

*Alla scoperta del*  
**Museo Etnografico dell'Alta Brianza**



Un parco da vivere



GALBIATE  
LECCO  
VALMADRERA  
OGGIONO  
MALGRATE  
GARLATE  
PESCATO  
e  
COMUNITÀ MONTANA  
DEL LARIO ORIENTALE  
VALLE SAN MARTINO  
PROVINCIA DI LECCO

Il Monte Barro contornato dai laghi  
*The Moun Barro surrounded by lakes*



Camporeso, sede del museo etnografico  
*Camporeso, head of the MEAB*



Parco particolare e del tutto originale quello del Monte Barro. Un Parco che coincide con un monte che si può considerare un'isola di natura contornata da laghi e da paesi altamente urbanizzati e che al suo interno presenta luoghi di grande interesse.

In quest'area protetta, il Parco, oltre che ad occuparsi della tutela, della valorizzazione e della corretta fruizione di un territorio di rilevante pregio naturalistico, gestisce il Centro Parco dell'Eremo, un Osservatorio Ornitologico e due Musei: quello Archeologico e quello Etnografico.

Quest'ultimo, alla scoperta del quale è dedicata questa pubblicazione, compie quest'anno i 10 anni di vita, anche se l'idea della sua costituzione parte già negli anni '80 grazie alla lungimiranza e alla volontà del mio predecessore, Giuseppe Panzeri, che con determinazione seppe far sì che un sogno diventasse realtà.

In 10 anni il *MUSEO ETNOGRAFICO DELL'ALTA BRIANZA* ne ha fatta di strada, conquistandosi un posto di rilievo nella ricerca e nella divulgazione in ambito etnoantropologico e ciò è stato possibile grazie al lavoro degli Amministratori e dei dipendenti del Parco, alla passione e alla competenza di Massimo Pirovano, che dirige il Museo da quando è stato istituito, al contributo di molte persone e istituzioni e alla determinante disponibilità di tanti volontari senza i quali questo Museo non avrebbe quel prestigio e quella frequentazione che invece ha.

Da parte nostra vi è l'impegno nel continuare a sostenere questa vivace realtà museale.

*The Park Monte Barro is definitely an unusual and original park. Its boundaries fit with those of a mountain; it looks like an isle surrounded by lakes and highly urbanized territories. Within its protected environment, the Park not only guarantees the conservation, the value and a respectful use of the area and its natural beauties: it also supervises the activities of the Centre Parco dell'Eremo (Centre for the park the local heritage of Monte Barro), a Centre for ornithological studies, an archaeological museum and an ethnographic one. This is the tenth anniversary for the Ethnographic Museum which is described in these pages. The project of its foundation has nevertheless a longer history: the starting point traces back to 1980s, thanks to the vision and the will of the former president of the Park, Giuseppe Panzeri, who intensely worked to pursue the goal.*

*In these ten years, the ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM OF HIGH BRIANZA has reached a prominent position in the field of ethno-anthropological research and communication, thanks to its director Massimo Pirovano, the contribution of many researchers and institutions and the decisive participation of lots of volunteers. We, as managers of the Park, want to continue sustaining this important reality.*

*Galbiate, aprile 2013*

FEDERICO BONIFACIO  
Presidente Parco Monte Barro

## Ethnographic Museum of High Brianza

The Ethnographic Museum of High Brianza is a centre where research, exhibitions, lifelong learning and social participation join together. It exists thanks to the will of the administrators of the local Park Mount Barro (Parco Monte Barro), who manages it within its territory.

It is an **ethnographic museum**: the researches here fostered are conducted through the application of methods and techniques of cultural anthropology. These are based on the relation researchers create with subjects belonging to different cultural worlds: farmers, workmen, fishermen, hunters, spinsters, housewives, cooks, whose daily life is studied and interviewed once got familiar with them. Past, here, is a source of interest for both the researcher and the visitor: customs and traditions help us comparing, explaining and comprehending "other" cultures.

