** and the saltwater ones of **Comacchio**. Both are 'stations' of the Po Delta Park and important tourist centres from which to explore the area in diverse and atmospheric trips on foot, by bike or by

9 GPS + ROAD BOOK Technical notes

Depart: Argenta, Centro Culturale Mercato

Arrive: Comacchio, Duomo di San Cassiano

Length: 46,430 km

Difficulty level:

suitable for everyone. Level route mainly along minor roads with little traffic.

Railways

Ferrara/Ravenna - Ferrara/Codigoro

Bicycle transport available.

Please check timetables and availability.

Info: 892021 • www.trenitalia.com

800 91 50 30 • www.fer.it



www.ferrarainfo.com

Argenta: Piazza Marconi, 1 • tel. 0532 330276

Comacchio: Via Mazzini, 4 • tel. 0533 314154

Connections with other routes

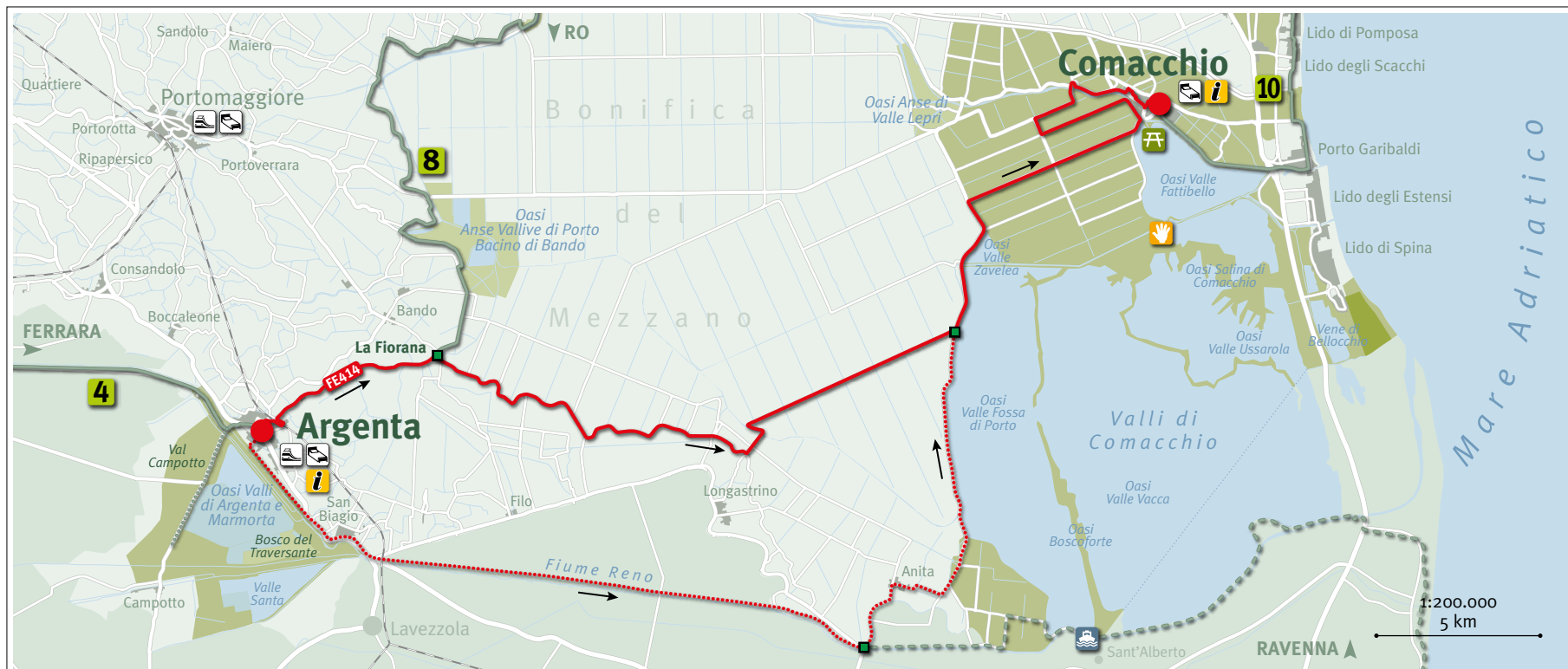
8 Ostellato - Argenta

10 Mesola - Lidi di Comacchio - Comacchio

NB. Alternative route: from Argenta take the path along the river Reno as far as Madonna del Bosco, then continue on the main road to Anita and up onto the Argine Agosta embankment to rejoin the original route.



motorboat. Spring and Autumn are also ideal seasons to watch birds here - both because of the number of species visible and for the colours and shapes of the landscape.



The freshwater **lagoons of Argenta and Marmorta**, formed by the Reno and familiarly known as the Oasi di Campotto, started to form in the 12th Century when the Po di Primaro, by then already above the level of the plain and full of sediment, was no longer able to deal with the waters of the various Apennine mountain streams that flowed into it. Nowadays they function as an overflow and they are used in periods of high water to take water from the lower Bolognese Plain, which then is drained away in the river Reno.

The **Comacchio Lagoons** are a vast depression between Comacchio and Ostellato to the north, Portomaggiore and Argenta to the west, and the course of the river Reno to the south. The lagoons are a relic of the ancient Padana delta between the Primaro branch (today the Reno) and the Volano. It is a saltwater zone, in which the salinity increases in the summer, characterised by ancient dunes, natural sandbars and it is of notable interest above all for the quantity and variety of its bird life, for which the habitat exerts a great attraction.

Valli di Comacchio



From **Argenta**, a little town renowned for its environmental riches and its museums of land reclamation, proceed north-west towards the hamlet of La Fiorana (the junction with route n° 8 from Ostellato to Argenta) from which we go on to **Longastrino**. Leaving the Argenta Lagoons behind us and heading towards the Comacchio Lagoons and the sea along the banks of the Reno, we cross sparsely inhabited agricultural land and the great plan of the Mantello and Gramigna land reclamation, among lands 1 or 2 metres below sea level used mostly for growing grain.

After the lands of the Mezzano reclamation we enter the Comacchio Lagoons which extend eastwards with such a great surface area you would think they were the sea. Continue in the direction of Comacchio along the Argine Agosta embankment, a long road for mixed traffic with no tree cover, which forms the western edge of the lagoons, and probably follows the line of the Roman road that connected Ravenna and Adria. The Argine Agosta finishes in the thinning cane brakes of Valle Zavelea, a wetland zone, nowadays fresh water, although it is the remaining part of a much larger area of brackish salty water, and today a Nature reserve. The long straight roads cross recently



Comacchio, Ponte Trepponti

reclaimed land, the site of the ancient Etruscan city of Spina, though you wouldn't be able to tell this from looking at the surface.

Turning right from the embankment of the Valle Fattibello you get to Stazione Foce, which is Visitor Centre for the Comacchio Lagoons and their historic and nature trails; turning left we continue to the historic centre of **Comacchio**. The town is an island with canals, narrow alleys, bridges, porticoes; mysterious and a romantic atmosphere, the artistic destination of this itinerary.

An unforgettable trip

From Stazione Foce there are excursions every day to visit the old casoni, the fisherman's buildings in the lagoon area, which have been transformed into living museums.

Booking essential.

Info tel. 340 2534267