The immutable Allegory of History in the gentle marble profile of "Maria Luisa" greets you in the square. In the Basilica one is immersed in art and music, accompanied by faith, whilst being guided by the layout of a tree-lined avenue which transforms into a vertical momentum of lines and curves. In the courtyards and the frescoed rooms of Salis Palace, one can breathe the patriotism of the Italian Risorgimento in Seventeenth-Century style, where the Garibaldi red inebriates like the ruby and fruity one of the Saloncello. From Door to Door, under the Fifteenth-Century walls, one strolls with Ludovico Sforza and with the military genius of Leonardo da Vinci. One passes from Italy to Switzerland only by changing track. And just like in a fairy-tale, when one boards the Trenino Rosso (Bernina Express), one's eyes are filled with meadows, woods, turquoise, black and white lakes, which mix up with millenary glaciers. At table, one is served full-bodied red wine and buckwheat pancakes cooked in iron pans and seasoned with melting alp cheese. The only additive here is the healthy country conviviality.

This is Tirano. It is referred to as a city not because it is big and noisy, but because history has wanted it to be so, making it a crossroad between the Alps. From north to south, from east to west, it is a crossroad of beauty.
Welcome to our City.

History, art, culture, traditions, the environment, nature, fine food and wine, are the riches that make Tirano a "city of art", precious and unique in its location in the centre of the Alps. Tirano is a crossroad of culture between Italy and Switzerland, where the beauty of the Alpine landscape meets the beauty of art and history. Since 2008 Tirano has been known a Slow City and, as since 2010 it has been City of Wine, but above all, it is a “point of arrival and departure” of one of the most fascinating and admired heritages of the UNESCO: the Bernina Express. We are very proud of all this and are happy to live it every day. That is why we want to introduce to you our City and live it with you.

We wish you a pleasant stay and we welcome you to Tirano.
Tirano is a Municipality bordering with the Swiss Confederation. Situated at an altitude of 420 m. ASL, in the valley, between the river Adda and the Poschiavino torrent, Tirano enjoys a natural strategic position, in the heart of the Central Alps, between Italy and Switzerland. During the centuries it was a crossroad of considerable importance and it owes its current tourist importance to the territory and history. Tirano is 25 Km away from Sondrio, 39 Km from Bormio and 55 Km from St. Moritz. This location places it at the crossroads between the Romanesque via Valeriana, today known as the Stelvio trunk-road, and the road that links Valtellina with the Venetian plain (Pianura Veneta), through the Passo dell’Aprica. Towards the north, by crossing the Valle di Poschiavo, the Bernina Pass, the Engadina and the Rezia, departing from Tirano one arrives in Switzerland. A circular hiking trail which is one of the finest in the entire Alpine region, fascinating for the landscapes, environments and nature, hospitality and relaxation.
History has dipped its pen in the territory, from century to century, from page to page, from the first primitive nucleus of Tirano, at the feet of Monte Masuccio, to the slope which rises to Roncaiola. This is the case - what today is known as a city, experienced Etruscans, Tirrenians, Gauls and subsequently the Romans amongst its inhabitants. In particular it owes its present name most probably to the Romans. The Stele di Tirano and Lovero of the ancient bronze age, the Celtic daggers of Piattamala, the prehistoric cupels above Baruffini, the tholos or “crotti” as shelter for shepherds and sheep which we find on the Rhaetian coast of Masuccio and in Val Poschiavo, the Roman tombstones of Stazzona and the Roman bridge of Villa di Tirano. These are all evidence of the prehistoric and Roman Tirano. These are pages which we can leaf during a walk or during a visit to the Ethnographic Museum of Tirano or the Antiquarium of Besta Palace in Teglio.

