



BIKE ITINERARIES

E2: THE CYCLE PATH AROUND THE EUGANEAN HILLS

The **E2 cycle path** is an almost **completely flat** itinerary, within everyone's reach, which for the most part develops along the banks of the canals that surround the hills.

It is a ring route **about 63 kilometers** long that you can decide to break or travel in a single day.

The road surface is mainly made up of asphalt even if there are some dirt sections in excellent condition, so much so that they can be easily traveled even with a racing bicycle.

From Padua the Euganean Hills (Colli Euganei) appear isolated on the horizon, with undulating lines and a surprising variety of shapes: conical outlines that overlook soft-lined relieves. The result is a dramatic scenery. In order to exploit and preserve this unique landscape and its rich biodiversity, in 1989 the **Euganean Hills Regional Park** was established.

Along the route we come across numerous tourist destinations: the series of **Venetian villas** starts at the gate of Padua with Villa Molin, continues to **Battaglia Terme** with the **Catajo**, with Villa Selvatico-Sartori, and a little farther on with Villa Emo and its well-known typical Italian garden.

When you reach **Monselice**, visit the main square, the castle, and the nearby walkway of the Jubilee Sanctuary of the Seven Churches, which ends with Villa Duodo on the Rocca mount on the top of which is a medieval stronghold.

Going south, you will cross wide areas of reclaimed land where you will find the Buzzacarini-Benetti complex and Villa Barbaro. From this spot you will admire the **southern stretch of the hills**: on the background, the **highest peak**, Mount Venda (601 m), recognisable from the high TV relay station on it, and towards the west you can discern the towers of Este Castle.

After crossing the beautiful historic centre of **Este**, you will follow again the Bisatto Canal, which flows alongside an ancient brickworks, in the locality of Bomba, that hosts the Euganean Hills **Geo-Palaeontological Museum** which is worth a visit for fossil and mineral lovers.

The route goes on towards Mount Lozzo, at the foot of which you will find the 13th-century perfectly preserved **Valbona Castle**, and finishes at **Vo' Vecchio** in a past times atmosphere. The village develops around the 17th-century Villa Contarini-Venier, and it has an original porticoed square.

In **Bastia di Rovolon**, you pass close by a magnificent dovecote tower and you will soon plunge into the lovely vineyards where the famous red wines and the well-known fragrant Moscato Fior d'Arancio wine are produced.

At the end of the country road you will find an easy climb, to then descend towards Montemerlo.

On the extreme north-eastern border of the hills, you'll find the **Praglia Abbey**, an authentic Renaissance jewel and a remarkable Benedictine centre for spirituality.

The last stretch towards Padua passes through the spa towns of Abano and Montegrotto Terme, European capitals of health and wellness.

Detour to the historic towns of the Euganean Hills From the Euganean Hills Ring you can reach the villages of the Euganean hills by cycling along paths or minor roads with little traffic.

From Battaglia Terme you can turn to Galzignano Terme and Valsanzibio (don't miss **Villa Barbarigo historical garden**).

Arquà Petrarca can be reached from Monselice.

A cycle path links Este to Baone, while from Bressio di Teolo

you can reach Luvigliano (**Villa Dei Vescovi**) and the centre of Torreglia.



FROM MONTEGROTTO TO PRAGLIA ABBEY AND BACK

Anticlockwise route to Praglia (ca. 20 km round trip)

Starting from the hotel, continue along via Caposedà toward Torreglia, before the roundabout turn right onto the E2.

The first stop, on a small hill, is the **Monastery of San Daniele**.

Continuing along the track, you will see the majestic **Abbey of Praglia**, an authentic Renaissance jewel and important center of Benedictine spirituality.

It is possible to continue towards **Frassanelle** along a very pleasant flat stretch from which you have a beautiful view of the hills and vineyards.

Going further you will arrive at Bastia di Rovolon where the cycle path crosses the famous **Euganean vineyards** from which the wonderful red wines and the fragrant Moscato Fior d'Arancio come from.



FROM MONTEGROTTO TO MONSELICE AND BACK

Clockwise route to Monselice (ca. 20 km round trip)

Starting from the hotel, continue along via Caposeda toward Torreglia, before the roundabout turn left onto the E2.

Follow the signs for **Battaglia Terme**.

The first point of interest you will find is the imposing **Catajo Castle**.

Then continue towards the center of Battaglia Terme, perhaps with a stop at the **Museum of River Navigation**.

And then continue along the embankment towards **Monselice**.

On your right you will see the imposing structure of **Villa Selvatico**, with its characteristic black dome.

Just beyond **Villa Emo**, with its Italian garden visible from the cycle path.

Once you reach the pretty medieval town of **Monselice**, you can visit the square, the castle and the nearby promenade of the **Jubilee Sanctuary of the Seven Churches** on the Rocca mountain where a medieval fortress stands out.

From there you can continue the ring towards **Este**, another walled city with the ancient walls of the castle, or return towards Montegrotto retracing the same road.