

# Chivasso, the historical town and its river

Text by Davide Battaglia / Photos by Franco Voglino and Atl del Canavese and Valli di Lanzo

## Località di partenza:

Regione Piemonte, Provincia di Torino, Chivasso

## Tipo di itinerario:

a piedi

## Fondo stradale:

Strada asfaltata

## Difficoltà a piedi:

Turistica

## Dislivello in salita (m):

trascurabile

## Dislivello in discesa (m):

trascurabile

## Tempo (hh:mm):

2:30

## Periodo consigliato:

the whole year round

## Uffici informazioni:

Agenzia Turistica Locale del Canavese e Valli di Lanzo

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## Accesso al percorso e note:

How to get:

To Chivasso

By car: A4 Milan-Turin motorway, Chivasso exit

By train: Turin-Milan or Turin-Aosta railway line, get off at Chivasso station.

To Ivrea

By car: A5 Turin-Aosta motorway, Ivrea exit, or A4 Milan-Turin motorway, changing to the A5 motorway at the Santhià junction.

By train: Turin-Aosta railway line, get off at Ivrea station.



*Departure and arrival point  
Ufficio Informazioni Turistiche - Palazzo  
dell'Economia e del Lavoro, Piazza d'Armi  
Time  
About 2 and a half hours  
Difference in level  
negligible*

The walk starts from the Palazzo dell'Economia e del Lavoro "Luigi Einaudi", recently renovated and on whose facade we can see a "New Time Clock" dating back to the French Revolution, when Chivasso was French territory; the clock is divided into 10 hours, each hour into 100 minutes and every minute into 100 seconds. Continuing north along Piazza d'Armi we come to Palazzo Tesio (XVIII sec.); here, in 1943 the declaration of the representatives of the Alpine communities, known as the "Chivasso Charter" was signed. In the north-western corner of the square we find the Stele di Chivasso (Lapis longus) that has ancient origins, dating back, probably, to VII-VI century B.C.. This was a funeral monument, transformed into a pillory for insolvent debtors in 1499.

Turning back along Via Torino we come to Palazzo Santa Chiara, which has been home to the Town Hall since 1800. We continue along Via Defendente Ferrari that skirts the Church of Santa Maria degli Angeli, built in the Sixteenth century, even if the current appearance is Eighteenth century, due to subsequent renovation work.

After Piazza Carletti, from Via Torino we enter Vicolo del Portone, through Via Teodoro II and come to the Torre Ottagonale. This fine medieval structure is all that remains of the impressive castle built in 1178 by Guglielmo IV the Marquis of Monferrato. Opposite the tower we find the Duomo, dedicated to Saint Maria Assunta: consecrated in 1429 before building was completed due to lack of funds, it is one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in Piedmont.

Continuing again along Via Torino we take the picturesque Quintana del Cedro, where we can admire a valuable work in terracotta by Nino Ventura. We then follow Via Don Dublino and, at the end, we turn left into Via Caduti per la Libertà. Immediately after this, we enter Via Borla and skirt the building that houses the kindergarten, built in the Sixteenth century as a convent for Franciscan monks. We return to Via Torino and, turning left, we find ourselves before the Eighteenth century Church of Santi Giovanni Battista e Marta. We walk back a short distance, turn into Via Roma and after reaching Piazza del Popolo, turn into Via Cosola, skirting the ancient medieval walls that mark the boundaries of the town. We come to Via Bosio, then Via Cavour as far as the Canal with the same name, commissioned by Camillo Benso Count of Cavour in just three years, between 1862 and 1866, to carry irrigation water towards the rice fields of the Vercelli and Novara areas.

A little further along we come to the entrance of the Bricel Riverside Park along the banks of the river Po, opened in 2003, taking its name from the typical boat used years ago to carry goods and passenger, as well as for fishing.

After leaving the Park we take Via Po and turn towards the town centre, turning left into Via Caduti per la Libertà and, just after this, into Via Castello. We turn left again into Via Teodoro II and then into Via del Collegio: the building that appears in front of us is the ancient Convent of San Bernardino, built in the middle of the Sixteenth century according to the architectural plans of the Franciscan Order.

From here we turn into Vicolo del Quartiere and find ourselves back where we started.