The museum is **dedicated to the daily life** of women and men who lived in the hills of Brianza, and to the populations still present here. The settings show jobs, customs, traditions, knowledge and beliefs - ancient or more recent - of this territory.

Open since 2003 in the hamlet of Camporeso, the museum took the place of a group of houses and work environments, such as the stables, formerly occupied by peasant families until the last twenty years of 20<sup>th</sup> century. The building can be reached from the old town centre of Galbiate after a brief route through fields, woods and the wonderful sight of Annone Lake. Giuseppe Panzeri, founder and first president of the Park,

chose this site for the museum because **Camporeso** clearly exemplifies the economy, social structure and popular culture of High Brianza. Its fields were cultivated with grapevines and mulberry; peasants often worked with the only help of their hands. Other products were grain, hay for the animals, fruit and vegetables.

Fiorino Losa, burattinaio  
Fiorino Losa, puppeteer - Lecco, 1983





The different sections of the museum house work instruments and objects of everyday life; interactive multimedia devices display pictures, sounds and voices of people telling stories or singing popular songs.

The **exhibitions space**, dedicated to the memory of Giuseppe Panzeri, regularly analyzes new research topics: religious beliefs, rites and practices, modes and techniques of production, forms of artistic expression, ages of life, social relations and roles.

The **room of intangible heritage** and anthropological dialogue, dedicated to the ethno-musicologist Roberto Leydi, has a crucial role for the museum. Here there are no exhibitions, while photographs, sound recordings e clips reproduce people's gestures and expressions. Many documentaries produced by the museum are screened; they focus on different aspects of the local culture of Brianza and the lake

of Como: fishing, hunting, sheep farming, viticulture, forestry, puppet shows, and many others. This is also the place where to hold conferences, meetings with the locals, round tables, training courses and debates over the researches. These events show how anthropology is based on the relations occurring when people meet together to understand each other.

The visits to the museum are sustained by the **volunteer guides belonging to Associazione Amici del MEAB** (Association of the friends of the museum), who manage the opening times, welcome tourists and school-children, and support many of the activities organized by the institution. This is a **museum of the contemporary**, that assumes a meaning for those who arrive here and for those who participate in its cultural mission. Such an institution intends to be a **societal museum**, not only because it values the local cultural heritage, but also because it stimulates the participation of significant parts of the community.

The **museum of voices and gestures** of the protagonists of local life is a space where different habits can meet. With its mission of a lifelong learning, it has the aim of providing the opportunity for a reflection over our culture and society, with all their changes and complexities, so that we can abandon the mythological image of an idyllic past.

In the **bookshop**, visitors can find many books that help building a deeper knowledge about the topics studied by the researches.

Il canto delle sorelle Panzeri a cui il museo ha dedicato un CD  
Sisters Panzeri, singing a folk song recorded on a Museum's CD  
Galbiate (LC), 2007



## The sections of the museum

The largest room is dedicated to **traditional agriculture**, activity that ensured the sustenance of people along many centuries. Between 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century mulberry tree, hay, grain, grapevine and cattle rearing were the main products of High Brianza. Until the industrialization, they influenced modes and techniques of production, the contractual forms, the mechanisms of land ownership and its transmission. Furthermore, these products determined the conditions of a work often conducted with the only help of human strength. The fields were cultivated by women, men and children, according to a social practice which was not based on salary but needed the work of the entire household.

Until 1950s, women were primarily designated to the activity of **sericulture**. It relied on the intensive cultivation of mulberry, because the silkworm feeds exclusively on its leaves. Peasants used to say that "the mulberry shadow is a golden shadow", as the saying goes, because without diseases of the worms or mulberries, a vital profit for the household could be gained. In order to avoid these woes, devotion to our Lady and the Blessed Jacob was widespread, as other and more antique religious rites. Among the products of the ground, sweet corn had a fundamental importance for centuries. It came to Europe from America; initially used as an ornamental plant, from 18<sup>th</sup> century it became essential in peasant's diet. Corn flour was used to produce two basic dishes: bread and polenta (cornmeal mush).

