

## Piemonte: “4 seasons experience”

### Enjoy spring in Piemonte

#### Spring is a time of discovery

It is the perfect season to wander around gazing at the sky, the weather is warmer, the days are brighter and longer. We rediscover scents, feel the desire to explore unknown places and enjoy authenticity, beauty and nature.

Dive into a sea of colours

Primroses and violets along woodland paths, yellow clouds of daffodils covering the mountain meadows in the valleys around Turin and Cuneo, the lush gardens of lakeside villas, castles and botanical oases, full of tulips, wisteria, camellias and fruit trees. In [springtime, Piedmont](#) is awash with new colours and scents that invite you to explore new paths to discover the region.

#### Choose the authenticity of villages

At this time of year, the [villages of Piedmont](#) bring out all the harmony and charm of ancient walls set in the countryside, nestled among hills as far as the eye can see, or in mountain valleys. They boast a unique identity, history and traditions, and cherish the local produce and typical cuisine.

#### Explore art cities

Each has its own history and distinctive features that can be explored on a city walk, a visit to a museum or simply by admiring the skyline at sunset. [In the cities of Piedmont](#) you can enjoy monuments and architecture, cultural, musical and sporting events, as well as shopping. Immerse yourself in the buzz of open-air markets, taste the most delicious delicacies and take home the local wine and food.

#### Feel the charm of royal palaces, fortresses and castles

Triumphal Baroque residences, noble villas and castles, and thousand-year-old fortresses whisper tales of heroic memories and take you on a journey through time. What happened in their secret rooms? What did they witness and what did those high walls, often architectural gems, hide?

The **16** majestic [Residences of the Royal House of Savoy](#), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are also known as the “Crown of Delights of the House of Savoy”, designed and embellished by leading architects and artists between the 17th and 18th centuries, and extending from the city centre of Turin to its immediate surroundings and as far as the Langhe and Canavese areas. More than **100** castles scattered throughout the region stand out against the most diverse landscapes, bearing witness to a rich and varied history. Since 1996, thanks to the “[Open Castles](#)” initiative it is possible to visit some of them, as well as noble villas and residences, when they are open to the public.

More than **35** points of interest, including [forts and remains of military fortifications](#): fortresses in the plains, such as the citadels of Turin, Mondovì or Alessandria, or Alpine fortresses such as the ones in Exilles, Fenestrelle and Vinadio. Almost all of them were built by the dukes and kings of the House of Savoy and, after 1861, by the Kingdom of Italy. Stone bastions used to defend the State of Savoy, they are now a popular destination for day trips to discover the history and events of a glorious past.

## Summer, realm of the Outdoors

### Hiking

Piedmont is crossed by a wide network of paths, cart and mule tracks leading to plains, alpine pastures and valleys, to a landscape of wild natural beauty. From the valleys around Cuneo to the Susa Valley and Lanzo Valleys, from the Sesia Valley to the Ossola Valleys, you can undertake many excursions on foot, by bike or on horseback, learning about traditions and typical flavours. If you are looking for an unforgettable experience in the mountains, make a wish come true with the GTA (Grande Traversata delle Alpi), the long-distance hiking trail along the Piedmontese side of the Alps with 120 stopovers for a total length of about 1000 km (621 mi), stretching from Valle Tanaro to Lake Maggiore and reaching Oropa and Valsesia. For a “slower” but complete experience you should really try out the many paths that link the Ossola Valleys and Switzerland, or reach Bern with the [Green Train of the Alps](#) that sets off from Domodossola. There are also a lot of not-to-be-missed options of various difficulties on the border between Piedmont and France, [starting from the Alps and leading to the sea](#). They showcase the rich environment and unique scenarios of Mont Blanc, Cote d’Azur and the Ligurian Riviera.

### Biking

Easy trails for families and for those who love authentic flavours, through villages and vineyards, rice fields and towns. Great climbs of the *Giro d'Italia* (Tour of Italy, also known as the *Giro*) for racing bike enthusiasts and climbs and descents in nature for mountain bike riders. The two-wheels homeland is here: you are in Piedmont, the region that has made history out of Italian cycling and the promised land of cycle tourists. **Risaie Ciclabili** is a 27 km route perfect for the whole family in spring and autumn to discover the beauty of rice fields and the **Vercelli area**. [The Lake Orta Tour](#), in the **Novara area** is also quite easy: 35.50 km from Gozzano crossing the cliff of *Madonna del Sasso*, Omegna lakeside, *Villa Crespi* in Orta San Giulio. In the **Biella area**, enthusiasts will enjoy the [Biella-Oropa climb, the Pantani Mountain of the Giro d'Italia](#): 12 km to reach the 1150 metres of the **Sanctuary of Oropa**, a UNESCO heritage site, the destination of six arrivals of the *Corsa Rosa* (*Giro d'Italia* nickname). Do you prefer a hilly landscape? Here is the challenging route **Dalle Dolci Terre alle Langhe**, from Acqui Terme to Canelli, passing historical centres, regional wine shops, famous wineries and distilleries. How not to mention the [Limone-Monesi Salt Road](#), in the **Cuneo area**, the most beautiful country road in Europe from the Alps to the sea: 39 km of dirt road from Limone Piemonte to Briga Alta, between 1800 and 2100 metres above sea level on an old military road. For the more trained road bike enthusiasts, the typical **Colle delle Finestre** in the **Turin area**, is an opportunity to try your hand at a tough climb of the *Giro d'Italia*: 17 km, 1700 metres of altitude difference and 33 hairpin bends between Susa Valley and Chisone Valley, surrounded by breathtaking landscapes.

