

# GUIDED TOURS



The monumental complex of Oropa Sanctuary offers a unique heritage to discover. Accompanied by a local guide, you can discover the history, art and architecture to its holiest heart: the shrine of the Black Madonna

## OROPA AND ITS TREASURES - Visit at the Monumental Complex of the Sanctuary



The Oropa Sanctuary, located at 1,200 m altitude, is the most important Marian Sanctuary of the Alps, surrounded by a breathtaking natural landscape. According to tradition, the origin of the Oropa Sanctuary dates back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century a.D., when it was erected by St. Eusebio, the first Archbishop of Vercelli. The oldest documents, dating back to 1200, mention the shrine where the Holy Virgin was worshipped. The current basilica (beginning of 1600) was erected around this small chapel, as was the rest of the impressive building complex, including the Upper Basilica that was consecrated in 1960.

In the Museum of Treasures and in the Royal Apartment of the Savoy Family, it's possible to admire the jewels of the coronation, the liturgical vestments and the documents that have enriched the history of the Sanctuary over the centuries.

**Guided tour:** Ancient Basilica, XVII century Cloister, first and main square, Royal Door, Ex voto Gallery, Museum of Treasures and Royal Apartment of Savoy.

**Duration of the visit:** ca. 1h30' / 2h

**Cost:** € 100,00 (max. 50 pax). Ticket for the Museum and Royal Apartment: € 3,00 per person (€ 2 for groups with more than 25 pax.)

## VISIT AT THE SANCTUARY AND SACRO MONTE - UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE



**Guided tour:** Ancient Basilica, XVII century Cloister, first and main square, Royal Door, Ex voto Gallery, Museum of Treasures and Royal Apartment of Savoy and some chapels of the Sacro Monte

**Duration of the visit:** ca. 2h30' / 3h

**Cost:** € 130,00 (max. 50 pax) . Ticket for the Museum and Royal Apartment: € 3,00 per person (€ 2 for groups with more than 25 pax.)



## OROPA SACRO MONTE, UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE - Visit at the 12 chapels

To the left of the main buildings of the Sanctuary is the "Sacro Monte", a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and a Piedmont Special Nature Reserve.

In the 17th and 18th centuries donations received by various communities of the Biella area made it possible to build twelve chapels here. Life sized painted statues made of terracotta were placed inside the chapels and show scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary. The *D'Enrico brothers*, the *Galliaris* and *Pietro Giuseppe and Carlo Francesco Auregio*, were among the great artists involved in the painting and sculpting of the Sacro Monte project: a large natural theatre where a grand spiritual experience is played out by architecture, sculpture and painting.

**Guided Tour:** walk to the Oretto hill, located next to the Sanctuary, and visit to the 12 chapels dedicated to the life of Mary (XVII - XVIII century.).

**Duration of the visit:** ca. 1h30'

**Cost:** € 100,00 (max. 50 pax)



## THE MONUMENTAL CEMETERY

This cemetery is of great interest for its natural, religious, historical, architectural and emotional aspects.

The project was designed in 1874 by the engineer Camusso, and includes numerous porticoes laid out in a semi-circular pattern with a central chapel. Construction started in 1888 and was called the "Cemetery in the Woods". Its location is particularly evocative and houses the tombs of some of Biella's most wealthy families. One which stands out is the pyramid tomb of the statesman Quintino Sella (1827-1884).

Oropa cemetery resembles the much larger cemetery of Genoa: for this reason it's been called "the little Staglieno"

**Guided Tour:** illustration of the site and the main funerary monuments

**Duration of the visit:** ca. 1h30'

**Cost:** € 100,00 (max. 50 pax)



## BOTANICAL GARDEN , ADVENTURE PARK AND CABLE-CAR

The Garden, an area of botanical interest, cultivates 500 different species and varieties of plants.

The Adventure Park has several platforms of varying difficulty for adults and children.

The cableway from Oropa to the Mucrone Lake climbs to 1900 m of altitude, where the Mucrone Lake is situated.

## SURROUNDINGS: BIELLA, RICETTO DI CANDELO AND BURCINA PARK

**City of Biella:** tour in the historical center, with the Baptistery of the XI century and the Cathedral; visit to the Renaissance Basilica of San Sebastiano, a unique example of architecture of Bramante in Piedmont, and the medieval village of Piazza.

**Distance:** c.a. 30 min. **Cost:** € 100,00 (max. 50 pax)

**Ricetto di Candelo:** charming fortified medieval village of the XIV century, perfectly preserved. Walking in the ancient streets, called "rue", animated today by the artisans' workshops, you can breathe the authentic atmosphere of the Middle Ages.

**Distance:** ca. 40 min. **Cost:** € 100,00 (max. 50 pax)

**Not to be missed:** The **Burcina Park** during the blossoming of May or during Autumn's foliage

## OTHER UNESCO SITES IN PIEMONTE

- The city of Torino and the Royal Residences (UNESCO site)
- The Sacri Monti of Varallo, Orta, Crea, Domodossola, Belmonte, Ghiffa, Ossuccio, Varese
- The Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato
- Viverone Lake (Biella) and the Prehistoric pile dwellings around the Alps