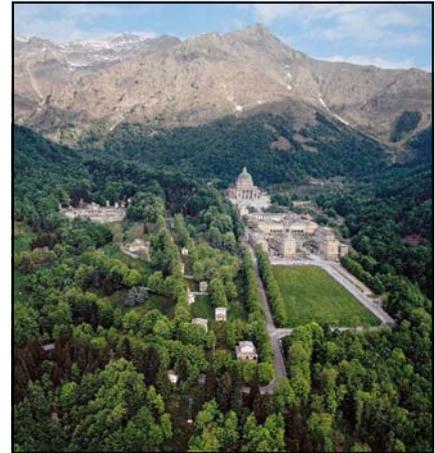




THE OROPA SANCTUARY

The Oropa Sanctuary, located at 1200 m altitude, is the most important Marian Sanctuary of the Alps: it's surrounded by a breathtaking natural landscape at only 20 minutes drive from the centre of Biella.

According to tradition, the origin of the Oropa Sanctuary dates back to the 4th century a.D., when it was erected by St. Eusebio, the first Archbishop of Vercelli. The oldest documents, dating back to 1200, mention the sacellum where the **Black 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. Famous architects like Filippo Juvarra, Guarino Guarini, Filippo Beltrame, Ignazio A. Galletti, Pierpaolo Bonora contributed to designing and developing the group of buildings which make up the Sanctuary.



HOSPITALITY

Oropa offers excellent accommodation for around **550 guests**. There are four room typologies: suite, junior suite, comfort and tourist. They are all stylishly furnished with antique furniture creating an evocative atmosphere.

Oropa offers the possibility of arranging **meetings and conventions** thanks to the meeting rooms with 150, 70 and 30 seats. Business breakfasts, lunches, dinners and galas can also be arranged. Menus pay special attention to the use of local recipes, products and specialities.

The **campervan site**, that has 31 well-lit spaces, has just opened and offers great views of the Upper Basilica. In the surroundings, there are 12 restaurants and typical "trattorie", and numerous shops and bars.



ART & CULTURE

Oropa offers a unique artistic and cultural heritage. A few examples: the 18th century royal door created by Juvarra, the historical library which counts a great number of ancient volumes, the two galleries dedicated to votive offerings, the Savoy Royal Pavilion and the **Museum**, with its collection of jewels and vestments and where the history of the Sanctuary is preserved.

A visit to the **Sacred Mount** is also worthwhile. It is formed by 12 chapels dedicated to the life of the Holy Virgin which are surrounded by hundreds of polychromatic statues, sculpted from 1620 to 1720. It has recently been included among the **UNESCO** World Heritage sites. On the left side of the Sacred Mount you can find the Monumental Cemetery, where stands out the pyramid tomb of the statesman Quintino Sella.



SPORT & NATURE

The **Reserve of the Sacro Monte of Oropa** was founded in 2005 and covers an area of 1500 hectares at an altitude of between 750 and 2388 m. above sea level. Nature and sport lovers will find numerous activities available within the Nature Reserve such as hiking, trekking, via ferrata, climbing routes, mountaineering, mountain biking, ski touring and cross country skiing. You can reach the Savoy mountain refuge (1900 m. a.s.l.) by **cable-car** and then from there, climb up to Mount Camino (2400 m. a.s.l.) by cableway or take a ten-minute walk to the Mucrone lake. From May to September, you can also visit the **Botanical Garden**, run by the WWF Biella section.



DISTANCE

from Biella: 12 km / from Turin: 87 km / from Milan: 115 km

INFO & RESERVATIONS

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