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SUMMARY ROADBOOK

THE TREES OF LIFE: THE APENNINES FROM RENO TO LAMONE

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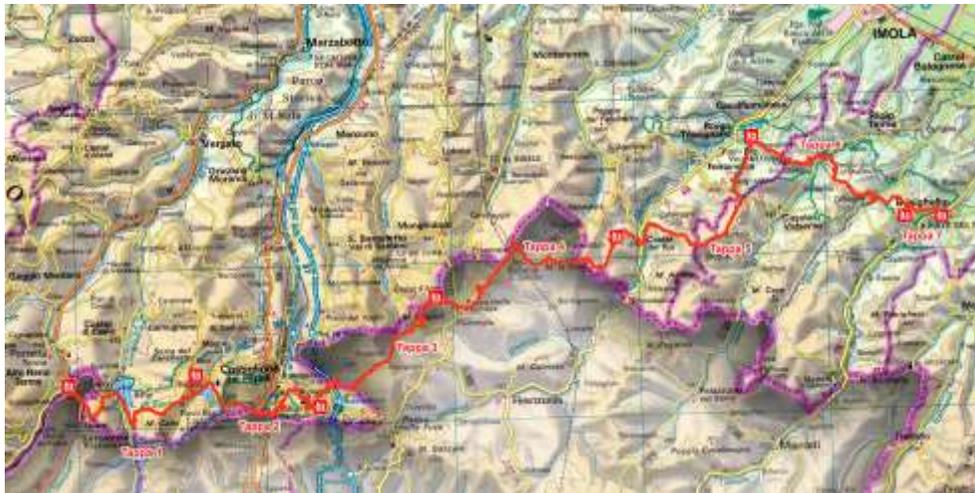
TOPIC OF THE ROUTE:

The Trees of Life: the Apennines from Reno to Lamone

ONE HIGHLIGHT TITLE OF THE ROUTE:

Along the Parks' Upper Trail, across lakes, chestnut trees, chalk cliffs and olive groves

SCHEMATIC TRAIL MAP WITH NUMBER OF STAGES:



SMALL ARTICLE ABOUT THE HIGHLIGHTS:

From Ponte della Venturina, where the Reno and Limentra di Sambuca rivers converge, we climb to Pavana, birthplace of the singer-songwriter Francesco Guccini, before continuing through several small villages to Suviana Lake. Still walking through the woods, we reach Poranceto on the edge of an ancient chestnut wood and then Brasimone Basin. We continue, passing Cottede tree nursery and then the Sanctuary of Boccadirio, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Continuing through small woods and

heading across pastures, we climb to the ridge crossed by the ancient Roman road between Bononia and Fiesole. We continue, through dense beechwoods, to Raticosa Pass and reach Mount Canda, which offers magnificent panoramic views over Firenzuola Basin and the loam landscape, dotted with juniper bushes and rocky outcrops; one of these, which stands out in particular, is the magnificent beautiful ophiolite of Sasso di San Zenobi. We enter the valley of Sillaro Torrent, with the beautiful chestnut woods of Castel del Rio. We then cross the Santerno river, by way of Alidosi Bridge, and climb to Mount Battaglia, from where the entire Vena del Gesso gypsum vein can be seen in all its glory. Views span from fruit orchards and vineyards over the spectacular gypsum cliffs and chestnut wood of Campiuno. Once in Tossignano, an ancient village standing on the gypsum spur, we cross almost the entire ridge of the Vena del Gesso, walking over translucent gypsum crystals and crossing the Cà Budrio Pass, where a wealth of wild orchids bloom and where we find the small church of Sasso Letroso. From Borgo Rivola, we climb to the tiny village of Crivellari and Mount Volpe, where holm oaks and terebinths abound. Continuing on rocky terrain, we reach the blind valley of Rio Stella, an area inhabited by wolves, and from there, we climb to the peak of Mount Mauro and the ancient parish church of Santa Maria in Tiberiaci. We continue, through fruit orchards, vineyards and small woods, to Carnè and the mediaeval village of Brisighella.

