

The logo for 'inLOMBARDIA' features a colorful, multi-armed figure resembling a stylized person or a plant with arms raised, in shades of green, blue, and red. To its right, the text 'inLOMBARDIA' is written in a lowercase, sans-serif font, with 'in' in a smaller size and 'LOMBARDIA' in a larger, bold size.

inLOMBARDIA



IGNITING THE EARTH WITH  
**LOMBARDY MINES**

**/ Magazine**





# IGNITING THE EARTH WITH LOMBARDY MINES #inLombardia

— Magazine

*“The safeguarding and the protection of disused mining sites, present in our territory, aims at giving back to the new generations the memory of the places that have shaped the populations and valleys of Lombardy. The enhancement by the Lombardy Region wants to safeguard these places, which are testimony of the economic and social life in the history of our Region. Mines, caves and natural tunnels have always had a mysterious and particular charm.*

*A passage from the surface of the Earth to the universe of the subsoil that inevitably leads to direct contact with the intimate nature of a territory.  
Nine locations to visit in the heart of Lombardy: be surprised by the charm of the past!”*

*Raffaele Cattaneo  
Regional Minister of Environment and Climate,  
Lombardy Region*

Cover  
Entrance to the Costa Jels mine.







## COSTA JELS MINE

# Once upon a time there was zinc

*In Gorno, in Valle del Riso, woods, alpine pastures and mines tell a thousand-year-old story. A heritage just waiting to be explored, accompanied by the volunteers of the Ecomuseum.*

For an area to be recognised as an "ecomuseum", it is not enough for it to include traditional living environments and an important natural and historical-artistic heritage. It also requires that the community decides to take care of it, because they are the first to recognise its value. In Gorno, in Bergamo's Riso valley, this has always been the case and the village, with its districts, alpine pastures and thousands of years of mining history, has been part of the Lombardy Ecomuseum network since 2009.

### **A designed landscape**

What does this mean? It means, for example, that it was the people of Gorno who designed the itineraries around and in the village, and that the enthusiastic and well-prepared guides who accompany visitors on their discovery of these places are all volunteers, inhabitants of the valley in love with their land. They are the ones who explain that the zinc deposits in Gorno were already known to the Romans (who fused zinc with copper to obtain aurichalcum or brass) and that, over the centuries, the mining activity has contributed to shaping the landscape, as well as leaving traces in the local culture and imagination. And they are the ones who tell us that the mining world here has always been linked to the rural world, to the mountain pastures and to forest management. In fact, when they were not working in the tunnels, the miners looked after their animals,

—  
Aerial view of the Costa Jels mine.





**Where:** Piazzale Bersaglieri,  
24020 Gorno (BG)  
**Opening times:** every second Sunday  
in the month. Visits start at 3.00 pm.  
**Duration of the visit:** about three hours  
**Tickets:** € € 10 (concessions and free tickets for school students,  
the over-65s, groups and school groups).  
**All the info:** [www.ecomuseominieredigorno.it/](http://www.ecomuseominieredigorno.it/)  
[info@ecomuseominieredigorno.it](mailto:info@ecomuseominieredigorno.it); su Facebook:  
[@ecomuseo.miniere.di.gorno](https://www.facebook.com/ecomuseo.miniere.di.gorno) - reservations required:  
tel. 320.1662040, email: [ecomuseogorno@gmail.com](mailto:ecomuseogorno@gmail.com)

made cheese for their families, went to the mountains for wood and herbs, and turned to the traditional saints for all their spiritual and material needs. The Ecomuseum routes therefore take in sacred places and workplaces, woodland paths and panoramic viewpoints and, with them, something of all the aspects of local life and history.

### The mining route

Visiting the mining site, however, is like entering the heart of Gorno. The guided tour starts with the Mining Museum in Piazzale Bersaglieri, in the Villassio district, renovated and reopened in September 2021. Exhibits include original material donated by private individuals or recovered from the disused galleries and it houses hundreds of objects, documents, historical photos and a reconstruction of an office in the mining village of Campello. In addition to the tools used in the past to extract minerals, there is also a fine collection of fossils on display, of which the area is very rich. The guide, aided by videos, traces the history of the mines and explains the processes of transformation and processing of the minerals. In about an hour, those listening are prepared for the second part of the visit, the most exciting. It is time to move on to the mine in Costa Jels, which was closed in 1972. Visitors reach it by walking along the old tracks on which carts loaded with extracted material once travelled. From the Serpenti entrance, they then walk about 500 m underground, and as they proceed through the tunnels, the guide offers news, anecdotes and



answers to questions, and the minadùr (miners), taissine (women ore sorters) and galécc (young men who carried the ore on their shoulders) slowly come alive. After an hour in the mine, where the temperature is around 10 degrees, visitors emerge from the mine at Lacca Bassa and return to their starting point along a forest path. The experience is engaging and powerful, because the guides talk about a world they know and love and because working down a mine is hard, tiring, and somehow heroic. At the end of the route, for some reason visitors always want to linger a little longer. An interesting fact: inside these galleries "rest" bottles of a fine organic spumante produced by the Nove Lune company in Cenate Sopra. Obviously it is called "Costa Jels".

**On the left**  
Gorno Mines Ecomuseum.

**On the bottom**  
Costa Jels mine.



## — 5 reasons to...

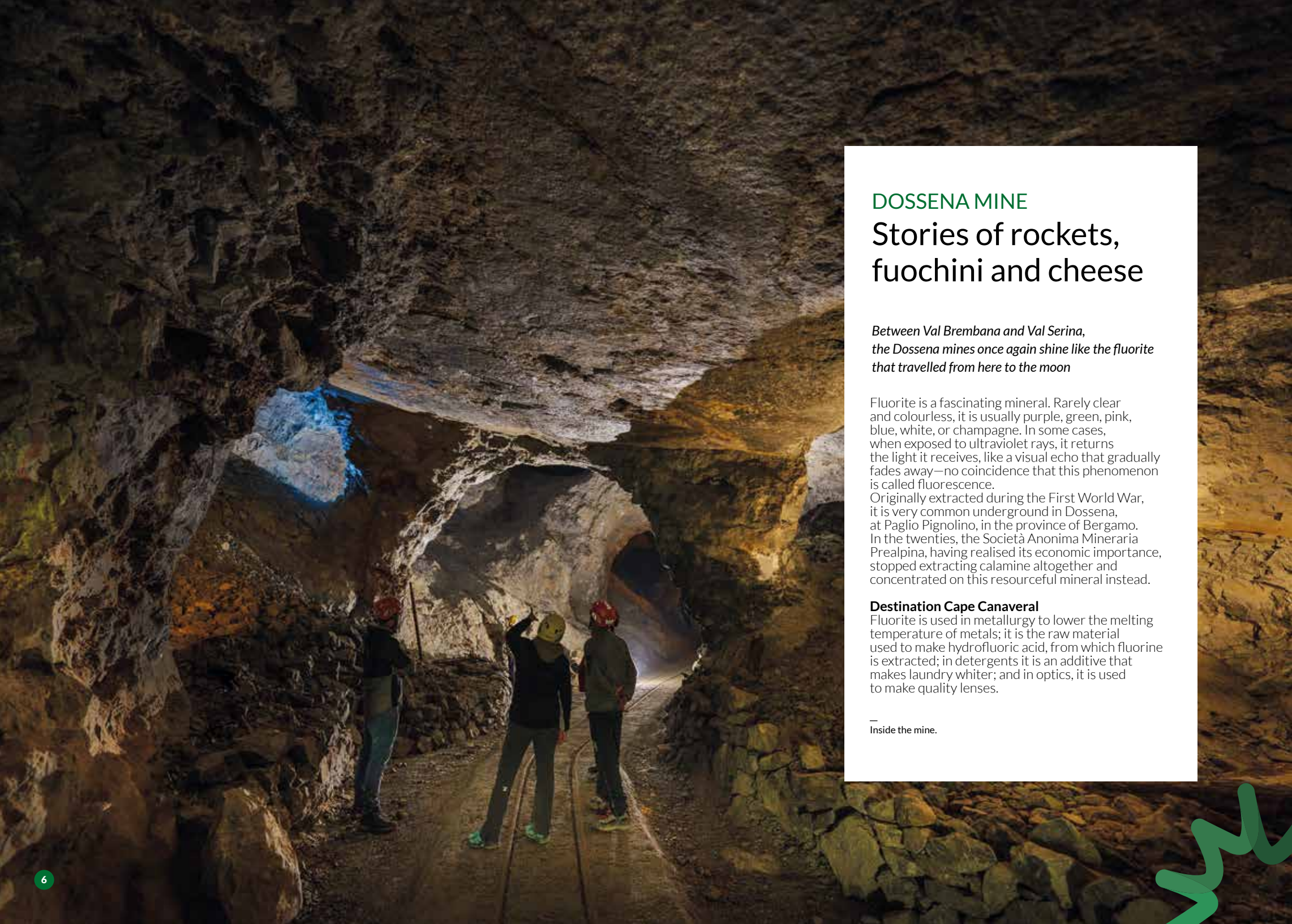
- 1.** At the entrance to the Valle del Riso, the Sanctuary of the **S.S. Crocefisso** houses a wooden statue that has been the object of great devotion for centuries. It was built in 1910 on the site of a small chapel. Authorisation for the work was signed by a young Angelo Roncalli, the future Pope John XXIII.
- 2.** From Piazza Riso, where the small church of San Rocco is located, follow the road to Chignolo d'Oneta, then take the uphill road on the left to reach **Costa del Falò**, with the statue of Christ the Redeemer at the top. This is a very scenic spot that can be reached on foot or by mountain bike.
- 3.** Several hiking trails start in **Alpeggio Grina** (1,115 mt asl). Among the most popular destinations are Baita Golla (1,756 m), which can be reached in less than two hours'