The territory writes history
From door to door, towards the great historical routes of the Alps. Charlemagne, during the Middle Ages, had already understood the importance of Tirano and of its routes leading to the great mountain passes and foothills. A strategic importance which during the centuries witnessed in Tirano a succession of all the dominations who wrote the history of Valtellina along with that of Lombardy and the neighbouring alpine regions. People, armies, cultures and regal ambitions have left their imprint and testimonies. The medieval church of St. Perpetua, the great 15th Century Town-walls commissioned by Ludovico il Moro with its Doors, Bormina, Poschiavina and Milanese - even today, these represent an urbanite fulcrum as well as the town’s identity. However, above all one must mention the Sixteenth-Century Basilica della Madonna di Tirano, a votive offering for the Apparition of the Blessed Virgin on 29th September 1504, built between 1504 and 1513, just at the end of the French dominion and shortly before the beginning of the Grigioni dominion.
From the Grigioni to Austria, passing through France. The 18th Century came to a close under the French flag of the Cisalpine Republic. On the other hand, the 19th Century represented for Tirano a century of great history, great men and great public works. The construction of the main road, or rather the road which will lead Tirano out of the Sforza perimeter walls to connect with the Sanctuary, dates back to 1815, precisely the day after the Congress of Vienna with which the Valtellina became a Lombardy-Venetian territory. Only a few years later, the Imperial road of Passo dello Stelvio guaranteed the connection with Austria. So much so that, in 1838, Ferdinand of Austria passed through Tirano on his way to Milan for his crowning as King of the Lombardy-Venetian Kingdom. This is recalled by means of the statue of the Allegory of History of Piazza Cavour, then Piazza d’Armi. The Unity of Italy was at the gates and Tirano played a main role for men and ideas. A spirit of the Risorgimento is still in the historical buildings where, after 1848, the Salis, Torelli, Lambertenghi, Visconti Venosta, Merizzi, Della Croce and Pievani noble families made Tirano the centre of the patriotic drifts in Valtellina.
The architecture indicates when the border is not a limit. This is also evident from that pleasure for something which is beautiful and which the Tirano Liberty proposes with noble charm. At the beginning of the 20th Century, some of the most important Liberty buildings of Valtellina have been built in Piazza delle Stazioni Ferroviarie, Viale Italia, Piazza Marinoni and along the Adda Ortigara. The Liberty tour departs from the place of arrival, namely from the stations. The Italian Railways dating back to the early 20th century, with the decorations in wrought iron and the wooden pediment, inspired by the Swiss architecture of chalets, and, precisely on the same square, the other station, of the Rhaetian Railways, dated 1926, represents a very elegant example of Art Deco Style. Subsequently one proceeds along the streets of the city. Merizzi Palace, House of the antiquarian Chiodi (now the site of a pharmacy), Villa Soncelfi (formerly Martinelli), Villa Tognolatti along the riverside, the station of the historic Autolinee Perego in Piazza Marinoni and the School Building with Athena’s face overlooking the entrance. Athens is the symbol of wisdom with and has a combing mannerism which is more Liberty than Hellenic.
This is the heart of Tirano - the 16th Century Sanctuary which is a treasure trove of art, history, faith, and at the same time fulcrum of the historic identity and reputation of Tirano and the entire Valtellina. It was built by popular faith after the apparition of the Blessed Virgin to Mario Omodei in 1504. Writing about this Sanctuary, Paolo Arcari, a writer to whom the civic library of Tirano is dedicated, wrote "it rises victorious in its prodigality of beauty, in its perfection of wealth, in its fearless drop... ". The Sanctuary, which in 1927 was elected by Pope Pius XI to a minor Roman Basilica, has three naves in the form of a Latin cross and represents the most important example of the Renaissance in Valtellina. It is a harmony of lines and styles which as in a great crossroad of art brings together the Romanesque trait of the great bell tower with the Renaissance trait of the structures on the side of the apse, from the body of the sacristy to the 16th Century dome. And what about the interiors, where art becomes a baroque exuberance in the richness of the stuccos and sculptures, but above all in the musicality of the sound, the carvings and the high reliefs of the majestic 17th Century organ.
From the vineyards to the glaciers, a Heritage of Mankind. Tirano is point of departure and arrival of one of the major UNESCO World Heritages: the Bernina Express. This is a wonder which only by the mention of the name surprises us like children expecting a gift. In fact more than a railway, it is a red fairy-tale on rails which in 2010, celebrated its centenary birthday. One hundred years of “ups and downs”, crossing the Alps, from the Valtellina vineyards to the glaciers of the Bernina Pass. And if the years have not left an imprint, the wonders certainly run on the large windows with panoramic views of the Bernina Express. A fairy-tale journey which keeps passengers literally “glued” to windows, as if they were leafing through a great album with the crème of the alpine landscape flowing with pleasant slowness, before their eyes.
While walking through the old town centre of Tirano one can breathe art, nobility and culture both inside and outside the walls. A mittel-European atmosphere, which amongst the small streets, small squares and fountains leads to the discovery of the many palaces which embellish one of the richest historical centres of the Alps. The Seventeenth-Century Salis Palace, with the noble wine cellars and frescoed halls, House-Museum D’Oro Lambertenghi, Merizzi Palace, Marinoni Palace, the ex-convvent of the Augustinians which today is the seat of the Municipality, Praetorian Palace, Mazza House, Andres Palace, Visconti Venosta Palace, Buttafava Palace, Omodei Palace, Quadrio Curzio Palace, Torelli Palace and Torelli Tower. Furthermore, “outside-the-walls” there are another two palaces when one gets to Madonna di Tirano - the Casa del Penitenziere, an elegant 18th Century residence which overlooks Fiazza Basilica, nowadays the seat of the Ethnographic Museum of Tirano and Homodei – Marinoni small Palace, nobly hidden in the greenery of its garden and in the streets that lead back to the historic centre.