NAME OF THE ROUTE: The Trees of Life: the Apennines from Reno to Lamone

INTRODUCTORY TEXT: A trekking week across lonely mountains, houses and hamlets, lakes and beeches. From the secular chestnuts of Castel del Rio (PGI chestnuts), to the hills of Romagna, flashes of sunlight over the badlands and, at last, Vena del Gesso (Gypsum Vein), the medieval hamlet of Brisighella and its age-old olive groves (EVO oil PDO)

DESCRIPTION OF EACH STAGE / DAY:

DAY 1 – From Ponte della Venturina to Brasimone

Lake: From Ponte della Venturina, where the Reno and Limentra di Sambuca rivers converge, we climb the ridge between the two valleys by way of several groups of houses near Pavana, before climbing again to Poggio di Badi and Campisseri. We head towards Badi and after the tiny hamlet of Collina, we drop down to Suviana Lake, walking along its banks on the mountain side as far as the end of the basin. We then continue, through the valley of the Limentra di Treppio, as far as Sassi Mill. We climb to Stagno church and from there, continue to the derelict Luogo Umano buildings. Still in the woods, we flank Mount Baigno, crossing abandoned farmland and passing high above Brasimone Basin to a group of houses known as Poranceto, on the edge of an ancient chestnut wood

DAY 2 – From Brasimone Lake to the Bocca di rio

Shrine: from Poranceto, we cross uncultivated farmland,

small woods and pastures before descending to the banks of Brasimone Basin and then climbing again as far as the plain of Pian Colorè, which is surrounded by tall beech trees. We walk through the small valley of Montecucco to Case Spinareccia, where we continue through chestnut woods. After descending to the bridge over the Setta, we climb again towards Mount Tavianella, as far as the tree nursery in Cottede. Flanking Mount Coroncina, we reach Baragazza and enter the wood, circling Mount Tavianella before descending to the Rio Davena valley where we find the imposing complex of buildings of the Sanctuary of Boccadirio.

DAY 3 – From the Boccadirio Shrine to Alpe di

Monghidoro: From the sanctuary, we follow the small road that descends through the woods of the narrow valley of Rio Avena. In Roncobilaccio, we continue to descend to the Rio Gambellato valley floor, before climbing again, passing under the Autostrada del Sole motorway. After flanking it for a short while, at Albagino Tunnel we head into some small woods and across fields. From Fratte, we climb to Passeggere, a wide pass once crossed by the ancient Roman road between Bononia and Fiesole. Then we descend into Savena Valley, which is completely surrounded by woodland. Having left the valley floor, we climb upwards again, continuing through the beechwood, as far as Cà di Barba and from here, to the crossing of Poggio Turchino. Circling the slopes of Mount Oggioli we reach its northern face and then descend to Osteria del Fantorno.

DAY 4 – From l’Alpe di Monghidoro to Le Selve: from the inn, we continue along the gypsum ridge between the Idice and Santerno valleys, as far as Raticosa Pass. From the crossing, we climb Mount Canda again, where we can enjoy breath-taking views of Firenzuola basin. Back on the road for a few hundred metres, we continue on the grassy ridge, dotted with rocky outcrops, culminating in the peaks of Tre Poggioli and Sasso di San Zenobi.

For a short stretch, we continue along the road towards Martina Park, until we come across Casoni di Romagna wind farm and then the group of houses known as Roco di Sopra. We begin the climb to Mount Fine, through chestnut woods and copses and then descend towards the Santerno valley in Pratulungo. From there, we head to the church of Montefune, where we follow the road that leads down to Le Selve campsite and hostel.

