

Mongrando Dam Tour

An abandoned bridge, a path to rediscover. Near the village of Mongrando, hidden among the dense vegetation, is the lake of Ingagna, an artificial invader built in the 90s amid controversy and fears. Today the dam is safe and the lake is a destination for bathers and fishermen and for anyone who wants some peace with the panorama of the Biella Alps. The proposed route is quite challenging uphill, but still quite short and pleasant for the long descents of the return.

Technical data

- Duration: **1 h 30 min**
- Distance: **15.7 km**
- Total difference in altitude: **340m**
- Lowest point: **326m**
- Highest point: **531m**
- Stages: **Mongrando - Vagliumina (Graglia) – Colla di Netro (Netro) – Mongrando**
- Level: **Intermediate**
- Viability period: **all year round**
- Presence of drinking water points: **yes**
- Presence of food shops: **yes**
- Suitable for children: **no**

CURIOSITY

The dam on the Ingagna stream

The Mongrando Dam was completed in the 1990s, following a project built in the 1960s. Several times the construction work has stopped, due to unforeseen events due to the unevenness of the soil and the friability of the rock. In addition, it first aroused disapproval and fear in the citizens of Mongrando, whose houses were a few hundred meters from the imposing concrete wall and memories of the tragedy of the Vajont that occurred a few years earlier (9 October 1963). However, since its construction to date, the barrage has never given any problems and has well overcome some floods that have affected the Biellese over the years. Currently the dam measures 56 m high and 300 m long and forms a lake 2 km long and of the range of 8 million m³ of water that serves mainly for irrigation and the supply of fire canals. Every year the lake of Ingagna is the protagonist of a 10 or 23 km ring trail organized by the sports group "La Vetta Mongrando".

TO VISIT

➤ Ecomuseo Fucina Morino (Mongrando)

Itinerary directions

1. Departure at the Mongrando Polyvalent; take Via Enrico Giovanni on the left and at the roundabout continue straight (second exit).
2. Always go straight on Via Monticello and at the intersection shortly after the pharmacy take left on Via Graglia.
3. Stay on Via Graglia for about 2 km, even when it begins to climb considerably, thus arriving in the hamlet of Aral Grande.
4. Cross the group of houses and take the path referred to as "Path 5".
5. The path goes up for a few tens of meters and then becomes flat, until it arrives on the paved road (Via Casale Molino).
6. Take to the left and continue for about 2.5 km.
7. After passing the school on the left, you reach an intersection with the SP500: take to the left and continue for about 2.3 km.
8. Follow the paved road that descends until you reach an intersection, then take to the right, cross the jumper and arrive in the center square of the colla fraction of Netro.
9. Take Via Maestra on the left and once you arrive at the chapel of St. Rocco, continue to the right, following the paved road in the middle of the meadows.
10. Pass a few farmhouses, ignore the two deviations on the right and continue straight, entering the bush.
11. A few meters later you reach the mouth of the bridge over the lake; past the bridge, take the path that remains low, on the left and that skirts the lake.
12. The path ends near the dam keepers' house and you are forced to catch a trail in the middle of the forest that rises steeply to the right; after a few meters you find yourself on the paved road.
13. Take right, climb up to an intersection, then turn left on Way to Netro; always proceed straight ignoring the roads on the right.
14. We therefore arrive in the center of Mongrando; Take Via G. Marconi on the left and continue until you get back to the roundabout, then take right (first exit) and return to the starting point.

Notes
