



## BIELLA UNESCO CREATIVE CITY, SANCTUARY AND SACRED MOUNTAIN OF OROPA AND RICETTO OF CANDELO

*Some suggestions to visit Biella, a hidden treasure in Piedmont, at the foot of the Italian Alps. The itinerary will lead you from the city of Biella with its beautiful old town to the surrounding mountains to visit the Sanctuary of Oropa, with the Black Madonna and the Sacro Monte, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Located at the foot of the Alps, Biella is divided into three areas: Biella Piano, the medieval Biella Piazza, hilly and rich in beautiful views, and the old industrial area along the Cervo River, where is located Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto. After the lunch in a typical restaurant, where you will taste the delicacies of the local cuisine, a short drive towards the mountains will lead you to the Sanctuary of Oropa, to then conclude the tour at Ricetto of Candelo, a perfectly preserved medieval village.*

**9.00 am:** departure from Torino to **Biella**.

**10.00 am:** arrival in Biella and visit of Biella Piano and Biella Piazza.

The city of Biella develops on three distinct levels. It starts at the Cervo stream, with its impressive testimonies of industrial archaeology. Just above is Biella Piano, the stately 19th-century town, and, perched atop the hill, the medieval district of Piazza. The city of Biella, with its identity as a wool textile province that has made the history of Italian manufacturing, was awarded in 2019 with the valuable recognition of UNESCO Creative City in the 'Crafts and Folk Art' sector for the tradition, creativity, craftsmanship, and sustainability of Biella's 'savoir-faire' in textiles.

**11.30 am:** transfer to **Cittadellarte - Fondazione Pistoletto** and visit of the Foundation- Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto, conceived by internationally renowned contemporary artist Michelangelo Pistoletto, was carved out of a former woolen mill in 1998, a splendid example of industrial archeology. It is now a vibrant cultural hub, hosting a permanent exhibition, a workshop school, art residencies, an exhibition of sustainability projects and a cafeteria.

**1.00 pm:** lunch at a typical restaurant.

**3.00 pm:** visit of the Sanctuary of Oropa and Sacred Mountain (UNESCO heritage).

The Sanctuary of Oropa is the most important Marian sanctuary in the Alps. Located in a suggestive basin at 1200 meters above sea level, the sacred place is linked to the cult of the Black Madonna. In addition to the the Cloister with the Old Basilica, the New Basilica, and the side bodies, where more than 350 modern rooms have been carved out to accommodate pilgrims, the sanctuary complex houses a collection of votive offerings, the beautiful Museum of the Treasury and finally the Sacred Mountain, twelve chapels of Sacro Monte that tell the life of Virgin Mary with life-size polychrome terracotta statues. Since 2005 the Sanctuary and Sacred Mountain Complex has been protected by UNESCO as a Word Heritage Site.

**4.30 pm:** transfer to **Ricetto of Candelo** and visit.

The Ricetto of Candelo, a small medieval village enclosed by walls, represents one of the best-preserved examples in Europe. It consists of about 200 buildings in the past used as a refuge in wartime and as a cellar-storage in peacetime.

**6.00 pm:** tasting of typical products/light dinner at a typical restaurant.

**8.30 pm:** arrival in Torino.

*am Trip organized and offered by the Local Tourism Board Terre dell'Alto Piemonte  
in partnership with local partner operators involved in the tour*