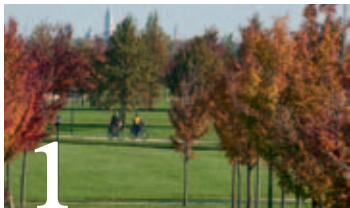




2.1 Venice-Chioggia. Island Cycle Route.

First leg
Distance: 32 km
Difficulty level: ⚙️

The first leg of the itinerary explores the landscapes of the Veneto region and starts in **Venice** (1). And rightfully so, given that the city of the doges governed the inland area for nearly four centuries, leaving a permanent mark on the peoples and cultures. The most evident traces can be observed in the dialects, architecture, cuisine, and



even the personal traits of the people. After having toured the historical centre of Venice, strictly on foot, you can take an ACTV boat from Tronchetto to get on the ferry boat to the island of **Lido**. You'll get off near the Church of San Nicolò, and can then start riding toward the northern coast of the island

following the signs for E5. The route is the same as that for the "The Venetian islands cycleway." On the Island of Lido, some noteworthy stops include the Church of **San Nicolò** (3) and a little further on, the ancient monuments of the **Jewish Cemetery**. Back in the 10th century, expeditions against pirates set out from the waters lying in front of the former monastery, and on November 8, 1202 it was used for the departure of the Fourth Crusade. For the celebration of Festa della Sensa (Ascension of Christ), a traditional rite symbolizing Venice's union to the sea, Sposalizio del Mare, is still performed today. The



trip continues on, first along the Riviera heading towards the lagoon, then across Viale Santa Maria Elisabetta, which intersects with all the main streets in the built-up area. You'll find yourself by the beach on Lungomare Marconi in no time, and some of the most prestigious buildings of the tourist area overlook this seaside drive – the Gran Hotel des Bains, Casinò, Palazzo della **Mostra del Cinema**, and the unique Moorish building of the Grand Hotel Excelsior. Once you're out of the centre, you'll ride uphill on the cycling/walking trail behind the murazzi, a system of stone embankments set up to protect the island from coastal flooding. On days when the island is more crowded, the

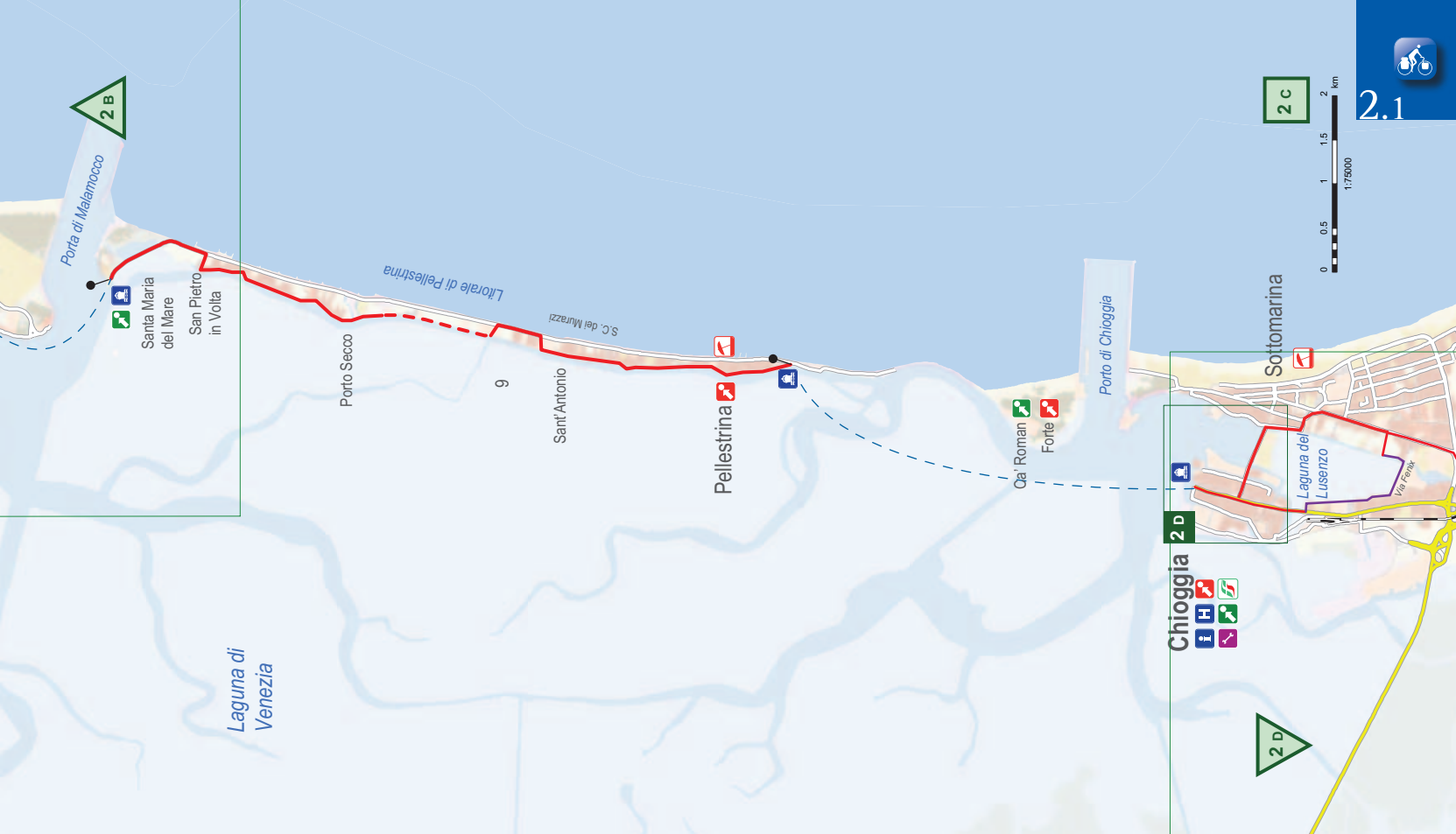
inner-island route is preferable. This will bring you to the historical town of **Malamocco**, which has a typically Venetian feel about it, traveling through the calli and campielli. After passing through that area, you'll come to the **Alberoni nature reserve**, where you can catch another ferry to the island of **Pellestrina**. After getting off at Santa Maria del Mare, proceed toward the port of **San Pietro in Volta** with its eighteenth-century church surrounded by gardens and fishing huts. Pedaling southwards, you'll come to **Portosecco**, where you may even come across women who still make lace by hand, and then the picturesque area of **Pellestrina** with residential buildings dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries. More advanced cyclists can push their way to the southern coast of the island, following an unprotected route around the lagoon, where one can see the ancient fort and the **Ca' Roman nature reserve**. From **Pallestrina** you can take the ACTV boats to **Chioggia** (2), just a few kilometers away.





2.1





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