



4- The local region, activities, and festivities.

Whether for trekking, mountain climbing, skiing or fishing, the main attraction of the Locana region is the peace and tranquillity, provided by a clever combination of well equipped facilities in an area totally surrounded by enchanting untouched scenery.

The secret lies in two words, that have become very trendy today but unfortunately not always applied to the same extent: “sustainable tourism”.

Detailed information is provided at the tourist centre in Locana and is also available on internet, explaining which routes to follow to reach the rock faces equipped for free climbing, their difficulty levels, and the equipment required for each rock face: Right at the entrance to the town is the “Falesia di Bosco”. In the hamlet of Nusiglie a beach has been organised on the banks of the mountain stream for summer swimming, and all the paths and tracks for trekking and mountain walks are regularly upgraded and signposted indicating those which are permitted for mountain biking and horse riding.

A specific fishing area has been set up at Fornolosa, on the Orco river just outside the park by F.I.P.S.A.S. (Italian Federation for sports fishing and underwater skin diving) to permit controlled fishing without negative impacts on the environment. Special attention has been paid to organising competitions and activities for teenagers and children.

More water....and more children too, for the guided tours to visit the Iride di Torino Hydroelectric power plant at Rosone. In a project coordinated with the Museum of old and new Crafts and Trades at Locana, the power plant is illustrated and described in detail, explaining the importance of water as an essential and precious resource for life on the planet, and how it is used for the production of renewable energy. Water from the huge Teleccio artificial lake and its enormous dam is channelled in long tunnels cut out of the rock as far as the power plant. A walk up to the great wall on the dam is one of the interesting routes to take in order to see the wonderful views of the lake and the surrounding mountain ranges.

Other small lakes such as Prato Fiorito or Buarét, scattered here and there among the mountains, can be reached walking along the paths and mule tracks that weave through the mountains. Ten years ago an original tradition was started and since then, every September, a local festivity is held: “Singing along the paths of our valley” beginning from Locana.

The excursion, lunch and local folkloristic musical groups create a wonderful event, combining local customs, traditional songs and music with the scenery and flavours of the valley.

There are lots of local festivities to liven up Locano and the surrounding villages between late Spring and the end of Autumn. Certain events are to celebrate traditional local activities and products, such as the chimney sweeps, or the chestnuts, the “marghèr”, and “malgàri”, the local name for the shepherds in the high alpine pastures... the farm goats, and the mountain goats. Other festivities are connected with the local patron saint or pilgrimages to ancient sanctuaries up in the mountains, such as those of san Vito at Cambrelle, the Madonna di Prascondù or the Santuario di Sant’Anna, at Mainardi: at 1480 metres above sea level is the largest religious building inside the Gran Paradiso National Park.

And there are more festivities at Chironio and at Balmella, at Montepiano and at Pratolungo, and there are mountain-bike races, like those at Carello, fishing competitions, like those at Fornolosa, or trail running through the mountains like that held at the Pontese or Piandemma-Mulinèr refuges.

In short: no time to get bored !