

WALK TO SAN GOTTARDO

ROUTE: from B&B Villa Rosalinda to San Gottardo **DURATION:** 1 hour approx (one way)
LEVEL: 200 meters

This pleasant walk winds its way through the streets of the historic center of Dongo. Leaving the B&B Villa Rosalinda behind and continuing towards the mountain, you reach the end of Via Scalini. Take a narrow and short street (via Gallio) and head towards the hamlet of Barbignano, walking slightly uphill on Via Antica Regina. At the end of the slope opens the square Largo Antonio da Desio; from here, go up the Caronti staircase that winds through the houses. Here begins a mule track that presents itself disconnected and rather uphill. You can take this walk all year round, but it is rather sunny in summer. When you reach the small chapel of the Virgin, after crossing the main road, take the mule track that leads to our destination in a short time. The church of San Gottardo stands on a wide and panoramic hill, surrounded by plane trees. From this natural terrace it is possible to admire the side of the mountain that rises towards the Albano Valley, the towns of Stazzona and Germasino, various rural houses and some examples, although a little altered by “Masun” (characteristic buildings of ancient typical origin of the Albano Valley) as well as a beautiful overview of the landscape of the High Lake: Gravedona, Domaso up to the first inhabited centers of the Valtellina. The Church of San Gottardo was built during the 1600s for popular devotion to the German saint. Inside you can admire a beautiful altarpiece dedicated to him. In 1833 the large and airy porch before the entrance was built. The feast of San Gottardo is deeply felt in the village and is celebrated on May 4th. At this point you can decide to return by the same road or continue to Stazzona.

**AT THE FOOT OF THE ALBANO VALLEY**

ROUTE: From San Gottardo to Stazzona and return to B&B Villa Rosalinda **DURATION:** 2 hours approx
LEVEL: 200 meters

The route continues on the right of the church, where you arrive at a gate that leads onto a mule track; go over the stream and go right downhill and then go straight on the asphalt road. When you get to the water tubes you go left on the cement road and when you get to the house n.2 go right on via Ponaga up the steps that come out at Via Antica Regina. Go left over the Ponte della Regina (Bridge of the Queen) and at the stop sign go left again (signpost Strada per Garzeno), arriving at the Via Mulattiera p.Montagna (signposted Stazzona/ Brenzio/ Germasino/ Garzeno). Walk on the cobbles going across the village road several times and go uphill along the side of the mountain for about 1,2 km until you arrive at Stazzona, at the hamlet Cassia. At the junction you go straight on the asphalted road, at the next cross roads turn right (signposted Stazzona Chiesa/Brenzio) until the little square, where there is a washing place and a very traditional chapel. The walk goes left, at the junction after the stream left again, passing between the ancient houses of the hamlet of Morbio, from the small square with the washing you go right and at the stop go left towards the church. Go past the cemetery and the town hall arriving at the Church of San Giuliano and at the Masun of Stazzona. The descent leaves on the side of the church facing the lake down a cement track (signposted S.Gregorio/Dongo/Gravedona); at the cross roads after 30 m. go straight on the cobblestones: at the junction go straight on the asphalt road and then go left onto the mule track, preceding by some cement steps. When you get to the asphalt road go left, pass a small chapel and curve immediately round to the right and then straight on the mule track which comes out on the asphalt road another time. Leaving the last houses behind you, walk straight up some cement steps and on the downhill mule track that arrives at Vanzonico. When you get to the asphalt road go left, pass the fountain and at the bend to left on the mule track (signposted Ganda/S. Gregorio/Gravedona). Arriving at Ganda, just before the bend on the asphalt road, go right onto the cobbles of via della Motta, (signposted Dongo/Mossanzonico/Chiesa di San Lorenzo). To return to the starting point you can cross the hamlet of Mossanzonico, taking Via Antica Regina first, turning into Via Fianessa. At the stop sign turn right into Via Matteri and upon reaching the Convent of the Friars on Strada Statale 36, turn left passing the bridge over the river, take Via Tre Pievi to Piazza Paracchini. After Palazzo Manzi, seat of the town hall, take the first narrow road on the left to find yourself in Via Scalini and return to the B&B Villa Rosalinda.