

The tower now belongs to the Comune of Mandello Lario and houses an interesting farming and folk museum managed by the Association Gruppo Amici di Maggiana.

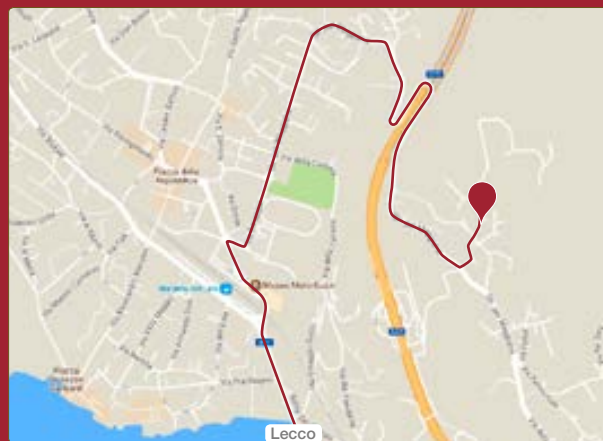
Situated in a little courtyard, the tower retains its arched doorway and traces of the original windows near the top, now walled up.

There are also vertical slits which were connected with the original entrance, once situated on the first floor, as was customary in buildings of this kind. Other windows were put in later, in the 16th century, giving the facade a uniform appearance.

The terrace at the top has spectacular views of the lake and the town of Mandello below.

Inside there are the original rooms (including one with an interesting painted ceiling); this is where the Museum is situated with objects and pictures from the late 19th and early 20th century to tell the story of the way of life and work in the community in the past.

One section is devoted to the Giudee, a traditional Good Friday procession which went from Maggiana to Crebbio and continued until the mid-1950s. Some panels with historic photographs bring to life this community tradition of the Passion of Christ with the participants dressed as Centurions, hooded figures or Saints. The rooms are furnished and decorated with a collection of antique furniture and tools.



For info and bookings:
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Comune di
Mandello del Lario





Maggiana Tower, called 'Barbarossa's Tower', is one of the best-preserved in the Lecco area and is situated in the centre of Maggiana, a medieval hamlet above Mandello del Lario.

The square keep is in a dominant position overlooking the lake and the Strada Ducale (Duke's Road) of the Riviera, part of the system of fortifications which runs along the eastern shore of Lake Como.



It was also in a strategic position for other important roads leading towards Val Meria and Piani Resinelli where there were pastures and mines. Though it has been restructured on a number of occasions, the Tower dates back to the 12th century and is believed to have been built by the lords of Mandello. At the turn of the 19th century, the tower passed to Francesco Alippi who carried out restorations and added the terrace on the top floor.



On 5th May 1828, a builder found a granite plaque on the first floor, black from the smoke. Written on it was "*Frideric-Imperat-German hic tutus quievit - Anno 1158*" (Frederick, Emperor of Germany, here rested in safety – year 1158). The name 'Barbarossa's Tower' dates back to this event. Tradition has it that there was also a castle on the mountainside not far away at the northern end of the hamlet.

