

## **(VIA DEI CANNETI)**

This walk along the south-west shore of Lake Orta is about 7km (4½ miles) and takes about **1 hour 40 minutes** from point (3) to point (17) **each way plus stops**. It's on the level, never far from the lake shore. Ideal for mountain bikes too. Safe for children, but a short section after Lagna is along a road. *Via dei Canneti* means the "Way of the Reeds", as for much of the walk you are close to the reeded lake shore. There are pretty views of the island through the trees.



### **1. To starting point by car**

As you drive south along the main lakeside road (SP229), after a long climb up take the hard right turn at point (1) signposted to the **Lido di Gozzano**. Follow this road down to the lake and at the bottom (2) turn left and park in one of the many parking bays (3) behind the rowing club.

### **2. To starting point on foot from Villa Gelsomina**

Follow the first part of Walk 1 (the walk down to **Miami Beach**) as far as the railway bridge (point (14) on walk 1). Cross over the bridge and continue on the main road (SP87).

- You can just continue on this road for about 1km down to point (1) the junction with the main lakeside road SP229, where you cross over. Take the footpath (**Via Francisca**) to the left of the road, walk down towards the lake, turn left at (2), and walk through the parking area (3).
- Alternatively, after 200 metres, just after the long left hand bend around a house, turn left up into the woods. Follow the path through the woods. You pass a **popular local fountain** where locals come to fill up water bottles. After about 1km you come out in **Bolzano** on **Via Artogno**. Turn right on the main road and walk 500 metres down to the main lakeside road (SP229). Turn right and walk 150 metres to the junction (1) where you turn left. Taking the footpath (**Via Francisca**) to the left of the road, walk down towards the lake, turn left at (2), and walk through the parking area (3).

### **3. To starting point on foot from Casa Bartula**

At the cross roads with the main road (SP43) in **Bolzano Novarese**, cross over and walk through the village, taking **Via Torre** down to come out on the main road close to the level crossing. Turn right, go over the level crossing, and continue down to the main lakeside road (SP229). Turn right and walk 150 metres to the junction (1) and turn left. Taking the footpath (**Via Francisca**) to the left of the road, walk down towards the lake, turn left at (2), and walk through the parking area (3).

### **4. To starting point on foot from Orta San Giulio**

Take the walk around the Orta Peninsular (the south side is shorter) and cross over the Orta roundabout on the SP229 lakeside road. After a few metres up the other side, turn right next to the **Santa Caterina Hotel**, up the path between stone walls, keep right at the top (when you come out on the green) and pass under the railway bridge. Turn right, pass the **Hotel Villa San Francesco**, pass the **Cucchiaio di Legno** restaurant, and walk up through the woods on the **Prisciola** road. When you come to the steep left turn up to Vacciago (short crash barrier on your right), go straight on (no longer surfaced), and bear right to Corconio.

In Corconio, drop down through the village, and take the road towards Miami beach, but near the last house (so before you descend) turn up left and take the footpath (can get a bit overgrown) that hugs the railway embankment and wall. You come out at the railway bridge on the SP87 (see section 2 - To starting point on foot from VG). From here you can either follow the road down to the junction (1) on the SP229, or take the path through the woods and **Via Artogno** in **Bolzano Novarese**, as described above.

## 5. To starting point from Casa Fiori

Do Walk 0 down to the lake front, which is point (17). Then do the main walk in reverse, walking south towards the Lido di Gozzano (3).

## 6. Main Walk from Lido di Gozzano to Pella

From the parking bays (3) behind the rowing club and other buildings, walk away from where you came and at the end (4) turn left then immediately right along the signposted path. After passing some houses, further along there are some picnic tables along this section.

Follow the gravel path through the woods. After (5) you are walking behind a series of villas. At (6) **Via Pascolo** joins and the road is surfaced. Soon (6) you come to **Da Venanzio's** lakeside restaurant.

Pass behind **Da Venanzio**, the road narrows. Follow this for some way, you probably won't realise the path changes direction at (8) as you pass a series of houses.

You then come out at **Lagna Beach** (9) which can be very popular in the summer.

Make your way up through the village of **Lagna** (10), the first part is cobbled steeply up hill.

Turn right at the top, left at a cross roads, then right, and left at another cross roads, to come out at (11) crossing the ford next to the narrow footbridge, and with the water purification station (12) on your right.