walk, Rifugio Telini (1,647 mt), which offers a breath-taking view of Valle del Riso, and the Mistri shelter (1,800 mt), run by the Camòs group in Gorno.

**4. Passionate about porcini!** Mushrooms grow throughout the entire upper Valle Seriana, but Valle del Riso, in the part above Gorno, is known to be hugely satisfying for those who seek these edible fungi. For information and to get the mushrooms you find certified as edible, contact Gorno town council (tel. +39 035.707145).

**5.** Not far from the bridge over the Costone, on the road that goes from Casnigo to Ponte Nossa (both neighbouring municipalities with Gorno), is **Coston Beach**, a public beach with stones polished by the emerald waters of the Serio River. You can reach it by car along the SS671 state road, or on bike on the "Valle Seriana" cycle path.





## DOSSENA MINE

# Stories of rockets, fuochini and cheese

*Between Val Brembana and Val Serina, the Dossena mines once again shine like the fluorite that travelled from here to the moon*

Fluorite is a fascinating mineral. Rarely clear and colourless, it is usually purple, green, pink, blue, white, or champagne. In some cases, when exposed to ultraviolet rays, it returns the light it receives, like a visual echo that gradually fades away—no coincidence that this phenomenon is called fluorescence.

Originally extracted during the First World War, it is very common underground in Dossena, at Paglio Pignolino, in the province of Bergamo. In the twenties, the Società Anonima Mineraria Prealpina, having realised its economic importance, stopped extracting calamine altogether and concentrated on this resourceful mineral instead.

### **Destination Cape Canaveral**

Fluorite is used in metallurgy to lower the melting temperature of metals; it is the raw material used to make hydrofluoric acid, from which fluorine is extracted; in detergents it is an additive that makes laundry whiter; and in optics, it is used to make quality lenses.

—  
Inside the mine.



Val Brembana e Val Serina  
**Dossena Mine**



**Where:** Località Paglio - Pignolino, 24010 Dossena (BG)  
**Opening times:** from April to October, every Sunday from 2.00 to 6.00 pm; everyday of the year subject to booking for groups of more than 10.  
**Duration of visit:** 3 hours.  
**Tickets:** € 7/10.  
**All the info:** reservations required: tel. 0345.49443 333.4299835.

What made it famous, however, and with it the Dossena mines, was the use that NASA made of it from the fifties as a fuel component in rocket boosters for lunar missions. For several years, large quantities of fluorite left Val Brembana in the direction of Cape Canaveral. Mining began to decline in the mid-seventies and ceased in June 1981. The last tunnel to be built was the Galleria dei Sospiri (Gallery of Sighs), so called because the miners digging it already knew that their searching served solely to confirm that the relevant veins were indeed exhausted. Life changed abruptly in Dossena. The minadur or miners ended up without jobs, the taessine, the women who assisted them in cleaning and sorting the material, went back to being housewives, and the fuochini, the young boys whose job it was to make sure that, once placed, all the charges exploded, were left with to loiter in the streets. The area's main source of income since ancient times had disappeared. The guides who accompany visitors to the Paglio Pignolino site, which has now been restored and opened to the public thanks to the Municipality of Dossena and the Dossena Mine Association, tell of the sad ending to the story of the mines, as well as their best moments.

### Long live the mine

The second life of the mines began in 2014, when a group of young people in love with their town and the history that had preceded them decided to do what they could to ensure the galleries were restored and to give back to the community a memory that should not be lost. In just a few months, 80 volunteers coordinated by the municipality cleaned



debris from the entrances, built a modern lighting system and secured the first tunnels. May 2015 saw creation of the Association that today still manages the maintenance and guided tours of the Paglio-Pignolino site. Since then, extension work has never stopped and every year the journey deep into the mountain becomes longer and more exciting. On your visit, you will come across the remains of mining activity and everyday objects used by the miners, such as tins of food, overalls, helmets and work tools. Since 2019, in agreement with the Associazione Miniere di Dossena, local cheesemakers have been putting three new types of their cheese to ripen at the end of the Galleria dei Sospiri, 350 m from the entrance. The climate in the mine is perfect for this purpose. And the mine lives on.



