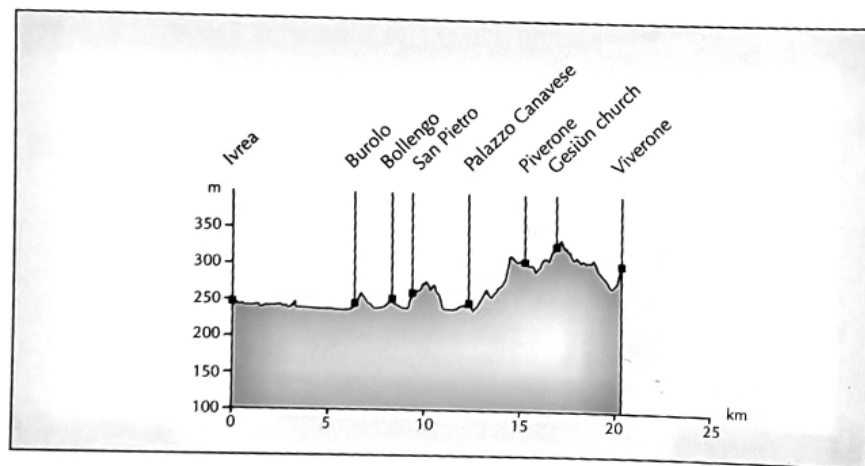


STAGE 13

Ivrea to Viverone

Start	Ivrea, Piazza Ferruccio Nazionale
Finish	Viverone, Town Hall
Distance	20.2km
Total ascent	401m
Total descent	355m
Difficulty	Easy
Duration	5½hr
Percentage paved	81%
Hostels	Burolo 6.4km, Piverone 15.2km, Viverone 20.2km (B&B, rooms)

The stage crosses the Serra Morenica d'Ivrea, an area of moraines that makes for a gently undulating walk marking the transition from Alpine foothills to Po Valley flatlands. Pass two 11th c. churches as you alternate between woods and vineyards to end at the lakeside town of Viverone.



With your back to Ivrea's town hall, turn right and head down the quiet, main pedestrian street, the Via Palestro. This ends at a roundabout, where on the right side you will find a Via Francigena information point with maps and brochures. Follow the SS26

Azeglio sits above Lago di Viverone with the Alps in the background

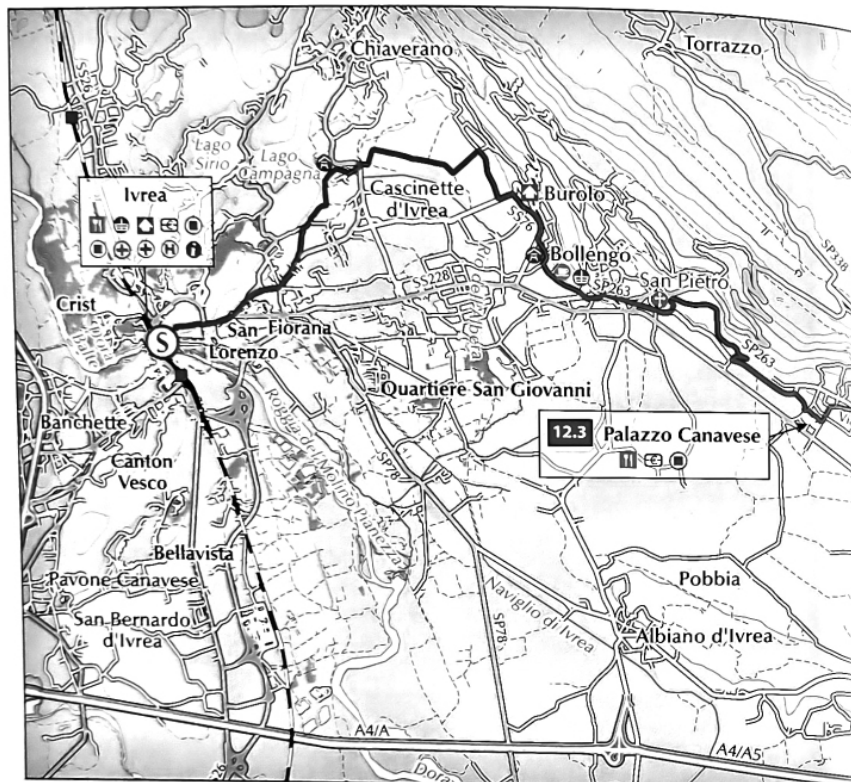


straight ahead, forking left onto Via Cascinette and continuing until a narrow asphalt path forks left toward **Lago Campagna**, a quiet lake where a briefly steep path takes you along the shore. A left turn after a picnic area (3.2km) leads you to a series of gravel farm roads among cornfields and tree plantations, zigzagging before the green ridge straight ahead. Pass below **Burolo** (3.2km), a town of new, white stucco homes with red tile roofs above on the ridge (▲ **Associazione Mondo di Comunità e Famiglia** ☐ **Pr Do R K W S Z** 10/25, €Donation, Via Parrocchia 15, www.comunitaefamiglia.org, burolomcf@gmail.com, tel 0125 676448. Closed Dec–Jan. An association for social integration, justice and community development welcomes pilgrims.).