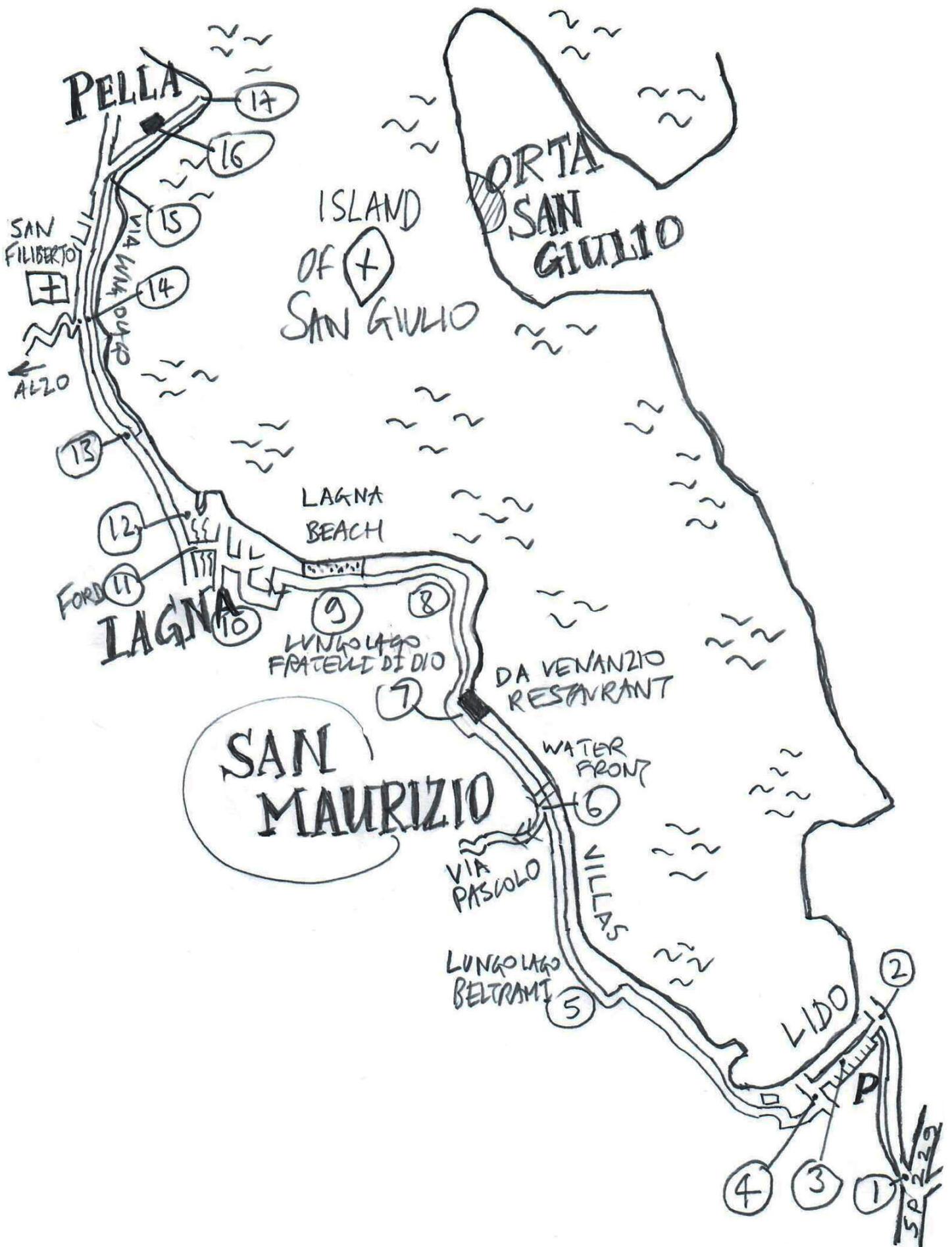
From here it is necessary to walk along the road a few hundred metres. There are plenty of places to take a dip – this stretch can be popular on August weekends for lakeside BBQ's.

At (13) a pavements starts protected by upended stone slabs. Take this pavement all the way into **Pella**.

At (14) the road joins comes down from **Alzo**, next to **San Filiberto church**.

Keep walking along the road and at (15) take the pedestrianised section along the lake front, passing at (16) the wonderful **Gelateria Antica Torre**. Continue to (17) for the **Imbarcadero** Bar/Restaurant, close by where the public boats and launches depart for Orta S G.

If you are not doing the complete circuit (see section 7 below), return the way you came.



## 7. Circular Walk of southern part of Lake Orta with Boat Ride

The walk from Lido di Gozzano to Pella forms the western part of a circular route taking in the whole of the southern part of the lake.

By taking a boat from **Pella** to **Orta San Giulio** at the end of the main walk (section 6 above), you can then follow Section 4 (To starting point on foot from OSG), walking on the south-east side of the lake, to complete the circuit of the southern part of the lake. The route on the east side is more up and down than the west. Obviously you can start at any point of this circular walk!!

For the boat ride, in the middle of day in summer there should not be any problem to get either a launch or the public boat service from Pella to Orta San Giulio. If you need to wait for a scheduled boat, you can always grab a coffee or meal in Pella. At other times, doing the circuit anti-clockwise has the advantage that there are more boatmen stationed in Orta San Giulio.

Here's a sketch map of the complete circuit, showing what's on footpaths (red), and what's on roads (blue). The starting points from **Villa Gelsomina**, **Casa Bartula** and **Casa Fiori** are also shown.