**Viticulture** was very important, too.

The wine extracted from local grapevines reached a good quality and was marketed until the first half of 19<sup>th</sup> century, when a series of plant diseases caused a crash of the production. After then, local wines continued to be present in peasants' homes despite of their bad quality and low level of alcohol, because they were an energetic beverage sustaining a humble diet. The different stages of **wine-making** were accompanied by joyous chants sung by all the workers. Songs were frequent during many social situations, such as marriages or parties in the taverns, spaces reserved only to men.

**Haymaking** has a crucial importance

La processione per sant'Antonio abate  
A religious procession during the festivity of Saint Anthony  
Brivio (LC), 1983



for the fostering of horses and cattle. Equines were utilized as pack animals, while the seconds were dairy animals. In the hills, fostering was often limited to a few items; this for two reasons. The unpracticable soil forced peasants to work with manual tools; the rules pertaining land ownership and the composition of the families restricted the range of the fields destined to pasture and hay cutting. According to many informants, still up to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the milk was destined to breed the only calf for sale and was rarely utilized for the dairy foods consumed by the household.

The **stable** was often a little building where big animals could find shelter.

Rosa Scaccabarozzi, filatrice  
Rosa Scaccabarozzi, spinster  
Biglio di Valgrehentino (LC), 1994



Thanks to the warmth animals produced, in the winter months it was a venue for assemblies and evening meetings. In the cold season, when the work in the fields was lacking, stables turned into "workshops" where men created wooden objects such as rakes, handles, ladders, chairs, baskets and clogs, and women were busy with spinning, stitching and sewing. Children played and listened to the stories and prayers adults and old men starred. Interactions amongst Youngsters were supervised by parents and adults. The stable, thus, can be thought of as a place of both work and socialization.

One section of the museum is dedicated to traditional **diet** and its changes, seen through the objects of daily life hosted in the kitchens of Brianza; useful tools for the cooking of dishes, vegetables and animals, and for the preservation of the food. Paintings, pictures, chants and stories tell about cooking and nutrition; filmed interviews explain various aspects of this diet. Here you can learn about daily dishes and special meals, but also seasonal and annual foods, and see how they were linked to class stratification. In this section, visitors can also understand the recent changes that made us food consumers depending on the offer made by industry and influenced by the melting pot between different cultural habits and customs.

The museum's open space, exposed to the village of Camporeso, tells about the **means of transport** that, especially in the countryside, marked the class organization. Owning a pack animal was an advantage over who

carried the products only on his shoulders or hands. Landowners and intellectuals did not carry anything. Peasant families instructed children on how to manually transport the products, according to age and genre. Between the lower classes, carrying bigger weights was a point of pride and honour.

Boys learned also some **hunting** techniques, such as the building of simple traps for capturing small birds. The gun would have come with age, depending on the resources of the family, because the munitions were expensive. Hunting, however, was a means by which families could enrich a poor diet. The museum talks about this activity in its separate branch that, in the past, was known as the stationing (roccolo) of Costa Perla. Here people were occupied in **bird catching**, which consisted in using big nets to capture migratory birds attracted by food or bird calls. The roccolo was a complex, expensive wooden structure owned by the gentry or by professional hunters.

**The flute of Pan** (flauto di Pan), a musical instrument which is known in Brianza since from mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and was played in the farmsteads, was gradually integrated in the musical bands and, especially from 1930s, it became a symbol of the local traditions. Thanks to the ability of the few wood artisans left, nowadays the musicians can exhibit in their traditional dresses during local parties and leisure time, and in national and international folklore festivals, as well.

