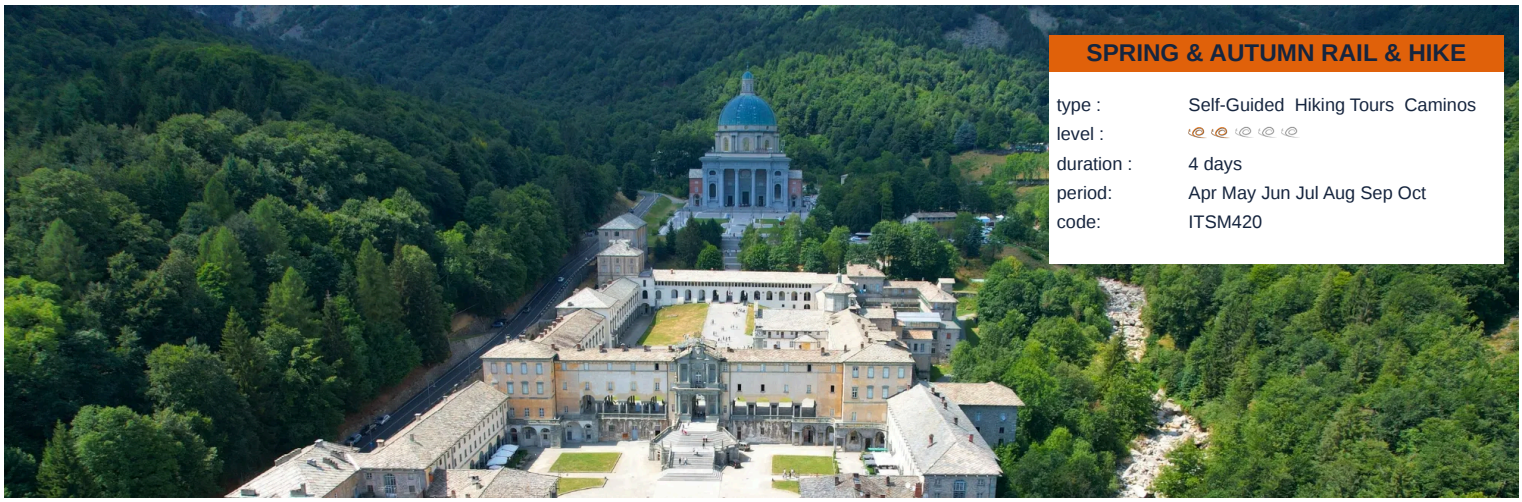

SPRING & AUTUMN RAIL & HIKE

type :	Self-Guided Hiking Tours Caminos
level :	
duration :	4 days
period:	Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
code:	ITSM420

Cammino di Oropa: Piedmont's Alpine pilgrimage - Italy

Cammino di Oropa: Piedmont's Alpine pilgrimage

4 days, PRICE FROM *€ 488*

Discover a hidden gem in **Piedmont** - renowned as the home of the Slow Food movement - trekking along wooden paths that meander through pristine nature.

Embark on a **brief yet enriching Camino**, spanning just four days, from Santhià to the **Oropa Sanctuary** - a UNESCO world-heritage listed site and among the most important sanctuaries in Europe. The majestic dome of the Sanctuary will be your guide, visible throughout your journey. This route leads you from the spectacular **Serra Morenica**, Europe's most remarkable morainic amphitheater, to the jagged peaks of the Biellese Alps.

Each day unveils a distinct natural landscape: vast meadows, ancient 'ricetto' villages (fortified hamlets), and walled communities, culminating in the **mystical aura of the Marian sanctuaries of Graglia and Oropa.**

This shorter pilgrimage is **very beginner-friendly with slow ascents through magnificent natural scenery starting from the Po Valley** and heading steadily into the Piedmont's Alps.

The majestic **dome of the Sanctuary will be your guide,** visible throughout your journey. This route leads you from the spectacular Serra Morenica, Europe's most remarkable morainic amphitheater, to the jagged peaks of the Biellese Alps.

Each day unveils a **distinct natural landscape:** vast meadows, ancient 'ricetto' villages (fortified hamlets), and walled communities, culminating in the mystical aura of the Marian sanctuaries of Graglia and Oropa, bastions of tranquility and awe.

This journey is **perfectly suited for those looking to experience a walking trip for the first time**, offering sufficient diversity to astonish even the seasoned travelers.

