



This route takes you along the ridge of the hills that lie northwest of Como, through the Parco Spina Verde Natural Park. It is an easy, family friendly hike which offers many panoramic points, picnic areas and restaurants open on the weekend.

ITINERARY: Como, piazza Camerlata - San Fermo della Battaglia

WALKING TIME: 2 h

ASCENT: 250 m

DIFFICULTY: Easy

TRAIL SIGNS: Signs "Dorsale della Spina Verde". Where not present, follow the main trail



CONNECTIONS: From the Como city centre to piazza Camerlata bus No. 1 direction S. Fermo. Urban (U) ticket. From San Fermo to the Como city centre bus No. 1, direction P. Chiasso. U/B ticket (biglietto urbano integrato)

ROUTE: Head up the hill following via Santa Brigida e Respaù behind the bus stop in **piazza Camerlata**, waymarked as "Parco Spina Verde." Follow the cobbled road uphill as it winds into the woods and leads to a junction near a meadow with a war memorial. Our route continues on straight but we recommend bearing right to reach Castel Baradello (15 minutes), a medieval defensive tower. The **Baradello hill** was once a strategic defensive site. It now affords beautiful views of the town. You can walk through the ruins of a Medieval fortress or visit the Baradello Tower (on holidays in Summer only). The restaurant Baita Baradello opens upon reservation (www.amidelbaradello.it) and offers traditional local cuisine. There is also a picnic area with shadowy benches. Head back to the war memorial and follow the cobbled road "Salita degli Alpini" which skirts the property of the Hostel **Respaù** (393 m), a nice rural house on a sunny hillock with an educational botanic route, rooms and restaurant open upon reservation (www.cascinarespau.it). Walk past the entrance of the hostel and aim for the path up the hill which leads to a plateau where you can find the waymarks for San Fermo, which you follow turning left. Follow the fence of Cascina Respaù di Sopra (445m), ignore the path to Baita Elisa/Casa Scout don Titino and at the following junction follow the signs to **Croce Sant'Eutichio**. Walk along the path uphill to reach an aerial tower, then follow the line of some properties on your left. When the fences end, take the first trail right



Cross of Sant'Eutichio



Viewpoint along the ridge

winding up and downhill to Croce Sant'Eutichio (one hour from piazza Camerlata). From here you have a wonderful view over the city of Como, the first part of the lake and the mountain of Brunate.

A few steps down below the cross, there is the restaurant Baita Monte Croce, open on weekends, with a playground for children and a wide meadow (www.baitamontecroce.com).

The route continues along the mountain ridge towards **San Fermo** and leads to another panoramic point over the city and the lake. Continue downhill by following the largest trail and down a flight of cement steps to reach the first houses of San Fermo della Battaglia. Bear right through the meadow and follow via Monte Croce, then left along via Raimondi (attention children: surfaced roads!) and at the stop-sign turn right to reach the bus terminal beyond the pharmacy.