Among the thematic routes, don't miss the [UNESCO Grand Tour by bike](#), a 600 km loop that crosses royal palaces, the Sacred Mountains and the World Heritage landscapes, the wildlife reserves of *Man and the Biosphere* project, Creative Cities and Geoparks. The [artistic-spiritual itineraries](#) linked to the [Churches with Open Doors project](#) (*Chiese a porte aperte*) are worth a visit.

Find your perfect path and the related GPX tracks and tourist options on [piemontescape.com](#), the regional informational platform for every enthusiast of outdoor activities.

### The land of Golf

With over [51 golf clubs and 15 driving ranges](#) for every level, Piedmont is among the most attractive destinations for golfers. Its spectacular locations combine stunning scenery with a very high technical quality of courses. **Piedmont now ranks second among Italian regions for its number of courses.** Golfers can choose between the high mountains, up to 2035 metres in Sestriere - the highest golf course in Europe, the Unesco heritage hills of Langhe, Roero and Monferrato, as well as the Alessandria area, or the Novara plain. Players can immerse themselves in astonishing parks a few steps from the city of Turin, or in the delightful Biella countryside or near Lake Maggiore. It is no coincidence that in the ranking of the prestigious magazine "Italy Top 4 Golf" **Piedmont boasts 5 golf courses among the top 10.**

### Amazing flavour of autumn

#### The warm colours of foliage

Autumn in Piedmont has the scent of exciting outdoor adventures in a habitat that conveys energy and wellbeing: spectacular mountain landscapes and explorations along paths that stretch across the hills and plains, passing ancient villages; warm colours of foliage by the lakes, in the 95 protected areas and two National Parks, in the most authentic spirit of the outdoors.

#### Journey through the flavours

A favourite destination for gourmets, Piedmont is the exquisite ambassador of the most genuine Italian food and wine culture in the world thanks to its unique products and artisanal art: **chocolate** and **PGI hazelnuts**, **rice** from the largest paddy fields in Europe, extending through **Vercelli**, **Novara** and **Biella**, and a great family of DOP artisanal cheeses like **Castelmagno** and **Toma**, **Robiola di Roccaverano**, **Raschera**, **Murazzano**, **Ossolano** along with **Gorgonzola**. Needless to say, a true star of Piedmont's food basket is the **Alba White Truffle**, celebrated every year in autumn at the [International Alba White Truffle Fair](#) and at the **Alba White Truffle World Market**. Piedmont's "white gold" can turn a dish of "*tajarin*" (fresh handmade pasta), a **risotto** or **raw beef** into a divine experience.

#### Lands of wine and Slow Food

Wine takes the lion's share with **17 DOCG** and **42 DOC** certified wines produced in more than 43,000 hectares of vineyards, most of which are included in the "**Vineyard Landscapes of Langhe, Roero and Monferrato**", UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2014. With its versatile territory, Piedmont is synonymous with top ranking wines like the reds, **Barolo** and **Barbaresco**, **Nebbiolo**, **Dolcetto**, **Barbera**, **Ghemme**, **Gattinara** and **Brachetto d'Acqui** along with the whites, **Roero Arneis**, **Gavi**, **Erbaluce**, **Asti Spumante** and **Moscato d'Asti**. A real treasure in the bottle that you can enjoy and buy in almost **18,000 wineries**. At the innovative and multisensory [WIMU, the Wine Museum](#) in Barolo, visitors can retrace the history of Piedmont's oenology and philosophy of the regional territory. After all, Piedmont is home to the **University of Gastronomic Sciences** and the worldwide renowned **Slow Food Movement**, the international organisation that began in Bra (Cuneo) in 1986, to promote and protect "good, clean and healthy" food.