Follow the **SS76** briefly before forking left to climb along the lower slope of the ridge. After a cemetery and pilgrim rest area (0.8km) come to the historic center of picturesque **Bollengo** (1.1km, café, groceries). Continue on the quiet **SP263** asphalt road along the foot of the forested ridge. Turn left off the road to come to the 11th–12th c. **Chiesa di San Pietro** (1.0km, picnic tables), a fine example of Romanesque architecture whose parish has long since disappeared. The road then sits on a terrace along the ridge, with a tall stone wall on the left and a similar stone wall below to the right. A switchback leads down to the valley floor and soon you see signs for **Palazzo Canavese** (3.0km).

12.3KM PALAZZO CANAVESE (ELEV 244M, POP 843) III ☐ ☐ (886.0KM)

In the 12th and 13th c. this town of Roman origins found itself caught in **continual battles** between Ivrea and Vercelli. The distinctive tall brick clock tower with a pointed roof and four archways at its base presides over a large piazza with benches. The architecture is typical of Canavese villages – stucco-covered brick two-storey houses with balconies often covered by wide wooden eaves below roofs of red clay tiles. (Bus 351 to Viverone www.atapsa.it.)

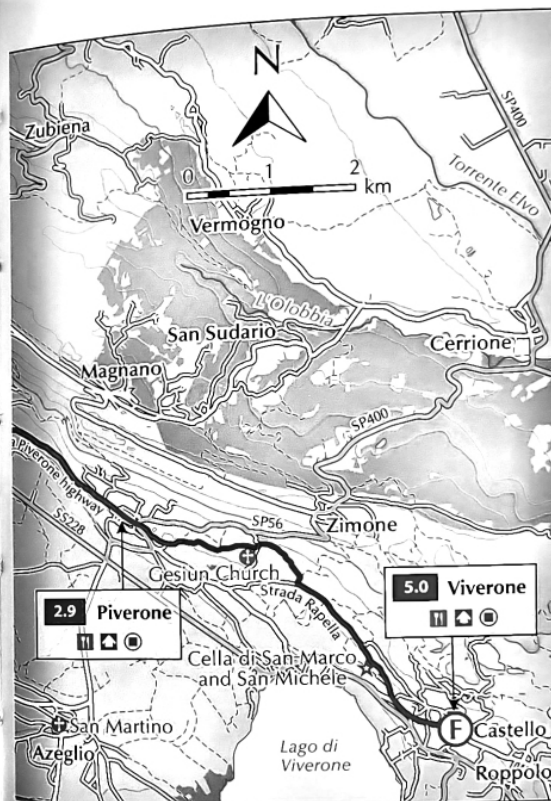


Turn left before the tower and follow Via del Castello down and around, exiting town down steps and soon following the **Via Piverone** highway. Come to a summit followed by signs indicating you are entering **Piverone**.

2.9KM PIVERONE (ELEV 305M, POP 1381) (883.2KM)

Piverone's name, rather than being a variant of nearby Viverone, is said to come from the 'peppery' character of its residents (*peperone* tr: 'pepper'). In the 13th c. the ruling magistrate of Vercelli fortified the town with a bastion of three towers, one of which remains at the entrance to the old town as its squat clock tower. A tower of the former **Church of San Pietro** remains as well.

▲ **Casa per Ferie la Steiva** ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 4/30, €15/-/-, Via Giovanni Flecchia, ostellolasteiva@gmail.com, tel 339 7219024.



STAGE 13 – IVREA TO VIVERONE

At the end of the old city, go straight onto Strada Novello and just after passing through town see your first glimpse of **Lago di Viverone** on the right, with lakeside Azeglio on the opposite shore and, on a clear day, a view of the Alps behind. A left turn takes you among pleasant vineyard roads to the ruins of tiny **Gesiun Church** (1.7km). This 11th c. church is an important example of the Romanesque Canavese architectural style. It was once center of an active village and parish. Continue on the gravel road behind farms and among vineyards and woods until a left turn puts you on the asphalt **Strada Rapella**. As you near Viverone a tall tower on the right marks the site of the one-time monastery, **Cella di San Marco and San Michele**, now a winery. The road turns to cobblestones as it climbs to the center of **Viverone** (3.4km).

5.0KM VIVERONE (ELEV 302M, POP 1404) (878.2KM)

Archeologists discovered Bronze Age artifacts from a prehistoric lakeside settlement under nearby **Lago di Viverone**, earning it status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Along the lake is a pleasant promenade, with a restaurant and hotel. As you leave town, pass the distinctive brick façade of the 18th c. **Church of San Rocco**, pilgrim saint.

▲ **La Locanda di Sant'Antonio Abate** ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 3/9, €-/60/70/100, Piazza Zerbola 2, info@bbsantantonio.eu, tel 349 4161428.

▲ **Camping La Rocca** ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 1/4, €-/30/35, Via Lungo Lago 35, www.la-rocca.org, laroccaviverone@hotmail.com, tel 347 7107146 or 0161 98416. Closed Nov–Feb. Reservation required. Tent camping plus caravan and apartment rental. Swimming pool. Lakeside location.