

BURANA'S GREAT LOOP OF WATER

Circular route Ferrara - Bondeno - Destra Po



Cycle track Burana

From the heart of the Estense city this circular route runs along important waterways into the countryside as far as **Bondeno**, on a safe cycleway throughout. At Bondeno the journey turns onto the cycle path along the River Po embankment

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Technical notes



Depart: Ferrara, Piazza Savonarola

Arrive: Ferrara, Piazza Savonarola

Length: 56,770 km

Difficulty level:

suitable for everyone. Level route mainly along cycle paths, with short stretches on minor roads, especially when crossing urban areas in Ferrara and Bondeno.



Railways

Bologna/Venezia • Ferrara/Suzzara

Bicycle transport available.

Please check timetables and availability.

Info: 892021 • www.trenitalia.com

800 91 50 30 • www.fer.it



Ferrara:

Castello Estense

tel. 0532 299303 • www.ferrarainfo.com

NB. The route is particularly enjoyable on the Burana cycle-pedestrian-path (FE 101), as it is shady, well signposted, with red asphalt at the intersections and distance markers every kilometre.

Connections with other routes

1 Ferrara - Gorino Ferrarese

3 Percorso circolare Ferrara - Cento

to admire the riverside landscape along a stretch of the “**Destra Po**” cycle-tourism route to Francolino, from which it loops back to the **Castle at Ferrara**.



THE WATERWAYS ALONG THE ROUTE

The **Burana** was dug in the early years of the 20th century after the decision to reclaim the land in the Low Lands.

The **Cavo Napoleonico** is an important canal, 18km long, which connects the Reno to the Po, and was begun in the Napoleonic era in the early 19th Century as a drainage canal for the Reno. It is evidence of the deep connection that the Bondeno lands have with the water.

The **Panaro** draws its waters all the way from the Apennines near Modena and passes the villages of Vignola, Bompoto and Finale Emilia before entering Ferrarese territory at Bondeno, where it flows into the **Po**. Before Bondeno the course is narrow, but after the village it becomes wide and majestic, with broad curves and a wooded flood plain.

River Po, Bonello Pepoli island reserve



The first stretch of the journey is made by leaving the historic centre of **Ferrara** and its castle to the west and joining the **Burana cycle/pedestrian path** which runs alongside the canal of the same name.

The path, in long straight sections, runs along lines of poplars in pleasant countryside through which we can pedal with effortless ease. After the village of Vigarano Mainarda, where can be seen in the distance the estate of the *Diamantina*, one of the Este's country retreats, we arrive at **Bondeno**, crossing the Cavo Napoleonico by the old railway bridge.

At the end of the cycle track at Bondeno we carry on to the left, along the road, then turn right and head north on the embankment of the Panaro, the **FE 20 Destra Po** cycle route.

After **Ospitale**, the riverside area between the Panaro and the road gets narrower and finally disappears. The road heads away from the river, to join it again at the point where the Panaro joins the Po. We are again cycling along the river embankment, and after little more than a kilometre we cross the **Cavo**



The Diamantina, one of the Estes' country retreats

Napoleonico.

This is the beginning of a long straight section, with the river in clear view. Soon the **Bosco di Porporana reserve** comes into view, the nearest thing that now survives to the riverside plains woodland that at one time used to be typical of the Po flood-plain.



In June these woods enjoy a really special experience: swarms of fireflies scatter lights across the night to make a real-life fairytale woodland.

After about 7 km, follow the diversion signs for Pontelagoscuro (we are getting near Ferrara now) and take the embankment road near the **Isola Bianca**, a LIPU reserve that can be visited with a guide.

At **Francolino** turn onto the **FE 203** cycleway and proceed the few kilometres to **Ferrara**. Just before the city is the G. Bassani Urban Park, a fine green area with lakes that extends around the northern walls. Cross Via Bacchelli at the traffic lights and from there under the walls to Corso Ercole I d'Este with its grand buildings. From here we can return to the Este Castle or climb up onto the earthworks of the city walls for a pleasant circuit of the city.