

WELCOME TO MONTE BARRO REGIONAL PARK

THE IDENTITY CARD OF THE PARK

With this leaflet we would like to help you to discover Monte Barro park and what this place, where nature, culture and history come together to better the lives of those who frequent it, can offer.

On this hilltop you can hike along gentle footpaths to enjoy stupendous panoramas, visit the remains of a gothic era settlement known as Piani di Barra, admire, at the hermitage, the finds of the Archaeological Museum of the Barro, get to know the customs and costumes of common people of Brianza at the Ethnographic museum, investigate the natural history and wildlife of the area by visiting the park's environmental education centre and the ornithological station, get to know the work of the Native Flora Centre for the conservation of plant biodiversity, admire the recently restored unfinished Saint Michael's Church (Chiesa San Michele - scene of shows and cultural events).

In fact, you can... well, the rest I'll leave to you to discover by unfolding this leaflet and, even better, following the paths of Monte Barro.

I hope that you enjoy everything that the park has to offer, and for which we have the duty to safeguard in a way that even those who come after us will be able to enjoy it.

The President,
FEDERICO BONIFACIO

Galbiate, October 2011



Date of birth:	Regional Park - 1983 Natural Park - 2002 Site of Community Importance (SCI) - 2003 Special Protection Zone (SPZ) - 2003
Managing body:	a consortium between the parishes of Galbiate, Garlate, Lecco, Malgrate, Oggiono, Pescate and Valmadrera, the Mountain Community of Lario Orientale and the Province of Lecco.
Surface area:	665 hectares
Altitude:	from 200 to 922 m a.s.l.
Species of fungi present:	approx. 300
Species of plant present:	approx. 1200
Species of animal present:	approx. 1000
Head office:	Via Bertarelli 11 - 23851 Galbiate (LC) Tel. 0341.542266 - fax 0341.240216 www.parcobarro.it - info@parcobarro.it
Do you want to be updated about the activities of the park?	Send us your email, and we'll keep you informed.
In addition to this leaflet three other publications are available on request, including the map of the footpaths ("La Carta dei Sentieri") and A Living Park ("Un Parco da Vivere").	

HOW TO GET TO MONTE BARRO PARK

The park recommends the use of public transport as a respectful choice for the environment.

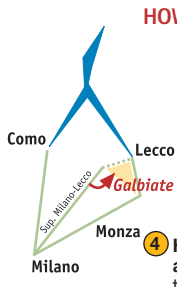
By train: to the stations of either FS (Ferrovie Statali) Lecco, Sala al Barro or Valmadrera. For timetables: www.trenitalia.com

By bus: for arrival at Galbiate, timetables: www.leccotrasporti.it

By car: for arrival at Galbiate (see map):

From Milan-Como: exit at kilometre 44 of the dual carriageway SS. 36 (before the tunnel under Monte Barro) and follow the directions for Galbiate.

From Bergamo-Lecco: at the roundabout of Pescate, take the road up towards Galbiate.



(The roads inside the park are not accessible by bus).

HOW TO REACH THE EIGHT SITES ON THE MAP

- Villa Bertarelli - Head offices of the Park and of the Native Flora Centre.** This is in Galbiate, in the road of the same name.
- Camporeso - The Ethnographic Museum of Alta Brianza (MEAB).** From Villa Bertarelli follow the road up to Camporeso (20 parking spaces). From the car park of Villa Bertarelli it is 20 minutes on foot.
- Piani di Barra - Archaeological Park.** From Galbiate head up towards Monte Barro (4 km) along Via Balassi and park in the Piazzale Alpini (20 parking spaces), then walk on the footpath for 5 minutes.
- Hermitage - The Park Centre with the Barro Archaeological Museum (MAB) and hostel.** From Piazzale Alpini follow the road up approximately 2 km and park inside the gate of the hermitage at the end of the road.
- Costa Perla - Ornithological Station.** From Galbiate head up towards Monte Barro along Via Balassi. 200 metres after the location of Fogliaro take the private road (with the metal barrier on the hair-pin bend) up to the Roccolo. Park in the spaces along the road.
- San Michele - The incomplete church of Saint Michael.** In Galbiate, at the traffic lights at the junction leading to Lecco, follow directions for San Michele for approx. 3 km. Parking just beyond the church has space for 50 cars.
- Baita Pescate - Park visitors' centre.** From the car park of San Michele (see above) walk for 15 minutes.
- Camporeso cliffs - Rock climbing ascents.** From the exit of highway SS. 36 follow for Galbiate, once over the first overpass, enter the large metal gate on the left. Head up towards a large car park from which it is a short walk to the rock face at Piani di Barra.