Aldo Mandelli, pescatore  
Aldo Mandelli, fisherman - Brivio (LC), 1998



*The museum offers tutorials and educational experiences, thought for kids and boys from kindergarten to high school, that help knowing aspects of the daily life of Brianza people. They can let children find aspects of a past which is increasingly perceived as different by the new generations. For this reason, the educational courses include both the "discovery" of the museum and manual activities. Children can learn through participation, communication with the guides, handling of different objects and materials, reflection over concrete experiences.*

What you wanna do? At the museum

Pina Spreafico, guaritrice popolare  
*Pina Spreafico, folk healer*  
Imbérìdo di Oggiono (LC), 1991



*with Pagliò and Playing with few things are three activities where careful observation and the creation of simple objects made with recyclable materials are at the heart.*

*At the museum with Grandpa, and At the museum of the voices let visitors meet the witnesses of local traditions and encourage the analysis of different kinds of sound materials. With skilled hands: the flute of Pan is organized around the listening of songs and the observation of an artisan realizing the musical instrument. Whistle a happy tune proposes a first training in the art of singing. Another life and Historians for one day are dedicated to apprehend the methods and instruments of ethnographic research.*

*By integrating the visit to the museum with multimedia devices and practical activities, it became possible to deepen the knowledge of specific aspects of local life, such as sheep rearing and wool production (On the woollen yarn), cultivation and transformation of the grain, which was essential for the rural Brianza (The grain from the ground to the table), food consumption and its changes through the centuries (Eat that soup!). More complex are two courses: Step by step: from the museum to the roccolo, which accompanies the visitors to the separate branch of Costa Perla dedicated to bird catching, and The land of Barro, which includes the cultivation of grain around the schools and a scientific training at the museum focused on the problem of sustainability of our food consump. ■*





## Info

### Museo Etnografico dell'Alta Brianza

loc. Camporeso - 23851 Galbiate (LC)  
Tel. (39) 0341 240193  
fax (39) 0341 240216  
e-mail: [meab@parcobarro.it](mailto:meab@parcobarro.it)  
<http://meab.parcobarro.it>

### Orari d'apertura

martedì/mercoledì/venerdì: 9.30-12.30  
sabato/domenica: 9.00-12.30 / 14.00-18.00  
Chiuso lunedì e giovedì

### Biglietto d'ingresso

Intero Euro 2  
ridotto Euro 1

### Come arrivare al museo

*in auto:* dalla Superstrada Milano-Lecco, uscita Civate-Oggiono seguendo le indicazioni per Galbiate

*in treno e a piedi:* sulla Linea FS Milano-Monza-Molteno-Lecco, stazione di Sala al Barro con una passeggiata panoramica di 40 minuti

### Per informazioni, visite guidate e laboratori didattici

Tel (39) 0341 542266  
fax (39) 0341 240216  
[meab@parcobarro.it](mailto:meab@parcobarro.it)  
<http://meab.parcobarro.it>

### Sala conferenze e proiezioni, bookshop

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<http://meab.parcobarro.it>

### Opening times

Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday: 9.30-12.30  
Saturday/Sunday: 9.00-12.30 / 14.00-18.00  
Closed Monday and Thursday

### Ticket

Whole Euro 2  
Reduced Euro 1

### How to get to museum

*by car:* from the Milano-Lecco highway, exit Civate-Oggiono, follow the directions to Galbiate

*by train and on foot:* take the Milano-Monza-Molteno-Lecco railway, get off at Sala al Barro-Galbiate station; then a forty minutes panoramic walk

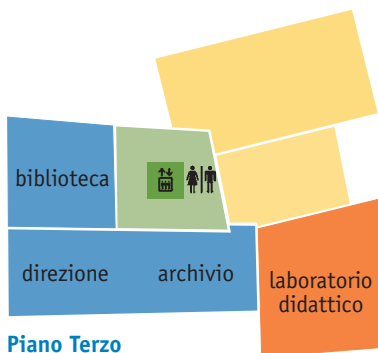
### For informations, guided visits and teaching workshops

Tel (39) 0341 542266  
fax (39) 0341 240216  
[meab@parcobarro.it](mailto:meab@parcobarro.it)  
<http://meab.parcobarro.it>