A treasure of Palaces and gardens
Tirano is a concert of churches. A harmonious agreement between architecture and landscape, between history and faith, which in Tirano, as in the entire Valtellina, becomes on its own, a reason to visit and amaze oneself. A musicality of styles, from the medieval charm of Santa Perpetua, to the Romanesque bell tower of the Collegiata di San Martino with its baroque style interior, to the preciousness of small churches, often linked to the historical Palaces or overlooking streets and squares, to conclude in the great symphony of Sixteenth-Century lines and vaults of the Sanctuary. Then, if you want to let nature embrace art, all you have to do is ascend to Baruffini and Roncaiola, reaching small hamlet churches where, as the poet David Maria Turoldo wrote “... the meadows, vineyards and fields seem to wind up around as vast courtyards ...”.
They are like terraces overlooking Valtellina. Cologna, Baruffini and Roncaiola, the three districts of Tirano, look at their city from the top. Immersed in the apple orchards as Cologna, on the orobic side, towards Sernio and Lovero or caressed by the sun among orchards and vineyards as Baruffini and Roncaiola perched on the Rhaetian side of Mount Masuccio. During the last century, they were the last inhabited beaten tracks by the smugglers before crossing secretly the Swiss border, “via mountain”. They are accessible both by car or on foot or by mountain bike. They overlook the vineyards and Tirano, as natural terraces on the Media Valtellina and Val Poschiavo.
In the wine cradle, Tirano is lulled by vineyards throughout the whole of the Rhaetian side. The heroic terracing of Valtellina are monuments to toil and labour, castled in regular geometry on the sunny Rhaetian side. A heritage of rural culture, which is a candidate for inclusion, just like the Bernina Express, as one of the world sites on the Unesco World Heritage List. The great Valtellina wines which are appreciated all over the world are born here. The doors of some of the most famous and appreciated Wine Cellars of Valtellina are open between Tirano, Villa, and Bianzone, in just a few, but “tasty” kilometres. A path between wine and history which like many other things here, knows no boundaries, not even the one between Italy and Switzerland. The “Valtellina” barrels directed to the Northern European markets, transit by along the Bernina, on a donkey’s back in bygone times and now almost exclusively on rail. This is the reason why Tirano is the City of Wine.
The “good and near” is a perfectly normal experience in Tirano. From taste to taste, from producer to producer, the territory offers a “blow-out” of flavours. In addition to the wine, which can be tasted and is available directly from the famous cellars of Tirano, Villa and Bianzone, one must not forget the other pride to taste, the famous Valtellina apples, available directly for sale from the innumerable small producers, from Tirano to Teglio, from Sernio to Lovero. And what should one say about the honey and jams, all of which strictly genuine? However the dish which on its own together with the pizzoccheri, for centuries manages the hospitality and livens up this conviviality is the Chisciöl. Traditional pancakes with a basis of buckwheat and cheese, served crispy with the fresh company of a finely cut chicory salad. Tirano proudly dedicates annually to the Chisciöl a feast, where taste becomes hospitality as only cuisine can do.
From the hotel to the trail, from the train to the trail. There aren’t many cities where nature is at the doorstep. The position of Tirano, barycentric between the Bassa and the Alfa Valtellina, between the Swiss valleys of Val Poschiavo and Engadina, Valtamonica and the foothills of the valleys of Brescia, offers to the trekking lovers, a network of trails, historic roads and fascinating hikes, through landscapes, environments, history and emotions. These can be treaded during all the seasons of the year. The Sentiero Unesco, which from Tirano, on the smugglers’ tracks, leads to Thusis in the heart of the Canton Grigioni, feels like crossing the landscapes painted by Giovanni Segantini. The Sentiero Valtellina, a large pedestrian and cycle ring which runs along the flow of the Adga, among orchards and small villages and allows one to travel safely on foot a good part of the Valtellina, away from the arteries of automotive traffic. Then “from the train to the trail”. The whole route followed by the Rhaetian Railway, intersects with a thousand opportunities for hiking trails, excursions and simple walks, between a station and the other. There is nothing else to do except to put on the boots and leave.
The bicycle is one of the pleasures that makes of Tirano a Slow City, and is the right companion for a visit of the city and of its squares. If then from Tirano one wants to depart with the aim of discovering the Valtellina and Val Poschiavo, there is an absolute vast and diversified choice of cycle paths, depending on the typology of trails, slopes and journey times. From the most peaceful and relaxing family cycling tourism, to mountain biking on trails, to the more challenging cycling, perhaps climbing from Tirano towards the Bernina Pass or towards the famous Passo del Mortirolo. And that is not the end of it. Thanks also to the bike transfer possibilities offered by the Rhaetian Railways, towards Switzerland, and by the Italian Railways towards Sondrio on the Sentiero Valtellina one can enjoy a plain network of tracks and bicycle trails or pedestrian cycle paths where the flow of the Adda River is the guide, among apple orchards and small hubs.
In fact, it is a summer mountain pasture, but it is also a plateau. The Alpe di Trivigno is not far away from Tirano. One gets there either by car, ascending from Stazzona, and passing through the district of Motta and subsequently through Aprica. Otherwise, again by car or better still on a mountain bike, ascending directly from Tirano, after crossing the apple orchards of Cologna to subsequently get to the other “mountain” of Tirano, the Alpe Canali and then from here back to Trivigno. Any one of the two tracks available consents an immersion in nature which here is protected due to its uniqueness. Forests of fir trees, pines, larch and lawn carpets with few houses and small villas now discreetly concealed by nature. During the descent towards the Aprica, one should not miss a visit the Natural Reserve of Pian di Gembro, one of the best preserved peat bogs of Europe.
Tirano is a Slow City and therefore has the taste and pleasure of living. For this reason, each year, it offers a rich calendar of shows and events. Most of these events, such as the traditional Gabinat with the merry mayhem of children on the eve of the Epiphany, constitute the precious legacy of a tradition which has its roots well set in the history of the city and its community. Others, such as Tiranotte, the White Night which during mid-August “animates” the streets and the squares of the city or the Autumn in Tiranese, a food and wine cultural festival, which “animates” a season rich in flavours and traditions for this land situated in the midst of the vineyards and the apple orchards—these events have become amongst the mostly awaited appointments in the calendar of tourist cultural events of Valtellina. A pleasure to live which is enriched every year with exhibitions, festivals, cultural events and of a town entertainment, always new and rich in "delicious" surprises. Because being "slow" gives life to the city, granting it all the time that it deserves.
In Tirano, art and hospitality have ancient roots. From the first medieval pilgrims who, during their journey to pass through the Alps, used to find “ospitium” in the so called “Xenodochi” of Santa Perpetua and of San Romerio, to the merchants who made the alpine passes, between north and south, their paths of commerce, Tirano has always opened the doors of its hospitality and even more of its table. A tradition of hospitality which today translates itself into welcoming and refined Hotels, family Bed and Breakfasts and farmhouses, to which one adds restaurants, wine bars, pizzerias and bars. All sharing one characteristic namely taste and goodness of an offer of food and wine which distinguishes itself in the Alpine area.
Getting to know Tirano and its surroundings...
Historical highlights

The prehistoric findings, located within the boundaries of the territory of Tirano and presently preserved in the Antiquarium of Besta Palace in Legno, are not numerous but important and they testify the presence of man in the area already in very ancient times. The name of the village is probably of Roman origin, but it is attested in documents only from the 30th Century. Having established itself as a free municipality in the 14th Century, it was subjected to the Counts of Stazzana. In 1335, with the Visconti domain on Valtellina, Tirano was the seat of an important fair of the valley, to reclaim the separation from the nearby Basilica, decorated with frescoes from Lombardy to the Republic of Venice. A protestant community was included in Tirano in 1636. The bloody revolt against the Protestants and the Grignoni as a sacrilegious slaughterhouse started off the city in the 16th Century. 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Starting from Piazza delle Stazioni, having reached Piazza Marini, and from here Piazza Quadrotto, before alighting the iron bridge, on the left is the Sixteenth Century Foppoli Palace [1], seat of the civic exhibitions. Having crossed the bridge, one gets in the ancient village, crossed the bridge, one goes up the imposing staircase. Situated on the main floor is the church of Santa Maria della Misericordia [2], with frescoes dating to the Sixteenth Century.

