

## DISCOVERING THE CHURCHES OF THE TOWN

**ROUTE:** Romanic church of Santa Maria Martinico, Convent of the Franciscan Friars, Parish Church of Santo Stefano

**DURATION:** 2 hours approx

Leaving behind the B&B Villa Rosalinda, through Via Scalini or Via Lamberzoni, you can quickly reach the small Romanesque church of **Santa Maria in Martinico**. It was built in 1100 and over the centuries the bell tower, the sacristy, two chapels and the school of a confraternity, later demolished, were added. It underwent extensive renovation at the beginning of 1900. The wall structure of the side is interesting, interrupted by a beautiful side portal with small columns and marble sculptures.



The interior is simple and cozy: along the walls you can admire the remains of frescoes and in the central apse a Renaissance glass window depicting the Virgin is also represented by a beautiful and valuable seventeenth-century statue positioned in the presbytery.

Leaving the church, we continue to Via Iginio Gentile, which, passing by the kindergarten and elementary schools, leads to the bridge of the **Albano River**, from here, continuing on the Strada Statale, in the stretch called, Viale delle Rimembranze, we arrive to the **Sanctuary of the Madonna delle Lacrime**.

It was built starting in 1500 and following a miraculous event it was annexed to the Franciscan monastery. The church has a seventeenth-century appearance, the inside chapels presents interesting paintings and frescoes made by friars-artists of the Franciscan order. The group of wooden statues representing the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, talk about the art of the Sacred Mountains.

Attached to the sanctuary is the **Convent of the Franciscan Friars**, which preserves splendid frescoes that tell the life of St. Francis, two cloisters, a precious library with incunabula and manuscripts.

Continuing on the main road, going to Gravedona, after about 200 m, you come across a road that turns right, Viale Mons. Bellesini, which leads right in front of the **parish church of Santo Stefano**. One of the first churches of the diocese of Como, in 1700 it was invaded by the waters of the lake and for this reason entirely redone and built in Baroque style at a higher level. Inside it is possible to admire numerous frescoes executed by valid European artists such as Carlo Scotti and Giulio Quaglio di Laino.