On public holidays between May to September the road leading up to the hermitage is closed in the vicinity of Fogliaro, where a minibus can be taken.

REFRESHMENT FACILITIES IN THE PARK (see map)

- The Hermitage restaurant of Monte Barro (Ristorante Eremo)**
In the Hermitage of Monte Barro
Tel. 0341 240525
- The Panorama Restaurant (formerly Madonnina).**
In the vicinity of Fogliaro.
Tel. 0341 240587
- Galbiate Alpine Lodge (Baita Alpini Galbiate).**
In the vicinity of Piazzale Alpini.
Open on holidays from April to September.
Tel. 0341 240541.
- Eremo San Michele Restaurant.**
In the vicinity of Alpe Castelli
Tel. 0341 353869
- Pescate Lodge (Baita Pescate).**
In the vicinity of San Michele. Open Wednesdays and public holidays.
Tel. 334 3982112 (when the lodge is open)
Tel. 331 7844489 (for opening times)
- Pian Sciresa Lodge (Baita Pian Sciresa).**
In the vicinity of Pian Sciresa. Open Thursdays and public holidays. Tel. 0341 583520.

- Villa Bertarelli - Head offices of the Park and of the CFA
- Camporeso - MEAB
- Piani di Barra - Archaeological Park, Gothic settlement (V-VI centuries A.D.)
- Hermitage (Eremo) - Park Centre with the Barro Archaeological Museum (Museo Archeologico del Barro; MAB) and dormitories - Saint Mary's Church (Chiesa di Santa Maria)
- Costa Perla - Ex hunting lodge, home of the experimental ornithological station and of the annex of MEAB dealing with hunting and bird capture.
- San Michele - The incomplete church of San Michele (XVII century) location for cultural events
- Baita Pescate - Park Visitor Centre
- Falesia di Camporeso - Cliffs with climbing ascents

- Access road for the park
- Road inside the park
- Start of footpath



Illustrated by Antonio Monteverdi

THE ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM OF ALTA BRIANZA (MEAB)

The museum, open to the public in 2003, documents the daily life of the working class in Brianza and in the Lecco area in the XIX and XX centuries.

Using technically innovative displays, the museum gives the visitor the opportunity to encounter objects, images, sounds, and traditional customs, with the aim of getting to know working methods, everyday and holiday customs, forms of expression, beliefs and world views present in the society of this territory.

As part of the village of Camporeso, of medieval origins, the artefacts are exhibited in various locations: the silkworm raising room, the kitchen, the stalls, the cellar, the portico dedicated to transport, the room dedicated to work in the fields, and the panpipe room.

The MEAB can be characterised as a museum of society, both for the fact that it presents documentary material provided by the local population, and for the fact that it has stimulated a notable involvement by the friends of the MEAB. This is expressed through meetings with upholders of local traditions, conferences, congresses, school activities, educational courses, temporary exhibits, research and publications – both in print and in audio/visual formats – some of which have been widely recognised.



The room of the museum dedicated to silkworm larvae

Opening times
Tuesday / Wednesday / Friday: 09:30-12:30
Saturday / Sunday: 09:00-12:30 / 14:00-18:00
The museum is closed at Christmas, New Year and Easter; it is open Easter Monday.

For guided visits and teaching workshops
Aster s.r.l. Tel. (039) 02 20421469
segreteria@spazioaster.it
Parco Monte Barro - Tel. (39) 0341 542266
Fax (39) 0341 240216 - info@parcobarro.it

The museum includes:
Conference room and projector. Book shop.

THE PARK CENTRE AND THE BARRO ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM (MAB)

The "Giuseppe Panzeri" Park Centre hosts an exhibition wing displaying highlights of the park and a series of dioramas of the principal environments of the mountain. This includes the "Ecological teaching laboratory" with scientific instruments that allow various aspects of nature within the park to be investigated during school visits.