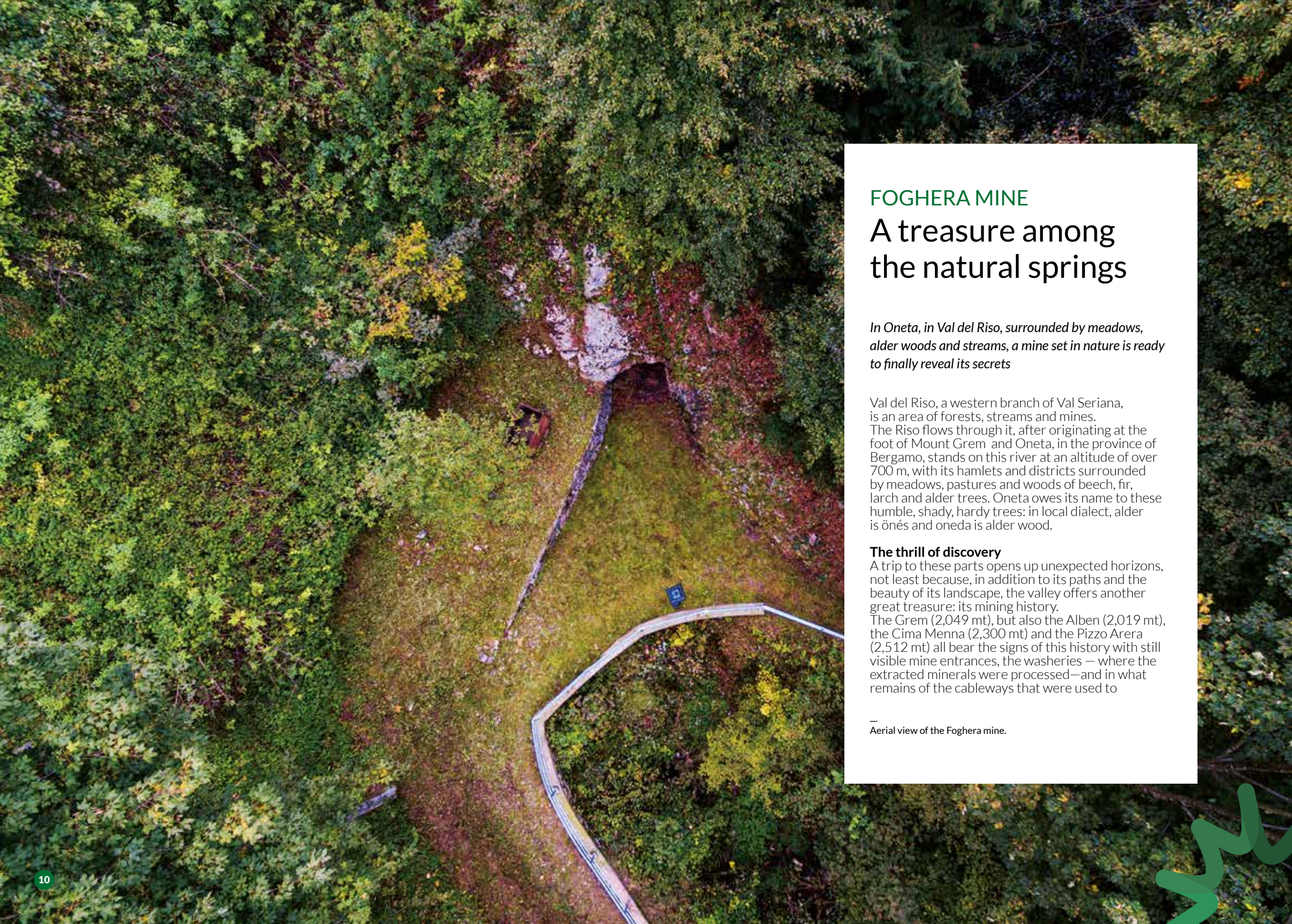
**On the left**  
Objects of daily use of miners.

**On the bottom**  
Compressor room, the room was used for pumping the air inside the mines for pneumatic hammers.

## — 5 reasons to...

- 1.** Together with Calcio, Cerete and Madone, Dossena is one of Bergamo's four '**Painted Villages**'. Between 1981 and 1984, three series of murals with sacred and profane subjects were painted by various artists in the village streets. The idea came from Filippo Alcaini (1946-1986), a painter from Dossena who created two of the murals.
- 2.** The **Parish Church of San Giovanni Battista** (fifteenth century) still houses paintings, furnishings and vestments from Venice, gifts from the town's emigrants. Among the most valuable paintings are those by Paolo Veronese (1528-1588), depicting images of the patron saint.
- 3.** **Via Mercatorum** is a series of paths and mule tracks running through some areas in the Bergamo province, travelled by merchants in the Middle Ages. A two and a half hour walk along it from Dossena will bring you to the beautifully preserved village of Cornello dei Tasso.
- 4.** A project conceived by the Dossena Mines Association has led to the creation of three new kinds of cheese that mature in the mine, in the ideal conditions offered by the Galleria dei Sospiri. **OI Minadur**, **OI Galet** and **La Taessina** cheese can be purchased locally, and also online.
- 5.** The **mountain bike route** that takes you from San Pellegrino Terme to Lepreno goes past the old mines and Dossena. In 4 hours you go through 32 km of wonderful scenery, in part on the cycle path and ordinary roads, in part on rough trails and mule tracks. ([www.visitbrembo.it](http://www.visitbrembo.it)).





## FOGHERA MINE

# A treasure among the natural springs

*In Oneta, in Val del Riso, surrounded by meadows, alder woods and streams, a mine set in nature is ready to finally reveal its secrets*

Val del Riso, a western branch of Val Seriana, is an area of forests, streams and mines. The Riso flows through it, after originating at the foot of Mount Grem and Oneta, in the province of Bergamo, stands on this river at an altitude of over 700 m, with its hamlets and districts surrounded by meadows, pastures and woods of beech, fir, larch and alder trees. Oneta owes its name to these humble, shady, hardy trees: in local dialect, alder is önés and oneda is alder wood.

### **The thrill of discovery**

A trip to these parts opens up unexpected horizons, not least because, in addition to its paths and the beauty of its landscape, the valley offers another great treasure: its mining history.

The Grem (2,049 mt), but also the Alben (2,019 mt), the Cima Menna (2,300 mt) and the Pizzo Arera (2,512 mt) all bear the signs of this history with still visible mine entrances, the washeries — where the extracted minerals were processed — and in what remains of the cableways that were used to

—  
Aerial view of the Foghera mine.





**Where:** Via Giovanni XXIII, 7,  
24020 Oneta (BG)

**Opening times:** visits currently suspended for  
ordinary maintenance work. The mine is scheduled  
to reopen at the end of April 2022.

**Duration of visit:** 3 hours (the programme includes a visit to the  
ethnographic museum and to the mine).

**Tickets:** € 10 (concessions for church and school groups).

**All the info:** Fattoria Didattica Ariete, [www.fattoriaariete.it](http://www.fattoriaariete.it),  
[info@fattoriaariete.it](mailto:info@fattoriaariete.it) - reservations required: 3473240391

transport the goods. This external evidence may be interesting, but it is not enough for real explorers. For them, there is a special treat just waiting to be discovered, a site secured and reopened in 2017 with the intent of reviving the thrill of exploration together with the work of the miners. Foghera mine, opened at the end of the nineteenth century and active until the 1960s, comprises a network of almost 500 kilometres of galleries that branch out underground and link Val del Riso and Val Brembana. Dug out metre by metre, they preserve the characteristics of ancient excavation, carried out with limited techniques and forced to follow the passages permitted by the mountain, with bends and ceilings at eye level.

### Darkness, light and lots of surprises

Generations of onetesi have worked down here, in search of the minerals from which zinc (blende and calamine), lead and silver (galena) are extracted. No coincidence then that the town's coat of arms, with its three mountains and a cross, also features a miner's lamp, an essential tool when venturing into the darkness of the mountains. The visit starts with the Ethnographic Museum, housed in a historic building in the hamlet of Villa. Moving from room to room, visitors travel through 2,000 years of history and come across working tools and works of art: the tools of farmers, shepherds, and spinners and a picture gallery featuring the first painting by Giovan Battista Moroni (1520-1578). The story culminates in recent history, with period photos and personal stories, with focus on resources from the heart of the mountain: water, fertile and a disperser of energy, and the sparkling minerals hidden in its bowels. You can walk from the museum to the Foghera mine entrance at 920 mt asl, following the old road that links Villa to Piazza or drive along



a road also suitable for coaches. Once there, following in the footsteps of the miners and kitted out with waterproofs, helmet and torch, you go a few hundred metres inside the mine. It is exciting, in the shadows, to glimpse a glitter in the discovered veins of ore, but also to listen to the story told by the guide, who explains how lighting in the mine evolved: from torches to medieval oil lamps, from lanterns to LED. Then, suddenly, the light reflects on a stretch of water. There is a lake, down here in the heart of Foghera! The sight is evocative, but there is a very tangible explanation. An underground spring dug out a channel here in the distant past. The miners accumulated waste materials until it was almost completely blocked off, and the result is this small magical pool among the rocks.