The Cammino di Oropa features a **credential** (Pilgrim Passport) and a **Testimonium** (a certificate of completion), marking your journey through this enchanting pathway.

Route

Day 1 From Santhia' to Roppolo, 15 Km

Your adventure starts in Santhià, conveniently linked to Milan by train, where you initially tread upon a segment of the Via Francigena, Italy's most ancient pilgrimage path. As you progress, the trail guides you towards the morainic amphitheater of Ivrea. Along the way, consider pausing in Cavaglià to savor a "Bacio di dama" biscuit, flavored with rum, or the delightful canestrelli.

Today's journey concludes in Roppolo, dominated by its majestic castle. Wrap up your day with a visit to this fortress, which offers a breathtaking panorama over Viverone Lake. Should time allow, catch the sunset from this vantage point; it's a moment when the sky and lake blend in a stunning display of orange and pink hues, crafting a mesmerizing natural mosaic.

Distance: 15 km

Elevation gain: +200/-70 m

Day 2 **From Roppolo to Sala Biellese, 16 km**

Today's journey is a full-on nature immersion! After breakfast, you're off to the lush hills of the Serra d'Ivrea, Europe's most impressive morainic massif.

On your path, you'll discover a charming walled village: the ricetto of Viverone. It's a quaint collection of ancient homes, encircled by towers and walls, serving as a historical hideout for locals in times of threat. Plus, it offers yet another stunning viewpoint over the lake.

Your adventure continues as you ascend to the village of Zimone, perfect for a visit to the Bose Monastery, and then onto Magnano. Here, explore its ricetto and an old mill, an ideal spot to pick up some local treats and uncover the story of its ambitious founder. Your final stop today is Sala Biellese, where you can relax and reflect on the day's explorations.

Distance: 16 km

Elevation gain: +400/-100 m

Day 3 **From Sala Biellese to Santuario di Graglia, 15 km**

This walk leads you through the timeless forests of the Serra Morenica, dotted with expansive meadows and aged farmhouses along the way.

As you approach Donato, the vistas of the Biellese Alps grow increasingly captivating, presenting an endless horizon where snow-capped, pristine peaks rise majestically.

Today's destination is truly unique: the Sanctuary of Graglia, nestled at the base of Mombarone, straddling Piedmont and the Val d'Aosta. Recognized as one of Italy's most significant Marian worship sites, Graglia emanates a powerful energy, offering peace and serenity to all who visit.

Distance: 15 km

Elevation gain: +550/-320 m

Day 4 **From Santuario di Graglia to Santuario di Oropa, 15 km**

Today's route takes you along the slopes of the Mombardone mountain, offering a few mini-adventures like crossing shallow fords and climbing panoramic rises, before leading you into the charming historical heart of Sordevolo.

Though your final destination is near, the memorable sights are far from over: from Sordevolo to Favaro (where the last climb to the sanctuary begins), you'll wander through a continuous panorama of woodlands, pastures, and sweeping views over the Val Padana.

Your path then traces the old tramway that once connected Biella to the picturesque Oropa Sanctuary, marking the end of your journey. This sanctuary is not just your final stop but also one of the most revered Marian sanctuaries in the world.

Distance: 15 km

Elevation gain: +800/-470 m

Practical info

On both arrival and departure, the train station to travel to and from is Santhià, as the package includes a private transfer back to Santhià on the last day.

Thanks to our special APP, you will be able to follow the track of the whole trip on your mobile phone, with no need for internet. GPS tracks are available on request.

Included

What is included

- 3 Nights in double room in **/*** hotels , B&B and camping with breakfast (breakfast not included in Graglia)
- 1 dinner (in Sala Biellese)
- luggage transportation from hotel to hotel and return transfer to Santhià
- Travel documents in digital format, Navigation App
- Pilgrim Passport
- Medical and luggage travel insurance
- 24h phone assistance

What is not included

- Transfers to the starting location and from the arriving location of the tour
- lunches and dinners, if not otherwise stated
- visits and entrance fees - tips
- personal expense
- possible sojourn taxes
- everything that is not mentioned in the "What is included" section.

Optional Services

These services can be added to the ones included in the base price of the tour:

- Single room supplement
- Extra day at the beginning in Santhià
- cancellation insurance
- Guide Book (in Italian only)
- Transfers to reach the starting location or to leave the arriving location of the tour, which will be quoted on request.