Back to via San Carlo one goes up into the Grigioni Podestà; of relevance are the Sixteenth Century small churches surrounding the road. It belonged to the Visconti Venosta of the same road is the Venosta Palace [10].

And the staircase and the doors enclosed by an elevated walkway and the windows are framed by elegant stucco decorations. The courtyard has porticos and loggias bearing the coats of arms of the women who married the Merizi. Taking via XX Settembre, in front of the Parish Church, is Venosta Palace now Ducale [11]. It has been renovated during the Eighteenth Century with the present entrance and the overlying loggia, the courtyard a porpico decorated with wooden carvings in stone and stucco obelisks covering it.

Further on along the main road. It belonged to the Visconti Venosta of the Visconti Venosta Palace [10], which belonged to the Visconti Venosta of the Visconti Ve...
The Centre outside the City Walls

The route starts from the central Piazza Marini, reachable from Piazza della Stazione, following Viale Italia. On the right of Piazza Marini is the station of the road transport company Pergo. The station represents a combination of late architectural historicism and Art-Deco. Extending on the opposite side of are the public gardens with the Monument to the fallen, Viale Garibaldi stands behind the monument, where one finds the School Building, built in 1908, in Liberty style. Walking along Viale Garibaldi, one gets to Piazzetta Quadrio, on the left of which is an elevated green space with, at the centre, the sculpture of Maria Negro, Stele delle Migranti [1], dedicated to the emigrants of Valtellina and Vaclavinentra. The rural building that houses the Public Library “Pavlo e Paula Maria Arcuri” [2] overlooks the green area. Beyond the stone arch, next to the entrance to the library, is the small square of Casa Grana later Pievani Arcuri [3], with the adjacent Chiesetta di San Giacomo, deconsecrated during the First World War, and site of the civic library until 1994. Alongside the building along via Arcari one can stop at the internal garden with a vague romantic taste, from which one can admire the small Romanesque bell tower. Walking along via San Giacomo towards the Adda one gets to Piazza Maurizio Quadrio, dominated by Foppoli Palace [4], an elegant Sixteenth Century building typical of the period with the external corridor on stone corbels, in addition to the hall on the ground floor, called the Fireplace Hall or Sala del Camino. During the Eighteenth Century, after passing to the hall on the ground floor, one can reach the hall on the ground floor, assigned the property to an institution in favour of the emigrants of the area. It is presently owned by the Municipality of Tirano and is the seat of the civic exhibitions hall. Leaving behind Foppoli palace, on the left, along the River Adda, is an unwinding pedestrian and bicycle trail with fitness trail, along which, not far away, one can stop at the Parchetto dei Geloi [5]. Proceeding along the pedestrian and bicycle path, in fact one walks along the Sentiero Valtellina in the direction of Semio, Lovers and Grosso. Instead, if one wants to return toward Piazza Marini, one can walk along the long embankment towards the valley and turn left on to Largo Risorgimento, thus reaching the starting point of the route. The itinerary in the Centre outside the City Walls is connected from the same Marinoni Square to the other historical routes to discover of the area.
Starting from Piazza Cavour and crossing the central streets of the Historical Centre, one gets to Via Torelli. From here, after crossing the Trunk Road, one proceeds towards the municipal Strada Castello to get to Castello di Santa Maria [1], known as Castellaccio. Having been an essential element of the defensive system of the village, it was built together with the defensive walls by Ludovico il Moro. The aim was that of defending Valtellina from the possible invasions of the Grigioni. The name “Santa Maria” was given because the old church bearing the same name and the adjoining hospital, dating back at least to the XII Century were demolished and incorporated in castle walls. The fortification of Tirano enjoyed more of a civic importance rather than a military one, with the exception of isolated episodes in the second decade of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries, and this affected in particular the urban development of the city up to the beginning of the Nineteenth Century. The ruins of the castle and the tower have recently been restored by the Municipality of Tirano. Going back along Via Santa Maria, one takes via Porta Milanese [2] to get to the city gate bearing the same name and which formerly consented the passage towards Milan. Proceeding further on via Pergola one gets to Piazza Parravicini, dominated by Seventeenth-Century Parravicini Palace [3], opposite which is a fountain with an octagonal pool and the Chiesetta dell’Addolorata [4]. From Piazza Parravicini, following the road on the right and then returning along the river, having crossed Via della Repubblica, from Via XX Settembre one gets to Piazza Cavour. At this point, the route can be integrated both with the route aimed at the discovery of the Castles and the Architectures of the Mountain Community of Tirano, a further suggestion is that of following the same thematic itinerary that connects the various historical sites of relevant in the Municipalities of Semno, Laveno, Tovo, Mazzo, Gissotto and Gosio.
The beginning of the Twentieth Century between the railway station, Viale Italia, Piazza Marimoni and the along Adda Ortigara, saw the construction of some of the most important Liberty buildings of Valtellina. The building of Stazione Ferroviaria (1899-1903) [1], designed by engineer Piccoli and by architect Ramponi overlooks the Piazzale della Stazione. While respecting the typical rules of a public edifice, it presents some originalities that can be found in the rectangular hip-roof surmounted by a wrought iron decorative crest, in the wooden gable, a recollection of the Swiss architecture of chalets, in the rectangular window on the facade. Proceeding to the left is the Villa Martinelli (approx. 1910), and the masterpiece of architect Ramponi, the former Villa Martinelli (1908), now Soncetti [4], most accomplished and mature expression of Liberty architecture in Valtellina. Leaving behind Viale Italia, strolling along the embankment and taking the pedestrian trail, one can see Villa Tognolliati [3], of which one notes the detail of the circular window on the facade. 