Another wing is reserved for the Barro Archaeological Museum where remarkable artefacts (more than 400) are exhibited, found during the digs carried out by the park between 1986 and 1997 near Piani di Barra, and that brought to light the largest Gothic settlement discovered in Italy (V-VI centuries A.D.). The finds include a crown, coins, cooking utensils, ornaments etc., and in the museum numerous displays allow the visitor to discover the origins of the settlement and the life of its inhabitants.

The nearby Archaeological Park of Piani di Barra covers a flat area that extends for 8 hectares surrounded by a striking landscape, in which the visitor is guided by display panels around the ruins, which are composed of around a dozen buildings.

On the southern flank of the mountain it is also possible to visit a fortified wall, known locally as *muraioo*, which once enclosed the site and includes three crenulated towers.



Archaeological Park of Piani di Barra



One of the rooms of the Archaeological Museum



MUSEO ETNOGRAFICO DELL'ALTA BRIANZA



The rural hamlet of Camporeso

Address: Camporeso
23851 Galbiate (LC)
Tel.: (39) 0341 240193 - (39) 0341 542266
Fax.: (39) 0341 240216
e-mail: meab@parcobarro.it
<http://meab.parcobarro.it/>
Where it is found: Reference n° 2 on the map



MUSEO ARCHAEOLOGICO DEL BARRO



The Park Centre - The environments of the mountain

Where the Park Centre and Archaeological Museum can be found
References n° 3 and 4 on the map.

The Archaeological Park at Piani di Barra is open to the public year-round.

Opening times of the Park Centre and Archaeological Museum
Wednesday: 14:00-17:00
Saturday and Sunday: 10:00-12:00 / 14:00-17:00

The museum is closed at Christmas, New Year and Easter; it is open Easter Monday

For guided tours and teaching workshops
Aster s.r.l. Tel. (039) 02 20421469
segreteria@spazioaster.it
Monte Barro Park - Tel. (39) 0341 542266 -
Fax (39) 0341 240216 - info@parcobarro.it



VILLA BERTARELLI HEAD OFFICE OF THE PARK

Villa Bertarelli, situated in the ancient village of Galbiate is the seat of Monte Barro park. Here the head office of the park and the laboratory of the CFA (Native Flora Centre, Centro Flora Autoctona) are found. The first graphic evidence for the existence of the villa dates back to 1721 (Teresian cadastre). The name is derived from the Milanese family that owned this villa as a second home in 1873 and who renovated the villa extensively, culminating in 1911-1913, thanks to the work of the architect Piero Portaluppi who gave the villa a gracious neo-baroque style. In 1938 it was bought by the industrialist Cavaliere (Sir) Ernesto Bonaiti from Lecco who authorised its use, during wartime (1942-1945), by the Teaching Institute of Mary the Immaculate of Milan (Istituto Magistrale M. Immacolata di Milano) led by the nuns of the Infant Mary (Maria Bambina) who came from two religious backgrounds. In 1954 the compendium

Bertarelli was donated to the nuns and in 1965 it started a new role as a rest home for old nuns.

In 2003 the villa was bought by the town hall of Galbiate and by Monte Barro Park, the latter being the owner of a wing of the villa and the gardens. The gardens are an important and charming aspect of the villa, especially for the splendid landscaping and the panorama over the lakes of Brianza. The inclusion of the Native Flora Centre in the villa has involved the maintenance of underground passageways, grottos and the antique glasshouse, and walk-through displays showing how the centre studies and conserves plant biodiversity.



The gardens of Villa Bertarelli

Address: Galbiate (LC)
Via Bertarelli 11

Where Villa Bertarelli can be found
Reference n° 1 on the map

Website and email of the park
www.parcobarro.it
info@parcobarro.it

Public opening of the gardens
Saturday: 9:00-12:00 and by appointment

Public office hours
From Monday to Saturday: 9:00 - 12:00

Guided tours
Aster s.r.l. Tel. (039) 02 20421469
segreteria@spazioaster.it
Monte Barro Park - Tel. (39) 0341 542266 -
Fax (39) 0341 240216 - info@parcobarro.it

The laboratory and glasshouse of the Native Flora Centre of the Lombardy Region may be visited by appointment.

