



Parco Nord Milano . MILANO

THE PARCO NORD MILANO

There is a green spot on the map of Milan, where the metropolis merges with its northern hinterland: it is the Parco Nord Milano, with a surface of 800 hectares, bound to become the great green lung of the north of Milan. In a short time, a marginal and degraded area without any important presence of green has been reclaimed; the idea of establishing a Park in the most industrialized area of the most industrialized metropolis in Italy dates back in the '60, but it began to become real in 1970, when Consorzio Parco Nord Milano was established after a perfect decree and in 1975 when it was recognized by Regione Lombardia as regional Park.

The first decade (1973-82) was dedicated to the urban planning, than in 1983 a first portion of the disused industrial area went under reforestation with the planting of about 10,000 seedlings; today more than 450 hectares have been reforested with woods and green areas with clearings, tree rows, shrub maquis, vegetable barriers, hedges and small stretches of water.

Excursion - Walking through the Parco Nord Milano

Walking through the Parco Nord you can know and recognize its places. The heart of the park is the **Cascina Centro Parco**. From an old abandoned farmhouse to a place where all the projects and ideas for the future of the Park are elaborated, this building is where all the work plans leave and become reality.

Inside the Parco Nord Milano there is an ancient villa called **Villa Torretta**. Aware of its great potential, in 1981 Parco Nord decided to purchase and recover it, to bring Villa Torretta back to ancient splendor. The frescoes originally present in the villa, depicting town views and charming imagination places, are an important historical memory of the painting of Milan in the Renaissance style and have been replaced in their original environment throughout many years of renovation.

One of the most popular sports gear in the Parco Nord is the **Velodromo**. Conceived as tank to allow the full floods of the river Seveso, and the reinstatement of the Breda canal, the Velodromo is, on the one hand, a solution of hydraulic engineering and, on the other, as sports change thank to the 400 meters asphalt ring created for training on the banks of the overflow.

The signs of the industrial past are represented by the shelter built at the end of 1942 for protect the **Aeronautics Section V** Breda workers in case of attack. The bunker is 100 meters long, it houses 400 people and the workers had about half a square meter each.

Given the main peculiarity of the park as a result of a requalification work of degraded areas, the **Breda Theater** must be highlighted as an interesting point accessible for everyone. Finished in 1994 it represents a good example of how to create a meeting place for citizens from an abandoned industrial structure.

Water has a fundamental importance for increasing the biodiversity of the Parco Nord. The water system was built firstly in 1992 and it is implemented nowadays in the east part trying to realize an ecological corridor. Since the ponds were realized many insects and amphibians such as the European green toad and the green frog have proliferated. The formation of lakes, canals and ponds with a naturalistic setup, will also enable the creation of an environment suitable for permanent and transit of birds, in support of the Regional Ecological Network; it is worth of mention a consistent group of moorhen of spontaneous introduction which has settled down in the Parco Nord and the presence of the gray heron.

The **woodlands and forests** are very important. Now the woods in the park are beginning to be more mature, many plants have started to regenerate spontaneously through natural



dissemination. Thanks to this it is possible today to admire colours which change with the seasons, smell lively perfumes once more which have almost been forgotten by townspeople's noses, and listen to those soft and subtle noises of the landscape which are no longer heard against the underlying buzz of the living metropolis.

In the end, bushes, small native plants and ornamental items have been included alongside the classic work of forestation, mainly aimed to create a continuum of more pleasant, harmonious and ecologically complex environments. Among these, the wide Green **Roundabout** with its red oaks and hornbeams and its circumference of 900 meters long is one the symbol of the Parco Nord. Since '80 it's now the most important evidence of how the architectural design was keeping up with natural trees growth.



DESTINATION Parco Nord Milano (MI)

DATE Wednesday July 3rd, 2019

DEPARTING TIME 9.00AM

MEETING POINT to be confirmed

DURATION approx. 4 hours

TRANSPORT ATM public transportation

MIN. 10 MAX. 50 participants

COST € 20,00 per person

SERVICES INCLUDED park guides and lunch

LUNCH Lunch-pack provided by the Congress Catering supplier



Nature and society facing the Anthropocene
challenges and perspectives
for landscape ecology

EXCURSION TYPE naturalistic excursion in a city park

WALKING TIME approx. 2 hours

TYPE OF PATH urban park

OTHER INFO

We suggest to wear shoes and clothing comfortable for walking in a park in the summertime. Consider to bring with you a hat/cap, sunscreen and mosquitos repellent.

EXCURSION COORDINATOR Riccardo Gini, Parco Nord executive director

INFO and CONTACTS

For **information regarding the excursion registration** please contact

Luisa Bacchetta luisa.bacchetta@unimib.it