DAY 5 – From Le Selve to Tossignano: we begin to descend, through beautiful chestnut woods, to the ruins of an ancient castle, before descending again to Castel del Rio, where we cross the Santerno River over the elegant arched Alidosi Bridge. We begin to climb as far as the gravel track that crosses the ridge above, between Santerno and Senio. We head north-eastwards, towards the plain, through durmast oak woods and over layered rock outcrops that culminate on Mount Battaglia. From here, the Vena del Gesso appears in all its glory; the peak is home to the remains of an ancient tower and the memorial to the battles fought here in 1944. The tarmac road descends, across reforested land, as far as Pruno Pass; we continue along the path that crosses the gypsum

ridge above the small valley of Rio Sgarba, through orchards and vineyards, to the ancient village of Tossignano.

DAY 6 – From Tossignano to Carnè: from Tossignano, we descend to Tramosasso Gorge before reaching the foot of Riva San Biagio cliffs and then, across fields and through thickets, to Prè Pass. From here, we climb and descend as we make our way along the gypsum ridge to Sasso Letroso, which overlooks the valley of the Senio Torrent. We then take the road to descend as far as Borgo Rivola, where we use the boardwalk to cross the Senio. We then begin a steep climb to the tiny village of Crivellari and then, walk through woodland to Mount Volpe. At the top, we follow the ridge, enjoying magnificent views of the southern cliffs and the blind valley of Rio Stella, until we come across the road that leads to the summit of Mount Mauro and the ancient parish church. From here, we continue towards the rocky gypsum spur of Mount Incisa and on reaching the valley floor of the Sintria, continue through fruit orchards, vineyards and small woods to Carnè Park.

DAY 7 - Brisighella: from Carnè, we circle Mount Rontana and follow the vehicle-accessible path that leads firstly, to Ca’ Marana, before dropping to the open-air geological museum at the former Monticino quarry. After a visit to the museum, we continue towards Brisighella Fortress and the clock tower, from where a series of steps lead to the historic centre of the charming mediaeval village of Brisighella.

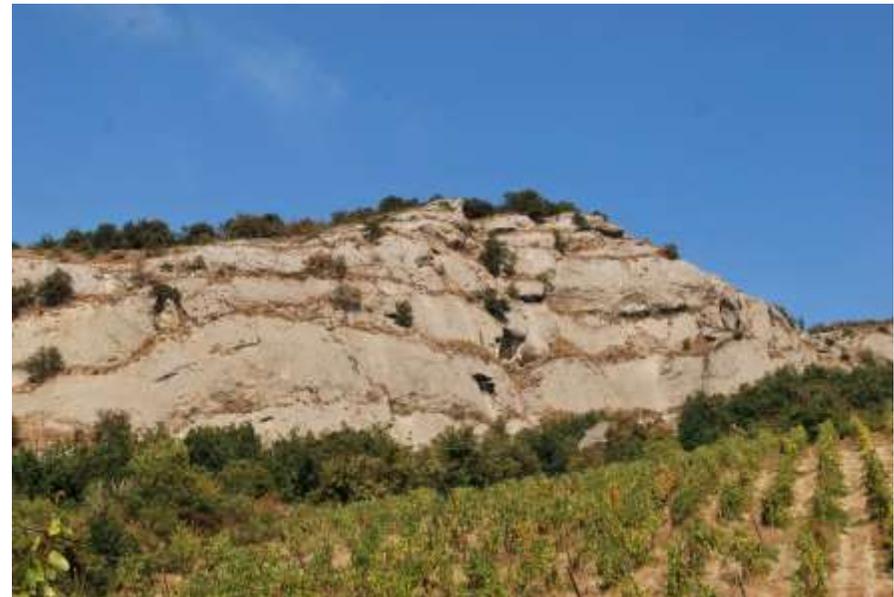
PACKAGES RELATED TO THE ROUTE: The package's duration is 7 days and 6 nights. The fee of the package includes: 6 overnights, 6 breakfasts, 6 dinners, 6 packed lunches, train ticket Bologna/ Ponte della Venturina, train ticket Brisighella/Faenza.

The traveller should have a pillow and sleeping bag for the overnight.