Returning towards the River Adda and proceeding to the bank, turning right towards Viale Italia, is Casa Clementi now Moretta [5] (1908), and the masterpiece of architect Ramponi, the building. The facade reflects the eclectic and historicist taste of the client. At the end of the road, on Piazza Marimoni, is Stazione Pergo [6], designed in 1926 by the architect Bormio Clementino Clementi, who built all of the stations of the road transport company Pergo using different stylistic forms. The facade of Tirano is the one with the greatest scenic effect and perhaps his most important work, together with villa Peloni in Bormio. The facade is a combination of late historicist and Art-Deco. Across the square and the garden is Viale Garibaldi, proceeding to the right is School Building [8], the seat of the primary school. Designed in 1908 by architect Giuseppe Ramponi, it has a double twin façade system, with a long side facing the road. In the two entrance porches one can note the decorations of the arches and the stone parapet, surmounted by the face of an Athena, symbol of wisdom, from which there departs a 'lash' hairstyle which is typically Liberty. Returning towards the River Adda and proceeding to the bank, turning right towards Viale Italia, it is Casa Clementi now Moretta [7] (1910), and the masterpiece of architect Ramponi, the former Villa Martinelli (1908), now Soncetti [8], most accomplished and mature expression of Liberty architecture in Valtellina. Leaving behind Viale Italia, strolling along the embankment and taking the pedestrian trail, one can see Villa Tognolliati [9], of which one notes the detail of the circular window on the facade.
From Piazza Quadrio, beyond the stone arch beside the entrance to the library, is the square of Casa Grana later Pievei Aureli, with the adjacent Chiesetta di San Giacomo [1], consecrated on April 1st of the First World War, with a Fourteenth Century Romanesque bell tower and a portal dated 1371. On the way back to Piazza Quadro and beyond Porta Poschiavina one gets to Piazza Cavour.

Overlooking Piazza Cavour is the antique convent of the Augustinians present in Tirano between the XV- XVII Century. Attached to the building is the Church dedicated to San Nicola da Tolentino [2], also known as the Church of Santa Teresa, or Sant’Ogislampo. Proceeding on Via XX Settembre one gets to Chiesa parrocchiale Santa Teresa.

On top, one notes the San Giacomo [1] of the Fourteenth Century, is the first church of the Valtellina area dedicated to S. Carlo, built in 1479. A Fourteenth Century style of 1479. Considerably important is the organ built in 1852 by the Seassi Brothers. On the south side one notes a sundial dated 1674, while the parish house is impressive for the copper triptych dated 1596 of Renee Antamati. After taking Via Caimi one turns in Via Salis where, connected to the building is the Chiesetta della Madonna di Tirano [7] (see description in the next page). Lifting one’s gaze to the right on top, one notes the ancient Chiesa di S. Perpetua [8] (X Century), built by a community of monks, perhaps the order of the Umlial, to whom we owe during the Middle Ages, a large part the organization of the agrarian set-up in the area. The medieval frescoes discovered in 1987 were brought to light and restored in the apse of the church. They are some of the most ancient wall paintings of the province. Not far away, towards Via Ravaia and towards Valpoliclava one can reach Chiesa di S. Rocca [9] dated 1525, with an octagonal base, Giacomo di Medici called the Medeghino (brother of the future pope Pius IV, Archpriest of Mazza) ordered the construction of an octagonal fortress against the Ingigni masked as a temple. In 1531 the deception was discovered. The people of Tirano completed the temple. Beautiful portal dated 700 and a wooden altar-piece with statue of the saint.

In the Districts:

Cologna (610mt):
Chiesa S. Trinita (1537)
Consecrated by the Bishop of Coira;
Roncavola (790mt):
Chiesa dei Santi Stefano e Lucio;
Baruffini (860mt):
Chiesa di S. Pietro Martire (1536);
Trivigno (1700mt):
Chiesa di S. Gottardo
Consecrated in 1701 with the contribution of Count Ugo Salis;
The Basilica is the most important monument of the province from the religious, historical, artistic point of view and is also a place of collective identification for the people of Valtellina. It was erected by popular faith after the apparition of the Blessed Virgin to Mario Omodei (1504). The prevailing renaissance characteristics of the temple, whose builders are deeded to be the Rodari brothers of Como, harmonise perfectly with the lines of Romanesque inspiration of the belfry (1578) at the top of which is an elegant baroque marble structure with balustrade (1641). The façade very slender is completed by a high gable. It has, at the base a beautiful portal and two large marble windows finely worked, by the Ticinese A. Della Scala (1533). Also important are the side portals, perhaps by Bernardino Rodari (1506). Even the complex of structures on the side of the aper are of considerable architectural harmony: the building of the sacristy, the dome of Pompeo Bianchi (1584), and the bell tower on which one can get a glimpse of the great belfry, probably made by the Giroino painter Cipriano Valeria. The interior of the temple is rich in works of art and stuccoes. Among these, the most evident one is the great baroque seventeenth century organ several times referred to as a national rarity for the wealth of engravings of its case. However, even the pulpit, the choir loft, the high altar, the choir [7], the canvases and the interesting popular fresco on one side of the aisle on the left, are also very important. In particular, this fresco is the first dedicated to the Apparition. The point of the Church subject to specific devotion of the faithful is constituted by the Altar of the Apparition (the dominating statue was done by G. Del Majno of Pavia). Behind it, protected by a grate is the place indicated by the Seer where Mary appeared. In Piazza del Santuario the set-up which the buildings constructed for the sake of the temple have conferred to it still predominates: the ancient “Hostaria grande” del S. Michele (5), built immediately after the apparition to host the pilgrims and which now hosts a social work entity, and the series of “fondaci”, small shops functional to the renowned fairs of goods and livestock, which took place there and the progression of which was the decisive factor for almost three centuries for the economy of the entire valley. Anyone leaving the temple through the main door will be able to observe in the left corner the two stone pillers still equipped with the hinges of the door that once closed the entrance to the square towards west; in front the elegant pavilion fountain (10) concluded by Longhi (the author of the altar of Our Lady) in 1780. On the left side of the Square, while looking at the facade of the Sanctuary, we find the Casa Del Penitenziere - Ethnographic Museum of Tirano.
From Tirano to St. Moritz, on the road with the nose glued to the window

The railway tale of the Bernina Express departs from Tirano (429 meters above sea level) leaving Valtellina, the Bernina Express careers in its first curve the Sixteenth Century Basilica della Madonna di Tirano, and from here it starts its ascent, from one surprise to another, between the chestnut trees, leaving behind the vineyards of the great Valtellina wines, which are also red not by coincidence. One doesn’t even have the time to feel truly on the road that, just like children, one remains immediately enchanted when the train seems to be chasing itself on the exposed helical viaduct of Brusio - one of the many engineering works, certainly the most photographed, such to became a symbolic image of the brand UNESCO World Heritage Site. Such an incredible emotion which leads you to believe that you are sitting in a small train model, just like plenty of Lilliputians. The Bernina Express proceeds and ascends up to Poschiavo, the capital of this valley Val Poschiavina, linguistically and culturally linked for centuries with Valtellina, after having brushed against the cobalt green lake bearing the same name. After leaving Poschiavo the train starts its true ascent until it reaches the 2593 metres of the station of Ospizio Bernina. A railway ascent, passing from one bridge to another, from one tunnel to another, from one curve to another, from the plateau of Cavaglia, with its Geological Park “Giardino dei Ghiacciai”, to arrive then to the Alp Grüm station, panoramically overlooking the glacier of Palù. After leaving the Bernina Pass, the small train starts its descent, brushing against the Lago Bianco and the Lej Nair (Black Lake), which mark the watershed between the Po river basin and the Rhine river basin, from here accompanying their waters to the Black Sea. It is difficult to watch all that is beyond the windows, especially in winter, when just here – while crossing the Bernina Pass - the capital of this valley runs with its fantastic slowness between snow walls and white boulders fading gradually in the blue of the sky or in the whiteness of the snow in which the wind lifts up. And when you think that you just used to surges, after having left the departure stations of the two cable-cars of Lagalp and Diavolezza, the first true encounter with the owner of your small train awaits you: the Bernina. You will see it, while with your eyes you will ascend the large glacier of Morteratsch, as you stop in the small station in the woods bearing the same name. Do not worry if at times grumpily, due to a completely egal confidence, you will not be able to notice “the great Bernina” because it will be covered with clouds. However its court of glaciers and summits will always be there, only for your eyes. By now, the trip of the centennial is about to end, after having arrived in Engadina. First stop is Pontresina, and from here finally, after the last twisting in the woods and after 2.5 hours of wonders from the small window, here we are in St. Moritz. A walk by the lake, a chocolate from Hanelman and above all a visit to the Segantini Museum and then, with a simple change of rail your fairy-tale trip can continue, departing to Thusis through the Albula Pass.
A land of great Valtellina Wines

From Tirano to Bianzone, both of them Cities of Wine, passing through Villa di Tirano, one goes through one of the most beautiful enological tours of Lombardy. By car or by bicycle, brushing by the famous grapevine terracings of the Rhaetian side, there are many wine cellars associated with the Consorzio Tutela Vini Valtellina, which welcome the visitors for a visit to their historic cellars, to taste the famous DOC and DOCG wines of Valtellina and for a “tasty” purchase to take home upon their return from the trip to Tirano and the Municipalities of its Commercial District.

For information Consorzio Vini Valtellina
www.consorziovinivaltellina.com

Main enogastronomic events in Tirano and surroundings

May – Tirano
Open Cellars
Last weekend of May

July – Teglio
Pizzocheri Feast

August – Tirano
Festival of Chiocciò

September – Sernio
Chiocciò Feast

September – Tirano
Tirano in Autumn
From September to November – Teglio
Pizzochero D’Orò and Tastes of Autumn Festival in the partnering restaurants

October – Villa di Tirano
Apple and Grapes Festival

For information on the producers:
Distretto Agroalimentare di Qualità della Valtellina
www.valtellinachegusto.eu

The goodness of the agricultural and food products

A visit to the various shops and commercial outlets is enough to get to know and appreciate “all the tastes” of the local food products and fine food and wine which the territory of Tirano and the bordering territories can offer. In this way one can purchase the best of the typical produce of Valtellina. Otherwise one can just plan a tasty visit directly to the various agricultural producers. Not to be missed are the various food and wine events which, on their own, are worth a stay with the aim of enjoying the true tastes of the mountain and of the territory of Tirano.