## — 5 reasons to...

- 1. Cantoni**, now a part of Oneta, is a historic village at an altitude of 980 m, in a panoramic position overlooking the entire Valle del Riso. The urban layout dates back to a period between the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The eighteenth-century church dedicated to San Antonio Abate is filled with works of art
- 2.** From the car park in Piazza, following part of CAI path no. 239, the **Baita Alpe Grem ethno-nature trail** leads to Baita Bassa di Grem (1,238 m asl, an hour's walk). Along the way, there are information boards made by pupils of the schools in Oneta and Gorno.
- 3.** In winter, still from Piazza, you can climb up to Baita Alta di Grem (1,650 m) asl by **splitboarding** through woodland and along an icy tracks. All the

effort required to reach the summit is rewarded with an amazing 360° view: on one side the Golla mountains, on the other Pizzo Arera. The downhill return trip is the rest of the reward.

- 4.** The Sanctuary of the **Madonna del Frassino**, built from the sixteenth century onwards, can be reached from the hamlet of Chignolo either on foot (excursions along various CAI signposted paths) or by car. It is about 2 km from the town centre and at about 950 mt asl. The views are heavenly.
- 5.** Less than 10 km from Oneta, Monte Alben Adventure Park at Zambra Pass is fun up high in the trees with routes suitable for all ages. Info: [www.parcosavventuramontealben.it](http://www.parcosavventuramontealben.it), tel. +39 347.9210690



**On the left**  
Discovering blende and galena: an heritage to remember thanks to the work and effort of the miners.

**On the bottom**  
Oneta Museum.





## SCHILPARIO GAFFIONE MINE

### A journey into the heart of the earth

*In Val di Scalve, in the Bergamo Orobic mountains, there is a mining park that tells a story of darkness and light. For a journey into a past from which there is much to learn*

An enchanting corner of the world with mountain peaks, meadows, fir woods and the sparkling Vò waterfall. Schilpario in the province of Bergamo, at 1,135 mt asl, is a light-filled, peaceful village, nestling in the uncontaminated nature of Val di Scalve. It is well known by cross-country skiing enthusiasts, as it is the starting point of one of the most beautiful trails in Lombardy, and also by the many hikers who, with boots or snowshoes on their feet, in summer and winter, head for the Cimon della Bagozza Refuge (1,600 mt) or, even higher, the Passo dei Campelli (1,890 mt). Today, those who come to these parts do so in search of clean air and breath-taking scenery, but this was not always the case.

#### **Miners, manét and purti**

For centuries, the Val di Scalve was a well-known, coveted, exploited land, above all for the iron deposits stored in the bowels of its mountains. From the early Middle Ages to the seventies, through almost four centuries of Venetian rule (1428-1797) and forty years of Austrian rule

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Intermediate level within the Spiazzo/Gaffione cultivation.



Val di Scalve  
**Schilpario Gaffione Mine**



**Where:** Località Gaffione,  
24020 Schilpario (BG)  
**Opening times:** from May to October,  
at different times.  
**Duration of the visit:** about an hour and a half.  
**Tickets:** € 10 (concessions for children, groups and schools).  
**All the info:** [www.minieraschilpario.net](http://www.minieraschilpario.net); @minieragaffione  
reservations required; tel. 339.6055118,  
email: [miniereskimine@gmail.com](mailto:miniereskimine@gmail.com)

(1815-1859), the history of this valley revolved around the heritage of its mines and the hard life that this meant for many. For more than a thousand years, generations of Scalvini have worked in the darkness of the tunnels. They climbed up to an altitude of over 2,000 metres, where the vein of ore emerged, and then dug down from here into the very heart of the mountain.

The narrow entrances, open only as far as necessary, were called adits. Down into these shafts went the miners, who excavated the mines with explosive devices, the manét, who loaded the panniers with ore, and the purti, mostly children aged 11-13, who carried them on their backs and climbed back up. In the 1930s, the mining concessions were taken over by a large steel company that introduced modern compressed air machinery, decauville railways and mechanical shovels.

### A story to be told

This is only a small part of the great story that the mountain has to tell. To tell visitors all about it, the Andrea Bonicelli Mining Park opened in Schilpario since 1998, designed and still managed by Ski-Mine, a society of enthusiasts and experts. Inside, you can visit some sections (about 2.5 km) of the 60 km of tunnels that make up the old mining centre. The visit has two merits: on the one hand, it gives a very clear idea of how dreadfully hard life down the mine was, and on the other, it reveals the ingenuity and courage of the men who "inhabited" it and their ability to go further, to advance metre after metre despite all the difficulties. The entrance to the mine, at Gaffione, is at an altitude of 1,244 mt and about 4 km after Schilpario, just below the mining village of



Fondi, with the little church of Maria Ausiliatrice and Santa Barbara. Suitably kitted out with all the necessary equipment (helmets, lamps, capes) visitors cover part of the route sitting on a historical train and part on foot. Experienced knowledgeable guides explain the history of the mines, the life of the miners, the methods of excavation, transport and processing of the ore. The journey is in darkness, broken at times by a modern system of spotlights that recalls the old acetylene lamps. This powerful, emotional experience illustrates better than any books or tale, just what the locals did to earn a living. In addition to a visit along the underground paths, visitors can also see a nineteenth-century tilt hammer at work.



**On the left**  
The little train that takes you inside the mountain.

**On the bottom**  
Artificial basin to lower dust formation during drilling.

## — 5 reasons to...

**1.** No experience would be complete without a visit to the **Mining Lighting Museum** (Via Serto 4, tel. +39 3478163286), the first of its kind in Europe. The museum has an incredible collection of 2,000 mine lamps (oil lamps, carbide lamps, petrol lamps, electric lamps, etc.), as well as period trolleys, helmets, telephones and tools used by miners over the years.

**2.** The **Pista degli Abeti** (Loc. Sant'Elisabetta, tel. +39 3483000546) is one of the best cross-country skiing tracks in Italy. Equipped to host international competitions, it is 12 km long and divided into several loops, according to difficulty, with a 1,500 mt floodlit track that can be booked in advance.

**3.** In the sports area, near the cross-country skiing track, there is the **Ice Palace**, with a grandstand that can accommodate approximately 800 spectators. In winter, the Paradiso tennis court is allowed to freeze over and becomes an additional outdoor skating rink.

**4.** A popular visitor attraction in the summer in Val di Scalve is spectacular **Vò waterfall**, formed by the river of the same name, a 25-metre drop surrounded by green woods. It takes about half an hour to reach it from Schilpario.

**5.** Since July 2, 2020 Schilpario has been part of the "Big Bench Community Project" by Chris Bangle. **Big Bench** no. 95 can be reached in 10 minutes along a path that starts behind the elementary schools in Via Soliva. It offers extraordinary views, with the Presolana massif in the distance, Pizzo Tornello, Pizzo Camino, Ezendola and part of the rocky Campelli chain.





## MARZOLI MINE

# All aboard the little yellow train

*Val Trompia is the smallest of the three Brescia valleys and it has always been linked to iron ore mining. In Pezzaze, you enter the very core of this millenary history*

Visiting a mine can only be an "immersive" experience. As you go deeper into the mountain, the temperature drops and the natural light fades. The shadows cloak those who have dared to come this far, but your eyes soon get used to the darkness and you begin to sense the presence of a hidden treasure.

Torches play along and make even the most humble of stones glow. Of all the Brescia mines on the Via del Ferro or "iron road", one in particular fires the imagination.

The Marzoli mine in Pezzaze, in the province of Brescia, offers an exciting multi-sensory visit, with reconstructed work scenes and a soundtrack of noises and voices that brings miners' talk and machinery back to life. Visitors will suddenly feel as if they are right alongside those who spent hours and hours underground, their life in the balance as they advanced metre by metre, one explosion after another.