The rooms of the parts of the villa owned by the town hall of Galbiate are home to prestigious art shows, concerts and cultural events.

THE NATIVE FLORA CENTRE OF THE LOMBARDY REGION

The Native Flora Centre (*Il Centro Flora Autoctona; CFA*) is an experimental station of the Lombardy Region with its head office at Parco Monte Barro. Its main objective is that of promoting activities that guarantee the availability of native plants for conservation and environmental recuperation projects. The CFA is thus involved in all phases of the production of seed mixtures, plants in pots, the collection of seeds in the wild, seed conservation in the Lombardy Seed Bank, the study of the process of germination and successive phases of cultivation in the glasshouse and the open field. Accordingly, more than 500 species have come under investigation, many of which have been successfully reproduced. These include the Lombardy Primula (*Primula glaucescens*), the Mountain Pasque Flower (*Pulsatilla montana*), symbol of Parco Monte Barro, and numerous orchids.

The CFA is involved in a range of projects including the floristic recovery of degraded woodland in the lowlands, the production of seed mixtures for the greening of denuded areas (quarries, ski runs, etc.), the production of rare or endangered plant species for population reinforcement and/or reintroduction. The CFA was founded by the park and recognised in 2000 by the Lombardy Region, and now a number of institutions are involved, including the Minoprio Foundation (large-scale cultivation) and the Universities of Insubria (scientific supervision) and Pavia (Seed Bank).



In vitro propagation of rare orchids



Website and email
www.centroflora@parcobarro.it
centroflora@parcobarro.it

For guided tours
Aster s.r.l. Tel. (039) 02 20421469
segreteria@spazioaster.it

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL STATION OF COSTA PERLA

Each year large numbers of birds in transit between Europe and northern Africa follow a migratory route that takes them across the Alps. Many of these birds alight on the slopes of Monte Barro during spring and autumn, in order to rest and eat. The Experimental Ornithological Station of Costa Perla, situated on the summit of a moraine ridge that extends from the southern flank of the mountain, is housed in an old bird hunting lodge (*roccolo*), with origins at the start of the tenth century, bought in 1988 and converted by the Park into a centre for the study of bird migrations. After almost a century of use for bird hunting, chiefly for the capture of songbirds, the ex-hunting lodge took up its new role as observation post and in 1992 became recognised as an Experimental Station of the Lombardy Region (Stazione Sperimentale della Regione Lombardia),

with scientific and research aims. The birds, captured by mist net, are ringed, measured and freed without harm. To date more than 30,000 birds of 88 different species have been tagged; some of these individuals have been found again in various places in Europe and Africa.

The station also carries out studies of nesting birds on Monte Barro and participates in national and international research programmes.



A robin that has just been tagged



Address : Costa Perla
23851 Galbiate (LC)

Where the hunting lodge of Costa Perla can be found
Reference n° 5 on the map
The fascinating ornithological station is particularly interesting for school and family visits.

Public opening
By appointment during the spring and autumn tagging studies.

In the upper tollbooth of the Brescia area there is an annex of the MEAB dedicated to showing bird hunting and traditional hunting practices.

For guided tours and teaching workshops
Aster s.r.l. Tel. (039) 02 20421469
segreteria@spazioaster.it
Monte Barro Park - Tel. (39) 0341 542266 -
Fax (39) 0341 240216 - info@parcobarro.it

Photos F. Bonifacio

VIEWS OF THE BARRO



From Barro - The lakes of Brianza



From Barro - Sunset on the Resegone



From Barro - The city of Lecco



From the peak - Lecco lake



From the peak - Signpost and Monte Resegone



From the peak - Garlate lake and the Valley of the Adda

Traduzione: Simon Pierce

Photos F. Bonifacio

FLOWERS OF BARRO



Fire Lily (*Lilium bulbiferum*)



Mountain Pasque Flower (*Pulsatilla montana* - adopted symbol of the Park)



Grass-leaved Flag (*Iris graminea*)



Christmas Rose (*Helleborus niger*)



Common Peony (*Paeonia officinalis*)



Lesser Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)

Progetto grafico: click art - Lecco



discovering
MONTE BARRO PARK
and everything it has to offer

