

**SQUARES AND PALACES WITHIN THE VILLAGE HISTORIC CENTER**

**ROUTE:** Piazza Paracchini Piazza Rubini e historic center **DURATION:** 1 hour approx

Starting from our B&B Villa Rosalinda an interesting historical journey is undertaken through the streets of Dongo. Taking Via Scalini downhill, you immediately reach Piazza Paracchini, thus also overlooking the lake. Piazza Paracchini is the main square of the town and is dedicated to Giulio Paracchini, partisan commander killed during a round-up of the Black Brigades in April 1945. In the center of the square is the monument dedicated to the remembrance of fallen soldiers in the two World Wars.

The square is dominated by the severe and important façade of Palazzo Manzi, now the Town Hall. The palace was built for the Polti Petazzi – Manzi family in the early 1800s, probably by the Milanese architect Pietro Gilardoni. Inside, in addition to the municipal offices, the Civic Library and the tourist office, some original rooms of the historic residence are preserved. The Sala d'Oro is a refined neoclassical hall with a Venetian mosaic floor, stuccos, gilding and Napoleonic style furnishings. Over the vault dominates a fresco made by the school of Andrea Appiani with a representation of the Parnassus, in which Apollo entertains, playing the cedar, the Muses in a country setting.



Adjacent to the Golden Hall is the historic Manzi library, where numerous volumes from the 1700s and 1800s are kept. On the same floor you find the small and pretty church dedicated to the Immaculate (the historical rooms can be visited upon reservation or on some days of opening scheduled in July and August).

The Museum of the End of the War is located on the ground floor of Palazzo Manzi. Dongo is the town where Benito Mussolini and the hierarchs of the Italian Social Republic have been stopped escaping to Germany. They were then taken to the city hall, Palazzo Manzi, to formalize the arrest. Only a few days before, Sala d'Oro, the hall of honor of Palazzo Manzi, was used as a burial chamber for the fallen partisans. The Palace was therefore the scene of memorable historical facts and today becomes the ideal setting for their museum re-enactment. This is how the innovative Museum of the End of the War was born in Dongo: a virtual and interactive journey through one of the most controversial pages in Italian history.

Through exhibits, documents and testimonies, unpublished movies and engaging reconstructions, the exhibition encourages the public to become the protagonist of the story.

Modern multimedia technologies take the viewer into the tragic struggle of Italians against Italians, which characterized the Resistance war on Lake Como as in all Italy. The visitor can thus relive in person the capture and execution of Mussolini and his hierarchs, a dramatic epilogue of the Fascist period.

From Piazza Paracchini you reach the nearby Piazza Rubini, dedicated to a famous citizen of Dongo, Giulio Rubini, who was Minister of the Treasury of the Kingdom of Italy, Minister of Public Works and Director of Falck steel plant. From this square it is possible to feel the atmosphere of the oldest Dongo along the narrow Via Torrazza and Lamberzoni until reaching the harvested and silent neighborhood of Martinico, characterized by its church. To conclude this pleasant walk in a wonderful way you can go through Via Scalini, pass downhill the door of the B&B Villa Rosalinda, head towards the lake, pass in front of the marina.