

Golenale del Gruccione Park

"Where the waters of the Oltrepò, nature and humans meet"

Managing institution: Town of Sermide

Established in: 2004

Area: 388 hectares

Protection status: Supra-municipal interest local Park

Year of joining Mantuan Oltrepò

Parks System: 2007

Information

Sermide Environmental Office

T 0386 967000

www.sipom.eu

www.comune.sermide.mn.it

@ ambiente@comune.sermide.mn.it



Located near the town of Sermide, on the south-east edge of Lombardy, the park owes its name to a large **colony of gruccioni** (bee-eaters), birds with splendid plumage which have only started nesting regularly along the Po in recent years.

The wilderness area, set up in 2004, extends over an area of 388 hectares, made up largely of flood plains and huge river islands (like the Schiavi and Bianchi islands). Inside it you will find a landscape typical of the lower course of the Po, made up of **inhabited areas along the main embankment, agricultural areas on "closed flood plains", poplar woods and wetland woods** which have spontaneously settled in abandoned quarries, **oxbow lakes** and huge **sandy areas**.

In one of these abandoned quarries you can find the **"Digagnola" nature area (a)**, set up for nature watching and free to enter, with a circular pedestrian and cycle path about a kilometre long.

Near the town of Sermide, right on the Po, is the **"Teleferica" building (b)**, a unique example of industrial archaeology used as an environmental education centre for the **Mantuan Oltrepò Parks System**. Right next door to the Teleferica are the **tourist docks (c)** and the Sermidese Nautical Association facilities.

Of notable importance, the hamlet of Moglia contains the **Mantua-Reggio Emilia (d) and Revere Agro drainage system (e)** (today joined under the Consorzio Terre dei Gonzaga in Destra Po organisation); built in the early 1900s, it sends much of the water of the Mantuan Oltrepò into the Great River Po itself. From here a 15 km **circular dirt cycle path** sets off, winding along the banks of the Upper Fossalta and Agro Mantua-Reggio Emilia outlet canal. The path is part of the **Parks Cycle Route** that connects all the wilderness areas of the Mantuan Oltrepò Parks System. The park is on the **Eurovelo EV8** cycle itinerary and the **Province of Mantua cycle route 2d**.