The package does not include the guide fees, bus ticket (bus line n.44) Imola-Borgo Tossignano (possibility to buy the ticket on the bus), luggage transport during the journey, and other extra costs.

It's possible to have some additional services:

- historical/cultural city ring tour on chalk hills of Brisighella(the Donkey route or Via degli Asini);
- visit to the open-air geological museum "il Monticino"
- visit to Rocca di Brisighella;
- visit to the Marana Gallery and underground lake;
- visit to the romanic church of Tho;
- virtual tour across the wine and food products: oil of Brisighella (visit and tasting session in the olive oil mill), romagna goat cheese, pig breed "Mora romagnola", brand PGI, central Apennines white calf meat, Moretto artichoke of Brisighella PGI, shallot of Romagna PGI, forgotten fruits, medicinal herbs of Casola Valsenio, nectarine of Romagna PGI.



GENERAL PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

Difficulty Level: EE – skilled hikers

Situation: departure by local train from Bologna Centrale to Ponte della Venturina with train switch in Porretta Terme (possibility of bus service).

Number of stages / days: 7 stages

Total Distance: 100,5 km

Total estimated time: 39,15 h

Cumulative elevation gain: +5670 m

Cumulative elevation loss: -6670 m

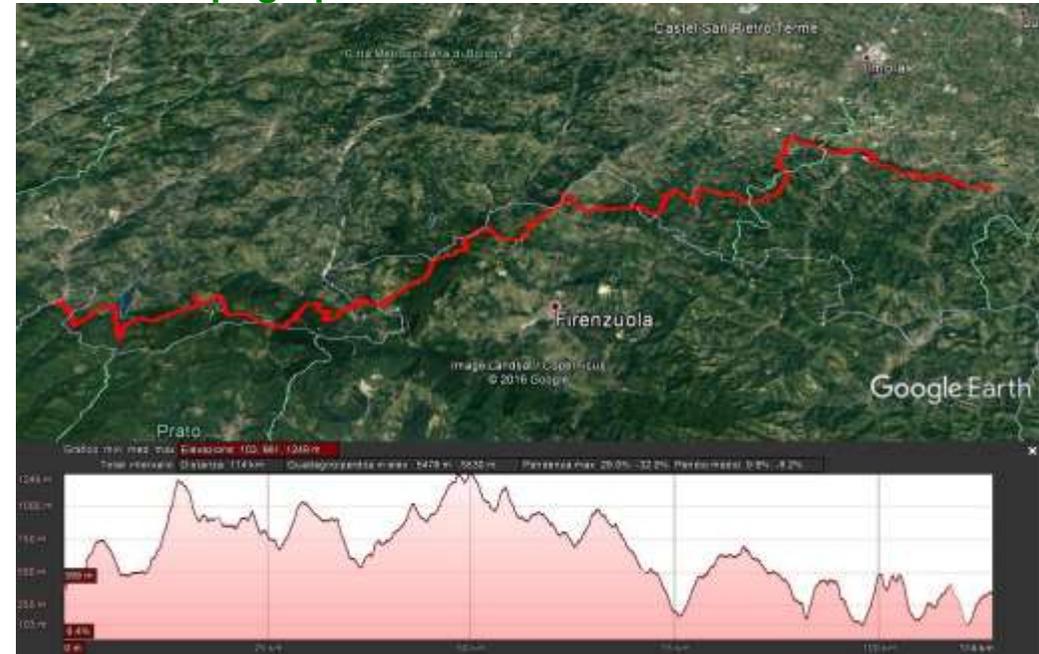
Maximum altitude (m): 1213 m (Monte di Stagno)

Minimum altitude (m): 94 m (Borgo Rivola: footbridge on the Senio river)

Signposting: red and white markings CAI (Club Alpino Italiano) and logo Alta Via dei Parchi

Additional information or advice: We recommend tackling the itinerary only if you have a good level of training; some parts of the gypsum ridge require a good deal of confidence as the terrain is rocky and fairly steep.

General Topographic Profile:



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