

## Maccagno(214m) – Around the Lago Delio(930m) – Passo Forcora(1178m)

You can not every time deal with our goals of prestige. Today I had only half a day and so I remembered a "minor" target , which I never reached even if I live in this area for over thirty years: the Lake Delio or d'Elio as someone writes it. As everyone knows (except me so far) it is a reservoir created using two dams to close a valley that divides Monte Cadrigna from Monte Borgna. It does a good work by generating electricity during the day while at night the pumps fill it again with the exceeding energy. Because the very limited time I was prepared three variants: just until the Southern Dam, Northern and Southern Dam then go around the lake or if I had "galloped" I also could reach the Passo Forcora. So it was; apparently the route "pays" a lot (\*). In fact, besides you are able to reach both the lake and the pass comfortably seated in the car (solution abhorred!), you can follow an ancient and well done mostly paved trail that has an average gradient of 9.6% but with parts of 14%; however I was far from my usual paths, more strenuous, on rocks, ascents or ridges where it is already difficult to maintain a good balance. Left the car just at the beginning of the way for Val Veddasca then you take the mule track passing through the friendly villages Sarangio (580m) and Musignano (748m) coming out in front of the old Hotel Borgna, just left of the Southern dam. You can follow the Western paved road from here to the Northern dam, then below (the dams are not viable), and climb the trail to Passo Forcora where you can find the "civilization" represented by car and motor bikes parked there, ski lift and holiday houses and a little Church. The place is not bad, tidy, clean and nice, but I do not know how you will see it on the week-ends in winter, when the lifts are open (!?). I returned to the lake then I passed alongside the Eastern bank to complete the lake tour and then down the path through Musignano and Sarangio. Only a drawback: under Sarangio, when I crossed the paved road, I refused to believe my GPS indicating to rise the road a little bit and I followed my "logical and headstrong" instinct telling me to get off; so I found myself around Lake Maggiore one kilometer north of Maccagno. Now I did this "extra" a bit in a hurry passing through two road tunnels and alongside the local rock gym (Cinzanino Climber's Stadium); at last I reached my car.

### Key data:

Altitude difference 964m

Total length 20 km

Average gradient 9.6%

Ascent 964 m

Descent 964 m

Total time 5h16' ; excluding stops 5h00'

Ascent SLF 19.96 km @ 6.92 km/h – Descent SLF @ 8.13 km/h

*\*[the higher virtual speed for both ascent and descent SLF(usually I consider 5km/h and 7km/h) shows the tour easiness]*

Place	Partial t.	Progressive t.	Place	Partial t.	Progressive t.
Sarangio	0h48'	0h48'	Musignano	0h24'	1h12'
Diga S	0h33'	1h45'	Diga N	0h20'	2h05'
Passo Forcora	0h48"	2h53'	Sosta	0h16'	3h08'
Bivio N	0h31'	3h39'	Alb.Borgna	0h25'	4h05'
Maccagno	1h11'	5h16'			