—  
Little yellow train.



## Val Trompia Marzoli Mine



Where: Via Miniera,  
25060 Pezzaze (BS)

Opening times: Sunday, from March to  
December. Also Saturday from June to September.  
Times vary depending on the month.

Duration of visit: 1 and a half hours.

Tickets: € 10 (concessions for young visitors, discounts and special prices  
for certain categories).

All the info: [www.minieramarzoli.it](http://www.minieramarzoli.it), email: [miniereskimine@gmail.com](mailto:miniereskimine@gmail.com)  
reservations required: 339.6055118, 347.8163286.

### A journey into history

This visit is suitable for everyone, even very young children, as you travel through the mine on a safe little yellow train.

Before setting off, you put on helmets and waterproofs (the mine is very wet) and watch a video that introduces you to life in the mine, with images and sounds from the past that bring the mining world of Val Trompia and Pezzaze in particular into the present.

Then everyone climbs aboard and the adventure begins.

At each stop, a very well-prepared guide tells the stories and events that took place in and around the mine and explains how mineral extraction methods evolved over the centuries. Evocative demonstrations (such as extraction of the minerals by hand and with a mechanical shovel, preparation of the holes for blasting practice with simulation of the explosion) make history real and it is not difficult to identify with the miners themselves. The route is about 700 m long, but the journey through time spans hundreds of years and ends in 1972, when the Marzoli mine finally ceased operations.

### The Iron Road

The mineral extracted from this site has always been iron.

In the area of Pezzaze, discovery of very ancient smelting slag documents widespread working of this mineral since prehistoric times. Activities continued in Roman times and were repeatedly regulated during the Middle Ages and at the time of the Venetian Republic. It was the Industrial Revolution, however, that brought the mines in this area their greatest boom period. In the early nineteenth century, introduction of the first rational excavation methods made it possible to cultivate iron from the bottom up and solve the problem of 'underground water' caused by the frequent abundant rainfall in spring



On the left  
Inside the mine.

On the bottom  
Santa Barbara bronze statue,  
the patroness of miners.



and summer in these parts. Over time, excavation techniques were further perfected and rendered increasingly more efficient, becoming a source of wealth and development in the twentieth century. This is no longer the case today, but throughout the valley the mines, forges and smelting furnaces are a historical and scenic heritage that deserved to be enhanced. An ambitious recovery programme has transformed the area into a multi-site museum along the Via del Ferro e delle Miniere (the iron and mining road). This covers the entire iron and steel production chain, which began in the mining sites of the upper valley, continued in the smelting plants located near rivers and ended in the forges of the lower valley. History just waiting to be discovered.

### — 5 reasons to...

1. The ticket for the mine also includes a visit to the **Mining World and the Art of Iron Museum**, with the history of mining in the area and works in iron by the sculptor Vittorio Piotti. It is housed in the building once reserved for mine employees.
2. The same ticket entitles you to discount on the entrance to **Museo Orma** ([www.museoorma.it](http://www.museoorma.it)), the first archaeological museum in Val Trompia. It is located in Via S. Giovanni 1 in the hamlet of Mondaro. Visits by appointment only. Info, tel. +39 333.1425093.
3. The **Church of S. Filastrio**, with its fifteenth century frescoes, is just 20 minutes from Pezzaze, in Tavernole sul Mella. Together with the sacristy of San Domenico

and the chapel of San Rocco, it forms a true monumental complex nestling in nature.  
Open on request, tel. +39 030.920127.

4. Experienced hikers can choose path 3V, known as "la Direttissima", to climb **Monte Guglielmo** (1,957 mt). The starting point, Piardi refuge on the San Zeno pass, can be reached by car from the village of Pezzaze. It is classified EE (expert hikers) because it has some exposed passages requiring the use of hands.

5. Coming up from Brescia towards Val Trompia, the first stage on the Via del Ferro is the **Il Maglio di Sarezze Museum**, housed in a forge with sixteenth-century architecture, operational until 1984. Visits must be booked by calling the Valle Trompia Information Centre, tel. +39 360.030495.





## SANT'ALUISIO MINE

# Adventure and well-being

*The territory of Collio, in Valtrompia, is marked by paths and waterways. Here a mine that had been closed for years now enjoys a second life with a truly special visitor experience*

There is no better way to describe Valtrompia, the beauty of its mountains and the temperament of its people, than the verses of Vincenzo Monti. It is the "terren che il Mella irriga, ricco d'onore di ferro e di coraggio" (land watered by the Mella, rich in honour, iron and courage). The river has its source on the slopes of Maniva Pass and, after passing Brescia, it flows towards the Oglio. All around are hills and mountains, waterways and mines. One of these, the Sant'Aloisio mine, lies just before the village of Collio, on the border with Bovegno. Between 1870 and 1984, mining activity here was very intense and when the site closed no one would have imagined it would have a future. And instead...

### **Mining hikes and Tibetan bridges**

In 2015, the mining site of Sant'Aloisio was reopened and since then it has enjoyed an amazing second life, offering a truly special visitor experience.

Arriving from the Tre Valli provincial road, it is immediately clear where to stop: where the River Valdardo meets the Mella, a group of red buildings clings to the mountain, marked by the historic inscription 'Carlo Tassara SpA'. The exhibition of mining tools and artefacts at its entrance is just a taste of what it has to offer. There are two routes to choose from, both exciting. The first is a mining hike, an underground itinerary

—  
Aerial view of the mine.



Bergamo  
**Sant'Aloisio Mine**



**Where:** via Castiglione, 25060 Collio (BS)  
**Opening times:** Mining hikes and the Adventure Park can be booked for Sundays from May to October. Saturdays too in June and July, with even more days in August. Entry is always from 10 am to 6 pm.

**Duration of the visit:** depends on the route chosen.

**Ticket:** Mining Hike tickets cost €10 (concessions for children, groups, school groups). Mining Hike plus Adventure Park tickets cost €20 (with the same concessions).

**All the info:** [www.minierasantalioisio.it](http://www.minierasantalioisio.it), @minierasantalioisio  
reservation required: tel. 339.6055118,  
email: [miniereskimine@gmail.com](mailto:miniereskimine@gmail.com)

of about 2.5 km, to be covered on foot, which lets visitors explore the mine "in its natural state", as it was left when mining was abandoned. Along the way you will encounter trolleys, circular switches on the rails where the galleries intersect, incredible multi-coloured secretions on walls and rocks "embroidered" like precious lace. The second is a unique Adventure Park. With its aerial passages on Tibetan bridges, ropes, walkways and ladders, it takes you in and out of these impressive industrial structures in conditions of absolute safety, adventurously retracing the route that the iron ore took in the old treatment plants. Those who bravely choose this experience travel upwards through a long tunnel, pass through the washeries and into the furnaces, suspended in the air the entire way. The last section, the most exciting, is in the open and crosses the Valdardo river. Obviously, this is not for everyone. First of all, you must not be afraid of heights and, secondly, you must be at least 140 cm tall in order to reach the supports without difficulty. But for those who can, it will be an unforgettable experience.

### The mine that does you good

While working down the mine for years, breathing in all that mineral dust, was by no means healthy, today the air in these tunnels, which took so much effort to dig out, is a true cure-all for those suffering from a number of respiratory tract diseases,



from pollen allergies to various types of bronchitis. The treatment is called "speleotherapy" and it consists in spending time in grottoes and disused mines with certain appropriate environmental parameters. Like the ones in Sant'Aloisio, where the Speleo Climate Centre has a 1,400 metre trail to be walked in a maximum of two hours. After the first 400 metres on board a little train, the remaining kilometre is completed on foot, through a perfectly lit environment, with benches for pauses, tables, historic photos, original equipment and a relaxation area equipped with beds (when not moving, visitors are strongly advised to drink a cup of something hot, included in the ticket!). The centre is open all year round, subject to booking.