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Pizzochero D’Orò and Tastes of Autumn Festival in the partnering restaurants

October – Villa di Tirano
Apple and Grapes Festival

For information on the calendar of events:
Tourist Information Office
Tel. 0342 706 066
cattirano@valtellinaturismo.com

Tourist Consortium Terziere Superiore
Tel. 0342 705 568
www.valtellinaturismo.com
info@valtellinaturismo.com

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The Valtellina Path

The Valtellina Path is a cycle and pedestrian route of over 90 km which, running parallel to the course of the Adda River passes through a good part of the Valtellina. It is practicable from Colico to Grosio. Stretches that travel across Tirano:

- From Tirano towards Grosio, with departure from the Lungo Adda Ortigara towards the East.
- From Tirano towards Sondrio, with departure from the right bank of Poschiavino, towards the West.

Information on the whole route:
www.valtellina.it

Itineraries for mountain bikes in the surroundings of Tirano

- Val Belviso Departure from Tresenda
- Aprica-Santa Cristina-Pan di Gembro-Trivigno
- Passo della Foppa-Passo di Guspesa Departure from Grosio
- From Madonna di Tirano to Scala and to Lughina Departure from Tirano
- From Tirano to Lago Schiavona Departure from Tirano
- Anello della Val Grosina Occidentale Departure from Bivio for Presacco-Western Val Grosina
- Poschiavo-Albertuses-Canal Departure from Poschiavo (CH)
- Miralago-Poschiavo-San Romerio-Viano Departure from Miralago (CH)

Information and detailed routes:
www.sentieri.cmtirano.so.it
www.altarezia.eu

Itineraries for road cycling

From Tirano, lovers of road cycling can programme different paths:
- Towards Switzerland, Val Poschiavo and the Bernina Pass, following the road network axis of the Trunk Road 18 of the Stelvio, or ascending the famous Passo del Mortirolo, towards Valtournica through the Passo dell’Aprica

Information on the detailed routes and road layouts:
www.valtellina.it

Itineraries for Cyclists
The UNESCO track

It is a hiking path which from Thusis reaches Tirano, connecting Switzerland with Italy. Running along it is the track of the Rhätische Bahn, which has been declared UNESCO World Heritage. Subdivided into 10 daily stages, it alternates between paths to trails which are practicable also in train and passes through unique and spectacular Alpine landscapes, from the valley of Albula to Val Bever, from the Alta Engadina to St. Moritz, from the Bernina Pass, to Val Poschiavo, thereby ending in Tirano in Valtellina.

Information:
Tourist Consortium Terziere Superiore di Tirano
www.valtellinaturismo.com
Ferrovia Retiche
www.rhb.ch

The Alpine Road

The Via Alpina is a great trail that crosses the Alps, from Trieste to Montecarlo. Even Valtellina, from the Stelvio Mountain Pass to Valchiavenna, as well as the neighbouring Swiss territory of the Cantone dei Grigioni, are crossed by 14 stages of the Via Alpina. Two of these, the R75 and R76 pass on the territory of Tirano.

STAGE - R75 Rifugio Schiazzera – Tirano
STAGE - R76 Tirano Poschiavo

Detailed description of Via Alpina in Valtellina:
www.via-alpina.org

The Ring road path of Baruffini

It is a panoramic hiking road, long in the development, but with a contained drop. It departs from Baruffini and winds, reaching the quarters upstream of the fraction and connects the countless tracks that curve the steep walls of the Mauccio, from the excavated roads to the trails and the military mule tracks, offering a significant route in geographical, ethnographical, historical and naturalistic terms in this mountain range that is not to be remembered exclusively for smuggling.

Smuggling trail

An excursionist path surrounded by nature and history following the steps of the smugglers or “spalloni” who passed through here towards the neighbouring Switzerland loaded with cigarettes, sugar and coffee.

The Path of the Sun

It is a hiking path which, passing through the territory of Tirano, winds along the Rhätische Bahn of Valtellina, from Montagna in Valtellina to Grosotto. The "Path of the Sun" follows the old peasants’ paths, the cobblestone mule tracks, the transhumance paths, which connect abandoned villages with others which are inhabited all year round, churches and castles. It is practicable, snow permitting, practically all year round.

From Tirano: two roads of the path of the Sun. Toward the west, directed to St. Moritz above Castelletto di Chiuro. Toward the East, in the direction of Grosotto.

Thematic Tracks

Castles and architectures of the Mountain Community of Tirano

Route: Grosio, Lovero, Grosotto, Tovo, Sernio, Vervio and Mazzo.

At the discovery of the tastes and the perfumes of the Terziere Superiore

Route: Villa di Tirano, Bianzone, Argo, Chiuro, Porto in Valtellina.

Information:
Tourist Consortium Terziere Superiore di Tirano
www.valtellinaturismo.com
**Natural Reserve of Pian di Gembro (Villa di Tirano)**

The peat bog of Pian di Gembro is a Partial Botany Natural Reserve situated in the Municipality of Villa di Tirano between Aprica and Trivigno. The origin of the peat bog dates back to the last glaciations, about ten thousand years ago, when a strip of the glacier of the Adda River streamed toward that of Oglio river, modelling the basin of Pian di Gembro, then occupied by a lake that over the years has been invaded by vegetable debris. The acidity of the soil and the lack of oxygen have slowed down the processes of decomposition of the plant material thus encouraging the formation of a layer of peat. The vegetation of Pian di Gembro has some rare species, typical of the post glacial periods.

