



THE AZURE EYES OF THE DELTA

Parts of Argenta's lands are contained within the Emilia-Romagna region's **Po Delta Park**, which spreads into the provinces of Ferrara and Ravenna. The Campotto lagoons make up the 6th Station of the Park, and include the Lagoon Museum, situated at the entrance to the Val Campotto Reserve.

Nature Trails

At 4 km from Argenta, in the Campotto direction, you reach the Lagoon Museum, housed in the Casino di Campotto right at the entrance to the reserve. Inside are sequences of displays geared to both the evocative and the educational angle for all kinds of visitors: families with young children to schoolchildren, environmental associations to researchers, through to day-trippers looking to pass through the museum before going further into the area by bicycle.

The Museum Visit

Ground Floor, historical section

This section documents the development of the relations between humankind and our natural environment, from simple manual interventions to the mechanical and hydraulic. Daily life is on display, before during and after the Mediaeval period and up to the 20th century, from this we gain a knowledge of lagoon activities like fishing and the cultivation of wetland vegetation.

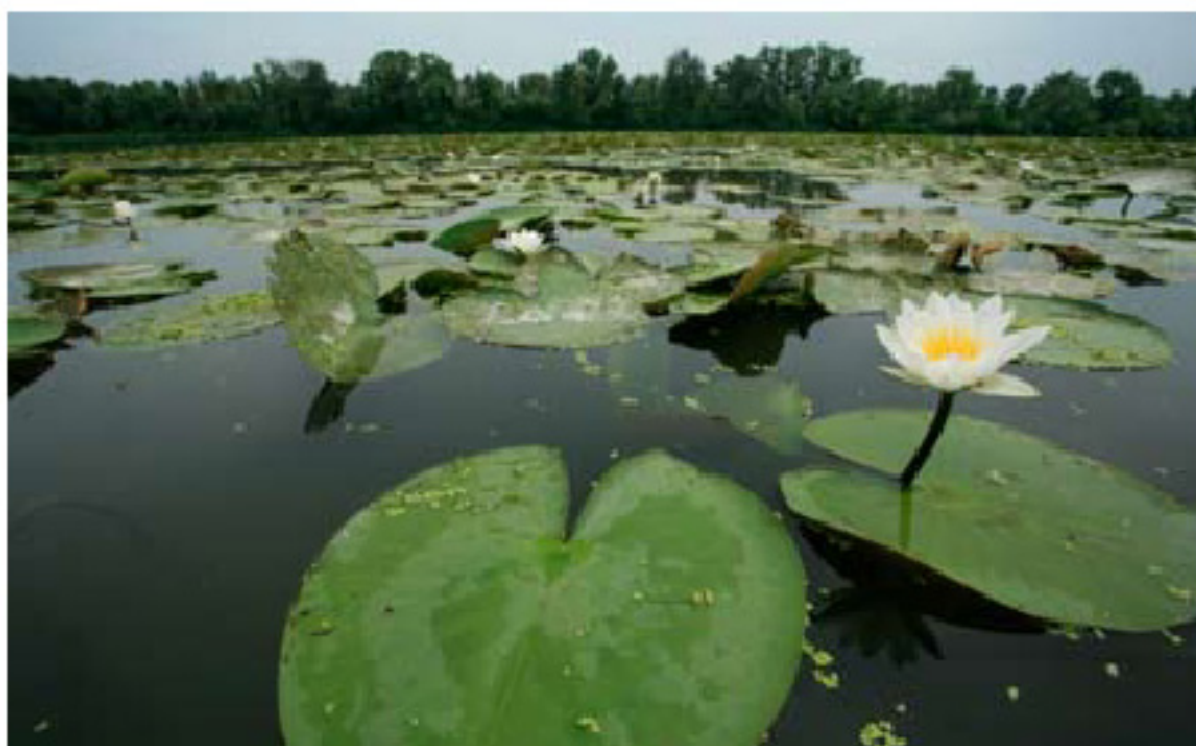
First Floor: Natural History

The multimedia room is the departure point to prepare a visit to the reserve, the true open-air museum. The layout of the room simulates the passage of the day and of the seasons with variations of colour, scents, the sound of the waters, voices and sounds.

Large visual displays represent four of the principal habitats:

- The Reed Beds, dominated by the wetland reeds
- The *Lamineto* with its white water lilies
- The Wetland Fields
- The Hygrophilous woodlands of the Traversante, the type of plains woodland that dominated the Padana Plain before land-reclamation.

Outside the museum, the Val Campotto reserve stretches for 1600 Hectares. The Campotto lagoons are all that remains of the old lagoons of Argenta and Marmorta, and started to form in the 12th Century when the Po di Primaro was no longer receiving the water from various Apennine streams that flowed this way. The overflow of these streams - and of the Primaro - formed a large stretch of water to the south of the Primaro itself, and the land was only reclaimed at the beginning of last century. Today the lagoons are used during periods of flooding to take water from the lower Bolognese plain, and are afterwards emptied into the River Reno through locks and pumps. They came to be called 'expansion basins' and are divided into three sections: **Cassa Campotto**, **Valle Santa** and **Cassa Bassarone**.



Note that for the visits leaving from the Lagoon Museum guided tours are available, which are allowed to enter the Bosco del Traversante. Without a guide, you can go into Valle Santa, where you are free to wander all the perimeter bank area.

A Living Museum

From the Lagoon Museum, along via Cardinala in the Argenta direction, turn left onto via Saiarino to visit the Museo della Bonifica (Museum of Land Reclamation), located in the water works of the same name. This is not only a museum of historic documentation, but a real working resource still in the process of documenting the history of Land Reclamation in the Argenta area, and the human works that made it.

This museum of industrial archaeology is housed in a complex of Art Nouveau buildings and includes the great pumping station of Saiarino with its 6 pumps still in perfect working order, as well as the thermoelectric station for the production of electricity.

Note that the museum can only be visited accompanied by specialist personnel. At the end of the visit you can watch a video called "A History Of Men And Waters" in Italian and English.

Impianto Idrovoro di Saiarino