**On the left**  
Group inside the tunnel.

**On the bottom**  
Pisoliti or mine pearls and calcareous concretions.

## — 5 reasons to...

- 1.** The Sanctuary of Tizio, also known as the **Sanctuary of the Madonna delle Tese** or della Misericordia, was built in the late fifteenth century and dominates the square of the village of the same name in Collio. Despite successive alterations, it still has its original layout and some wonderful murals.
- 2.** There are three trails dedicated to the Brescia Resistance in the Collio area. The **Perlasca trail** is 40 km long and a hard hike, the **Corno Barzò** path goes up towards the highest peak of the **Paio mountains**, and the **Brigate Ermanno Margheriti** winds through much of the Collio area.
- 3.** From May to October, Monte Pezzeda (1,799 mt) is popular with riders thanks to the services provided by the **Bike Park Pezzeda** (tel. +39 339.2040981, @bikepark\_pezzeda\_official), which manages the ski lifts and offers downhill trails of various difficulty levels.
- 4.** The two **little lakes at Ravenola** lie to the north of Monte Colombine (2,206 mt). The easy well-signposted trail that leads here starts at Goletto di Ravenola, a pass that can be reached from the SP 345 provincial road. The walk takes you through alpine flowers and, in the summer, rhododendrons, bilberries and raspberries
- 5.** At 1,892 mt asl, the **Crocedomini Pass**, dominates the three Brescia valleys of Trompia, Sabbia and Camonica, and it can be reached on the SP 345 from Collio. Remarkable for the splendid scenery throughout and at the end, it is very popular with motorcyclists.







## CORTABBIO MINES

# A surprise in the woods

*In the mid-nineteenth century, in the woods above Primaluna, a precious deposit was discovered by pure chance. Today the entire area has become a mining park. Just waiting to be discovered*

It was 1860 or thereabouts. The exact date is not known, but the school was certainly closed that day and the weather was certainly fine, because Mr Vanotti, a primary school teacher, had decided to go for a walk in the woods above Primaluna (Lecco). As he walked, he noticed an outcrop of white rocks different from the others. Driven by his inquisitiveness, he broke off small pieces and took them to Milan to have them analysed. And this was how, quite by chance and thanks to an inquisitive nature, the great barite deposit of Cortabbio was discovered, which from that moment on, for more than a century and a half, provided work and sustenance to dozens and dozens of families in this area.

### **The mines and the park**

Cortabbio (now a hamlet of Primaluna) is located in Valsassina, on the slopes of Northern Grigna, at an altitude of between 540 and 850 mt. At first, the barite was removed directly from the outcrops, but due to great demand, tunnels were soon dug into the mountainside.

—  
Aerial view of the Cortabbio mine.





**Where:** Via Merla, fraz. Cortabbio di Primaluna (LC)  
**Opening times:** all year-round Sunday and holidays (with visits at 10.30 am, 2.30 and 4.00 pm), in the summer also Saturdays and weekday afternoons.  
**Duration of the visit:** about an hour and a half, with the option of taking part in workshops.  
**Tickets:** € 9,5 (concessions for certain categories, children, school and church groups).  
**All the info:** www.youmines.com - reservation required: tel. 338.9609824, email: miniere\_resinelli@hotmail.it

Barite is used to produce barium, which, in its various forms is used in the paper, chemical and mechanical industries and, since the eighties, it has been used in radiology as a contrast medium when studying the digestive system. As excavation work descended to deeper and deeper levels, the rich lower veins were accessed. Since mining began between 1864 and 1865, kilometres of tunnels and 16 adits have been dug, spread over 3 concessions. The mines reached peak productivity in the first half of the twentieth century, but extraction continued until 2012. Today, converted into a mining park, the site welcomes groups of tourists and schoolchildren. Enthusiastic guides accompany visitors through 2,000 metres of well-lit galleries.

The environment is magical, the excavated rock surprising in its unexpected shades of colour. Predominantly white, the barite also has brown, orange and greyish hues. Some tools, leaning against the walls along the walkways, remain to evoke the hard work of the miners.

### Routes

The mines of Cortabbio offer two alternative visitor routes. The internal route is 2 km long and begins at the entrance to the "Nuovo Ribasso" mine. After an initial stretch of about 250 metres, you reach the bottom of the gallery where you cross the mineralized vein of white barite. Along the way, the guide shows some of the machinery and explains how the material was excavated and transported downstream. The route then takes a diversion that, after about 500 metres, leads to the majestic cavern where the barite was mined during the last thirty years of activity. The cavern is majestic and perfectly lit.



**On the left**  
Sensory wall:  
concretions on the rock.

**On the bottom**  
Blind path,  
Experience of touch.



Visitors can view it from below or climb up a few on the ladders provided into the vertical gallery to one side and look directly down into the large cavern. If you choose the external route, you will get some idea of just how vast this mining complex is. From the entrance to the park, visitors walk along a dirt road that climbs up the Grigna past the various mine adits or entrances. This route is about 2.5 km long and it takes you to the remains of the Vittoria mine cable car station, at an altitude of 654 mt, and then on to the oldest mines, Speranza Superiore and Virginia Superiore, from where you can look out over the deep ravine left by the first open-cast mines. This is where Maestro Vanotti walked through the woods on that sunny day.

## — 5 reasons to...

1. To the north-east of the village, on a hilltop overlooking the Molinara Valley, stand the ruins of a fourteenth-century square tower, which is all that remains of **Pieve Castle**, the oldest in the valley. It is currently being restored and plans for its future use are under study.
2. Starting in the car park near the bridge over the River Pioverna (at an altitude of 517 mt), an easy, well-signposted hike through the woods lasting an hour and a quarter takes you from Primaluna to the **Riva Mountain Refuge** (1,022 mt asl). A spectacular view of the Valsassina awaits you.
3. The **Santuario dell'Immacolata**, in the hamlet of Barcone, was enlarged from a tiny chapel in the early seventeenth century. Painted by Tagliaferro in 1870,

its façade features a beautiful carved portal. Inside, the Altarpiece of the Assumption (1646) is by Tommaso Cattaneo Torriani.

4. **Alpe del Giumello** (1,550 mt), at the foot of Mount Muggio, is a natural terrace with views of Valsassina, Grigna and Lake Como. It can be reached on foot along various paths, such as those from Narro and Indovero (hamlets of Casargo), or by car (from Primaluna in half an hour).

5. Patronal festivals, alpine festivals, and the Palio of the hamlets at the beginning of August. Primaluna and Cortabbio offer a busy calendar of events in the summer. Must-sees include the **Sbandieratori e Musici della Torre di Primaluna**, a historical association of flag throwers and musicians set up in 1998.





## RESINELLI MINES

# Veins of iron and fantastic things

*On the slopes of the Grignetta in Valsassina, the Piani Resinelli Mining Park is one of the oldest mining sites that can be visited today. The Anna mine enchants travellers of any age*

A few kilometres from Lecco, Abbadia Lariana stands on a promontory formed by the delta of the River Zerbo, overlooking the eastern shore of Lake Como (the Lecco branch). Behind it is the splendid backdrop of the Piani Resinelli, part of this municipality, and the Southern Grigna or Grignetta. The name Abbadia dates back to the presence of an ancient Benedictine abbey dating back to the ninth century, the cloister of which remains today, next to the church of San Lorenzo. Piani Resinelli, on the other hand, takes its name from the family of landowners who owned the plateau in the nineteenth century. From here you can enjoy a view that sweeps from the Rhaetian Alps to Monte Rosa.