**Route:**
From Tirano to Trivigno and then proceed in the direction of Aprica.

**Opening hours:** Always open to the public.

**Information:**
www.cm.tirano.it

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**Naturalistic Area Le Piane (Sernio)**

The naturalistic area is located on the shores of the artificial lake of Serno-Lovers. The naturalistic trails, arranged by Legambiente, in collaboration with A2A spa (the owner of the land and of the hydroelectric plant), have led to change the perception of that place, making it an interesting naturalistic area. The path starts from the environment of the dry wood, in contact with the sunny side, and proceeds on the shores.

**Route:**
Tirano – From the Lungo Adda Ortigara one proceeds on foot or by bicycle towards the mountain by taking the pedestrian and cycle track.

In the vicinity of the area there is Casanatura di Legambiente, available for stays.

**Information and bookings:** Circolo Legambiente Valtellina
Cell. 339 3465918
ruggero.spada@tele2.it
www.retenatura.it
Town parks

Parco delle Torri Nuove [1]
Between Via Cappuccini and Via Monte Padrino, preceded with services, car parks and wide: tariffs, polyfunctional area, it hosts the weekly market and the Luna park during exhibitions.

Parco di Viale Cappuccini [2]
Piazza Area equipped with games and close to parking spaces, accessible from Via Cappuccini, Via Monte Padrino and Via Pedrotti

Giardini di Piazza Marimonini [3]
In the central area of Torino, a green zone recently enhanced by a new lighting system; between the old Fidenza area there is now an outstanding mihk of the Monument in the Fallen of the Great War.

Parco dei Macini [4]
In Viale Garibaldi, near the Omeda elementary school, an equipped area equipped with games, particularly suitable for small children.

Parco dell’Epinetra [5]
Between Piazzetta Tommolini and Biblioteca Ancarli, a relaxing corner embellished by frameworks of all the poplars, in the center of which stands the monument dedicated to the emigrants from Valtellina created by Mario Negri.

Giardini di Palazzo Ancarli [6]
A quiet green corner has recently been opened to the public. In the street with the name. In this green corner stands the ancient bell tower of the Chiesetta di San Giacomo.

Parco dei Getoli [7]
Beyond the inhabited area, passing on the right of the river Adda, an area shaded by old and lively multiblocs.

Parco degli Olmi [8]
Beyond the Sports Centre, it is equipped with covered areas for various events during the summer period.

Giardino del Cinquecentenario [9]
In Viale Italia, recently restructured to accommodate the monument “Borne Torino” by Michele Falcioni in honour of the quincentenary of the Apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Parco San Michele [10]
It can be reached from Via Sandrini, from Viale Italia and from Piazza Baslica through the ancient via Mazzini, a large area equipped with games, basketball pitch, and football area and polyfunctional sim.

Parco del Pellegrina [11]
Sheltered by the old Chiesetta di Santa Perpetua, in a dominant position above the Moncalieri district, reachable from Via Cappuccini or Piazza Baslica along a stoco and suggestive footpath.

Piazza Unità d’Italia [12]
Located within the “Cartiera” residential area, in the side of Viale Vanni.it was inaugurated in 2011, The area, equipped with games and a large green space, is characterized by the presence of a polyfunctional steel roofed pavilion, suitable for various types of events.

Numeri Utili
Municipio – tel 0142 701124
Comunità Montana Valvitellina di Torino – tel 0142 708513
Museo Etnografico – tel 0142 701181
Biblioteca Città – tel 0142 701123
Polizia locale – tel 0142 708138
Cavalieri 32 – tel 0142 709950
Guardia di Finanza 317 – tel 0142 701223
Polizia di Fornaciola – tel 0142 708511
Ufficio del Fuoco 115 – tel 0142 702292
Corpo Forestale 1515 – tel 0142 702295
Polizia Stradale – tel 0142 705411
Donaga – tel 0142 701198
Ponte Sessoriano – Emergente – tel 118
Ferron da Bormin - tel 0142 701935
Aeroporto Pari – tel 0142 701200
Tassi – tel 0142 701937
Paxia Comunale – tel 0142 701285
L’Incontro Nazionale – tel 0142 701820
Tennis (info c/o Bar Lucignano) – tel 0142 701976

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COME ARRIVARE

In Treno:
Linea TreNOst Milano-Lecco-Soendrio-Tirano (treni diretti da Milano Centrale)
Linea TreNOst Bergamo-Lecco-Tirano
Linea TreNOst Como-Cernobbio-Tirano
Ferrovie Retiche St. Moritz - Tirano

In Auto / Bus Turistico:
Da Milano si percorre la SS 36 (Milano-Lecco-Collina) e poi la SS 38 (Collina-Soendrio-Tirano)
Da Brescia si attraversa la Valle Camonica e il Passo delle Alpi (permessibile per i bus)

Dalla Svizzera:
Dal Passo del Bernina si prosegue per Poschiavo-Tirano
Dal Passo del Maloja si percorre la SS 36 (Chiavenna-Morbegno) e poi la SS 38 (Morbegno-Soendrio-Tirano)
Dal Passo del Maloja si percorre la SS 36 (Chiavenna-Morbegno) e poi la SS 38 (Morbegno-Soendrio-Tirano)

In Bus di Linea:
Linea MIANO-LECCO-(Tepozlione)-BORMIO- Santa Caterina Valfurva-Livigno
Autolinee Penge
Piazza Statunitense 5 - 23017 Tirano
Tel. +39 0342 701 200 - Fax +39 0342 704 400
www.autolineepenge.com

In Camper:
Area attrezzata in via Polveriera
Da Soendrio: alla rotonda a destra prima di giungere al Santuario
Da Sondrio: alla rotonda della Piazza Basilea, intersecate a destra, direzione Soendrio, e alla rotonda, a sinistra
Da Bormio: direzione Soendrio, alla rotonda di Piazza Basilea andare diritto, e alla rotonda, a sinistra