### Conference room and projector, bookshop



MUSEO ETNOGRAFICO  
DELL'ALTA BRIANZA



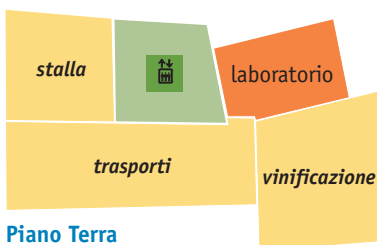
Piano Terzo



Piano Secondo



Piano Primo



Piano Terra

# IL PARCO DEL MONTE BARRO

- ① Villa Bertarelli - Sede dell'Ente Parco e del Centro Flora Autoctona della Lombardia (CFA)  
*Head offices of the Park and of the Native Flora Centre of the Lombardy region*
- ② Camporeso - Museo Etnografico dell'Alta Brianza (MEAB)  
*Ethnographic Museum of Alta Brianza (MEAB)*
- ③ Piani di Barra - Parco Archeologico, insediamento ostrogoto (V-VI sec. d.C.)  
*Archaeological Park, Gothic settlement (V-VI centuries A.D.)*
- ④ Eremo - Centro Parco con Ostello Parco Monte Barro e Museo Archeologico del Barro (MAB) - Chiesa di Santa Maria (sec. XV)  
*Centre Park with the Hostel Parco Monte Barro and Archaeological Museum of Barro - St. Mary's Church (XV century)*
- ⑤ Costa Perla - Ex roccolo, sede della Stazione ornitologica sperimentale e della sezione staccata del MEAB sulla caccia e l'uccellazione  
*Ex hunting lodge, home of the experimental ornithological station and of the annex of MEAB dealing with hunting and bird capture*
- ⑥ San Michele - Chiesa incompiuta di San Michele (sec. XVII) sede di eventi culturali  
*The incomplete church of San Michele (XVII century) location for cultural events*
- ⑦ Baita Pescate - Centro visitatori Parco  
*Park Visitor Centre*
- ⑧ Falesia di Camporeso - Palestra di Roccia  
*Cliffs with climbing ascents*

## CARTA DI IDENTITÀ DEL PARCO

Date di nascita:  
Parco Regionale - 1983  
Parco Naturale - 2002  
Sito di Importanza Comunitaria (SIC) - 2003  
Zona di Protezione Speciale (ZPS) - 2003

Ente gestore:  
Comuni di Galbiate, Garlate, Lecco, Malgrate, Oggiono, Pescate e Valmadrera, la Comunità Montana del Lario Orientale - Valle San Martino e la Provincia di Lecco

Superficie: 665 ettari  
Altitudine: da 200 a 922 m s.l.m.  
Specie di funghi censite: circa 600  
Specie di piante censite: circa 1200  
Specie animali censite: circa 1000

**Sede**  
Via Bertarelli, 11 - 23851 Galbiate (LC)  
tel. 0341.542266 - fax 0341.240216  
www.parcobarro.it - info@parcobarro.it



- Strade di accesso al Parco  
*Access road to the Park*
- Strade interne al Parco  
*Road inside the Park*
- Inizio sentiero  
*Start of footpath*

## Luoghi di ristoro Refreshment facilities

- A** Ristorante Eremo Monte Barro con Ostello Parco Monte Barro  
*Eremo restaurant of Monte Barro with Hostel Parco Monte Barro*
- B** Ristorante Panorama  
*Panorama Restaurant*
- C** Baita Alpini  
*Alpine Lodge*
- D** Ristorante Eremo di San Michele  
*Eremo San Michele Restaurant*
- E** Baita Pescate  
*Pescate Lodge*
- F** Baita Pian Sciresa  
*Pian Sciresa Lodge*

## THE IDENTITY CARD OF THE PARK

Date of birth:  
Regional Park - 1983  
Natural Park - 2002  
Site of Community Importance (SCI) - 2003  
Special Protection Zone (SPZ) - 2003

Managing body:  
Towns of Galbiate, Garlate, Lecco, Malgrate, Oggiono, Pescate and Valmadrera, the Mountain Community of Lario Orientale - Valle San Martino and the Province of Lecco

Surface area: 665 hectares  
Altitude: from 200 to 922 m a.s.l.  
Species of fungi present: approx. 600  
Species of plant present: approx. 1200  
Species of animal present: approx. 1000

Head office:  
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Regione Lombardia