### **The leaden years**

This place, however, is not only enchanting. Over the centuries Abbadia has been at the centre of important historical events, both because of its strategic position between the Po Valley and the Alpine passes, and because of the mines rich in copper, iron and lead, or rather galena, namely the sulphide from which lead was obtained after a process of melting and cooking in coal.

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Entrance to the Resinelli mine.





**Where:** via Escursionisti 29,  
Loc. Piani Resinelli,  
23821, Abbadia Lariana (LC)

**Opening times:** from March to October, Sundays  
and holidays, with more frequent opening times in the summer.

**Duration of the visit:** about an hour and a half.

**Ticket:** € 9,50 (concessions for children, groups, school and church  
groups with the option of activities and workshops).

**All the info:** [www.youmines.com](http://www.youmines.com) - reservation required:  
tel. 338.9609824, email: [minierra\\_resinelli@hotmail.it](mailto:minierra_resinelli@hotmail.it)

During the Renaissance, lead was a metal in great demand: the Duchy of Milan used it to forge its weapons for centuries. The deposits were also known to Leonardo da Vinci, who visited the area several times during his years in Milan, between 1482 and 1499, and described it as rich in "veins of iron and fantastic things" (Codex Atlanticus). As for the mines in the current Mining Park, the first document to mention them is dated 1637, but their history probably began earlier. Over time, work has been carried out to make them more and more modern and efficient, but the life of the miners is however still hard and tiring. Until the end of the nineteenth century, the miners extracted the material using only pickaxes and carried it out on their backs in panniers.

Automatic drilling machines, trolleys and cableways are "recent" achievements. Among other things, the mined ore was processed far from the mine, forcing the miners to walk on a long path through Val Calolden. The tilt hammer used to crush the ore, and the washery, where its impurities were removed, were located in Laorca, a hamlet in Lecco, because there was not enough room near the mine to house them.

#### Anna and the others

Of the three mines in the park—Sottocavallo, Silvia and Anna—only this last one can be visited by children, but the adventure it holds in store will not disappoint!

Decommissioned in 1958, it is on two levels characterised by ups and downs and wide corridor tunnels.

The first level, with the entrance at an altitude of 1,240 mt, is that of the original Anna mine, while the second, called Ribasso Umberto, was excavated at a lower level



(1,180 mt) at the end of the nineteenth century. Both are almost fully illuminated and are fitted out to explain the mining methods of the various eras.

In the Anna mine, silver galena was the main mineral extracted. At the entrance, you can see the statue of St Barbara, the patron saint of miners. Proceeding through the tunnels, dotted here and there among the furnaces and shafts, there are little gnomes, the cheerful guardians of the mine who capture the attention of younger visitors. The Sottocavallo mine, on seven levels with a central shaft, is pretty amazing, but not easy to walk through and therefore only suitable for adults. Finally, the Silvia mine has found another use as a concert hall with a particularly engaging atmosphere.



#### On the left

Path inside the mine.

#### On the bottom

Reference to the fairytale world represented by "dwarf miners"

## — 5 reasons to...

**1.** The **Church of San Martino** in the hamlet of Borbino stands in an isolated position. The building is very old, probably dating from the thirteenth century. It is the starting point for the Sentiero del Viandante (Wayfarer's Path), a 40-km-long hiking trail along the eastern shore of Lake Como.

**2.** On Via Nazionale there is a factory for twisting silk thread, preserved exactly as it was in the mid-nineteenth century. Restored and with the addition of contemporary materials from other spinning mills which have now disappeared, since 1998 it has been the Monti Silk Mill Museum (**Civico Museo Setificio Monti**). Information and bookings, tel. +39 0341-731241. +39 0341-731241.

**3.** In Valentino Park, at an altitude of 1,300 mt, the **Villa Gerosa House Museum** (tel. +39 0341.240724) tells the story of the Grigne area and the history of mountaineering in these mountains, with videos, photos, models and various events throughout the year. The Facebook page [@casamuseovillagerosa](https://www.facebook.com/casamuseovillagerosa) is always up to date.

**4.** **Resinelli Adventure Park** (tel. +39 328.1313924, [www.parcoavventuraresinelli.it](http://www.parcoavventuraresinelli.it)) offers activities and trails suitable for all ages. It is open from March to September, always on Saturdays and Sundays, and during the week subject to be booking.

**5.** The Adventure Park is also the starting point for the trail that leads, with an easy walk, to the top of **Monte Coltignone** (1,479 mt). Views from the top are amazing. You can see out over Lecco and its lake, Piani d'Erna with the Resegone, Garlate and Annone lakes, and the Cornizzolo and Moregallo mountains.





## BAGNADA MINE

# Music in the white mountain

*Valmalenco is a treasure trove of colourful stones, but the mine above Lanzada is dominated by the whiteness of talc. Thanks to its perfect acoustics, one of its chambers hosts concerts by choirs and ensembles*

Valmalenco is a treasure trove of minerals of all kinds - and that's not just a figure of speech! Some 260 species have been catalogued and new discoveries are still being made today. The extensive serpentinite outcrops yield soapstone and serpentine schist, which have been used to make cooking pots and roofing for over a thousand years, but there are also many rocks of purely scientific and collectable interest: demantoid, quartz, perovskite, artinite and brugnatellite are some examples of the most famous minerals. This amazing area is also home to Bagnada mine in Lanzada, in the province of Sondrio, where talc carbonate (or white talc) was extracted for fifty years from 1936.

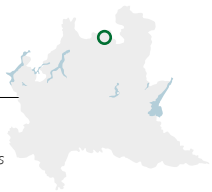
### **First the museum...**

A visit to the Mining and Mineral Ecomuseum in Bagnada is a fascinating journey into a universe that takes in both the valley's past and its present. The first part of the visit is dedicated to the Mining and Mineral Museum, which houses numerous exhibits linked to mining activity and a route with

—  
Entrance to the Bagnada mine.



Valmalenco  
**Bagnada Mine**



**Where:** Località Bagnada,  
23020 Lanzada (SO).

**Opening times:** all year, with different times  
depending on the season.

**Duration of visit:** 2 hours.

**Ticket:** € 11 (with concessions for children, groups and the over-65s).

**All the info:** [www.minieradellabagnada.it](http://www.minieradellabagnada.it), [info@minieradellabagnada.it](mailto:info@minieradellabagnada.it)  
reservation required; tel. 0342.453243 (Comune di Lanzada),  
0342.451150 (Consorzio Turistico Sondrio e Valmalenco).

panels that tells visitors more about Valmalenco. Exhibits also include an eighteenth-century hydraulic lathe and a rich collection of minerals. An enthusiastic guide tells visitors about this area's geological and mining history, giving them a close-up look at the tools used in the mines and explaining how the miners worked to prepare visitors before they go down into the mine itself.

### ... then the adventure

The second stage takes place inside the mine, closed since 1987 and most of which can now be visited.

The entrance is at an altitude of about 1,480 mt and can be reached in about 20 minutes, walking along a path that starts at the museum and goes through a larch wood. The entrance is small and taller people have to bow their heads, but the interior is spacious and indeed astonishing with large chambers and high rocky vaults, which thanks to the special acoustics have already hosted concerts by choirs, groups and ensembles in a location that is nothing short of impressive.

A visit inside Bagnada mine is an exceptional opportunity for discovering how man has managed to adapt to his environment and exploit the resources found there. The real thrill, however, is the unique experience of going right inside a totally white mountain, where cleverly designed lighting reveals all its unexpected brightness - the result of alternating lamellar aggregates of talc and white marble. The mine has nine levels, four of which are safe to walk through. There are different types of galleries:



worked veins, service tunnels, slopes, walkways, tunnels and voids for the search of sterile material.