#### Cuisine and desserts? Unforgettable

In trattorias and **Michelin-starred restaurants** throughout the region, you must try the excellent local dishes, such as "**bagna caoda**" (a dipping sauce for raw vegetables), "**vitello tonnato**" (veal in tuna sauce) and **raw meat** made with the precious meat of **Razza Bovina Piemontese** (a Piedmont cattle breed)

internationally recognised as the best beef meat for its nutritional properties. Of the traditional dishes, do not miss “**brasato al Barolo**” (braised beef in Barolo wine sauce) and “**bollito misto**” (mixed boiled meats). The voyage among the pleasures of the palate cannot end without mentioning **chocolate**, in particular the combination of cocoa and hazelnuts that gave rise to the inimitable **gianduiotto** of artisan tradition. A wonderful range of **pralines** and **pastries** reveal a sweet paradise made of small-sized delicacies that belong to the typical Turin and Piedmontese history.

### On spiritual paths

Slowness regenerates and autumn is a great time for reconnecting with yourself. In Piedmont you can find spirituality and history by going along the paths of the Sacred Mountains or the Via Francigena, the Sindonic and Romanesque Paths or the Jewish art itineraries; the Alta Via dei Walser or the path of the Glorious Repatriation of the Waldensians.

## Snow in Piedmont: your dream holiday

**One thousand three hundred and fifty kilometres of slopes, over fifty ski resorts, fourteen snow parks, first-class accommodation, state-of-the-art facilities and a highly developed system of mountain refuges:** the Piedmont Alps feature **brehtaking surroundings** and **immersive outdoor experiences** set against a powdery white wonderland. From the Cuneo valleys, with their distinctive pyramid-shaped silhouette of the Monviso, to the Turin Alps; from the Biella area to the Monte Rosa massif and the pristine landscapes of the Ossola area: a natural paradise for **skiers, snowboarders and freeriders**, as well as for anyone looking for **leisurely outings with family and friends, for a day on the snow with the kids, for enchanted cross-country skiing trails through the woods** and the opportunity to **discover authentic mountain villages**.

The [Via Lattea](#) is north-western Italy's most extensive ski area. Its 400 kilometres of pistes (120 kilometres of snow-making facilities) connect **Sestriere, Pragelato Cesana-Sansicario, Claviere, Oulx, Sauze d'Oulx** and **Montgenèvre** in France.

Nearby, [Bardonecchia](#) has 100 kilometres of ski slopes divided into two districts: **Jafferau**, on the upper reaches, and **Colomion-Les Arnauds-Melezet**, from where one can ski to neighbouring villages and hamlets. **Many pistes run through wooded areas**, and an ample range of winter activities caters to all tastes: from **snowboarding**, for which Bardonecchia is famed, to **cross-country skiing**.

[Turin's Small Ski Resorts](#), unspoilt oases in the Lanzo, Susa, Sangone and Chisone-Germanasca valleys.

[Oropa and Biemonte](#), in the Parco Naturale Oasi Zegna (Oasi Zegna Natural Park), have chosen the perfect slogan to convey a “slow” approach: *“Walk, breathe, learn, dream”*. This heavenly corner of the Biella Alps is a natural terrace on the Po Valley, with unforgettable views to inspire even the most contemplative visitors.

Between Lake Maggiore, Lake Orta, Lake Mergozzo and the Ossola Valleys, the [Neveazzurra](#) area comprises 16 sites and nine valleys with outstanding views and countless opportunities for sport and fun. Here, for example, one can enjoy incomparable views over the lakes while skiing down the slopes of the **Mottarone** and **Pian di Sole**. One can explore the area below the Monte Rosa massif on skis or snowshoes and reach **Macugnaga** with its two ski areas, Belvedere and Monte Moro.

The winter sports district around Cuneo is a gem embedded between the mountains and the sea and a true paradise for anyone seeking an active lifestyle and nature. **Limone Piemonte** and **Limonetto** are the highlights of the [Riserva Bianca](#), the natural snow-covered area of the Maritime Alps on the border with France. The magnificent wide valley connecting three valleys features **over 80 kilometres of pistes and itineraries** for all levels of downhill skiers, snowshoe hikers and off-piste skiers. In the vast [Mondolè Ski](#) area, which includes [Artesina](#), [Prato Nevoso](#) and **Frabosa Soprana**, a single, hands-free ski pass ensures dynamic skiing **over one hundred and thirty kilometres of pistes**. The valleys also provide many engaging activities for junior sports lovers: family-friendly resorts include **Entracque, Lurisia, San Giacomo Cardini Ski, Viola St. Gree, Argentera and Rucaski**.

In the Valsesia region, the **Monterosa Ski** area has become a truly global ski resort that extends along the slopes of Monte Rosa, offering over 180 kilometres of pistes that connect Piedmont and the Aosta Valley. [Alagna](#) is popular with **snowboarders and off-piste** enthusiasts and is known as “Freeriders’ Paradise” due to the breadth of its scenery and the beauty of its unspoilt landscape, immersed in silence or the sounds of nature.

All info: <https://www.visitpiemonte.com/en>

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