Visitors pass through the riservetta, the room used for storing explosives and preparing charges, and walk past carts, drills and other equipment used in mining. It is interesting to learn about the complicated creative methods used by the miners to extract talc. Supported by audio and video content, the guide narrates and answers visitors' questions.

Finally, the acetylene lamps are switched on, and their atmospheric light accompanies visitors to the exit.

Where visitors can once again see the stars and, if it is not yet dark, the Rhaetian Alps in all their glory.

### On the left

Sheaf of emptied talc of its content.

### On the bottom

Gems and minerals of the Lanzada Museum.



## — 5 reasons to...

- 1. In Lanzada, in the village of Ganda, next to the Lanterna stream, the vertical Valmalenco Sports Centre** ([www.valmalencoverticale.it](http://www.valmalencoverticale.it)) offers a fabulous play area, but above all a bouldering gym and a 15-metre free climbing pyramid.
- 2. For those wanting to climb Bernina or Pizzo Palù, or even just walk the Alta Via della Valmalenco or the Sentiero Italia trails, a good midway or arrival point is the Marinelli Bombardieri Refuge** ([www.rifugiomarinellibombardieri.it](http://www.rifugiomarinellibombardieri.it)), at 2,813 mt asl.
- 3. The River Cormor is perfect for speleo canyoning.** Assisted by expert mountain guides, participants descend the rocky gorge between the first artificial lake of Campo Moro and the Campo Franscia plain

in the upper Val Lanterna.  
Info: [www.valtellinasport.com](http://www.valtellinasport.com)

**4. Alpe Prabello** is one of the most bucolic corners of Valmalenco. A few mountain cabins, the little church of Maria SS Regina della Pace and the Cristina Mountain refuge at 2,287 m asl. An hour and a half on foot from Lanzada, the route takes in the Campomoro Dam, the Zoia Refuge and Alpe Campagneda. And offers some extraordinary views.

**5. The Orme - or marmite - dei giganti** (literally the giant's bowls) are perfectly cylindrical potholes eroded by detritus whirling in the water deriving from melting glaciers. This classic excursion starts in Lanzada, a chance to learn more about this fascinating phenomenon, in the hollow in Franscia.



"One of the objectives which I have pursued during my mandate has been the use and the enhancement of the disused mining heritage. The approval by the Regional Council of the Regional Program for the recovery and enhancement of disused mining heritage gave a new push to a series of initiatives aimed precisely at enhancing this priceless heritage. We firmly wanted to give the memory of this places back to the citizens. The Regional Program will identify the possibilities for reuse and recovery of these mining sites, as well as their enhancement for scientific, tourist, cultural and social research purposes, always respecting their state of conservation and protecting their structures. The activities of protection of the disused mining sites have constituted also a great occasion for strengthening the attractiveness of the area with a double objective: to make Lombardy known as a touristic destination and to raise awareness of these issues by promoting cultural and educational activities, leisure and scientific research. We foresee the development of the most significant regional mining areas also through the implementation of projects and initiatives to encourage tourist flows. For this reason, six Geomineral Parks have been established for the first time, referring to the nine sites already authorized and which have recently been the subject of regional funding. These geo-mining parks are: the Via del Ferro of Val Trompia; the Via del Ferro delle Orobie; the Via del Piombo and Zinco delle Orobie; the Fluorite delle Orobie; of Valsassina and of Val Malenco. As evidence of the attention of the Lombardy Region for these projects, in the course of 2021 we have allocated over 5.6 million euros for the safety and enhancement of the disused mining heritage. In fact, we want to restore to the memory of the new generations those places that testify the economic and historical development of our Region and that allow us to give an impulse to the revitalization of the territory also for tourism and environmental protection purposes."

Raffaele Cattaneo  
Regional Minister of Environment and Climate,  
Lombardy Region

## How to get — Lombardy mines

road from Bergamo that passes through Valle Cavallina, via Lovere and Boario Terme, reaching the town along picturesque Via Mala.

### MARZOLI MINE

**How to reach us:** Pezzaze is 38 km from Brescia and 120 km from Milano. From Milan, take the Milano-Venezia A4 motorway and come off at Ospitaletto. From here continue along the SP19 Provincial Road towards Concesio, where you turn left onto the SP345 provincial road in Val Trompia. You will come to Marzoli mine before you get to Pezzaze.

### SANT'ALUISIO MINE

**How to reach us:** Collio is 40 km from Brescia and 125 km from Milan. The SP 345 Tre Valli provincial road goes all the way from Brescia to Collio. From Milan, after about 80 km on the A4 Milan-Venice motorway, take the SP 19 provincial road onto the SP 345 Tre Valli provincial road.

### CORTABBIO MINES

**How to reach us:** Primaluna is 22 km from Lecco and 70 km from Milan. From Lecco take the Valsassina SP62 provincial road to Primaluna. Turn left in Cortabbio, continue over the River Pioverna and then on to the mine park.

### RESINELLI MINES

**Anna e Ribasso Umberto**  
**How to reach us:** Abbadia Lariana is 7 km from Lecco and about 60 km from the centre of Milan. From both cities, it can be reached on the SS 36 Lake Como and Spluga state road. 800 m before your destination, take the Varenna/Lierna/Mandello/Abbadia L/Lago exit and continue along Via Nazionale (SP72).

### BAGNADA MINE

**How to reach us:** From Sondrio take the SP15 Valmalenco Provincial Road. At the second roundabout, in Vassalini, turn right for Lanzada. After the town, follow signs for Franscia. After a few tunnels, the mine is just a few kilometres from the town of Lanzada, on the right.

### COSTA JELS MINE

**How to reach us:** Gorno is about 30 km northeast of Bergamo and about 90 km from Milan. From Milan take the A4 motorway and come off at Orio al Serio onto the SS470 state road and then the SP35 provincial road to the junction with the SS671 Val Seriana state road. Follow this to Ponte Nossa, then turn left onto the SP46 provincial road that goes up to Zambla Pass. At the fork, follow the sign for Gorno, 3 kilometres up ahead.

### DOSSENA MINES

**How to reach us:** Come off the Milan-Venice A4 motorway at Dalmine and continue for about 14 km towards Valle Brembana, until you come to Villa D'Almè, on the SS470dir state road. Then follow the SS470 towards San Pellegrino Terme for 19 km, go through the spa town and turn right at the sign for Dossena. After about 10 km of panoramic road, you will come to the centre of Dossena. Continue to Paglio, where you will come to the mine site.

### FOGHERA MINES

**How to reach us:** Oneta is 32 km from Bergamo. From here take the Bergamo-Nembro provincial road and then continue along the Val Seriana provincial road (about 35 minutes). Those coming from the A4 motorway can pick up the Val Seriana provincial road straight away, without coming into town, and reach Oneta through the Montenegrone tunnel.

### GAFFIONE MINES

**How to reach us:** Schilpario is 65 km from Bergamo, 70 km from Brescia and 15 km from Milan. Take the road that runs through Val Seriana up to the Presolana pass and from there, through majestic scenery, down into Valle di Scalve. No less panoramic is the



## Colophon — *Magazine*

Igniting the earth with Lombardy mines  
#inLombardia  
Promotional tourist brochure  
edited by Explora S.p.A. in collaboration  
with DG Ambiente e FLA.





## IGNITING THE EARTH WITH LOMBARDY MINES #INLOMBARDIA

— Magazine

*The mining sites no longer assets represent a cultural wealth that the Region protects a special law for enhancement of the discharged mining heritage and promoting the national network of museums and mining parks. Discover the stories, mysteries and crafts of the underground and you are only at the beginning of this adventure in the center of the earth.*

in-lombardia.it  
Share your adventures #inLombardia

