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Discovering  
Rural Europe

# SUMMARY ROADBOOK

## VENA DEL GESSO ROMAGNOLA PARK

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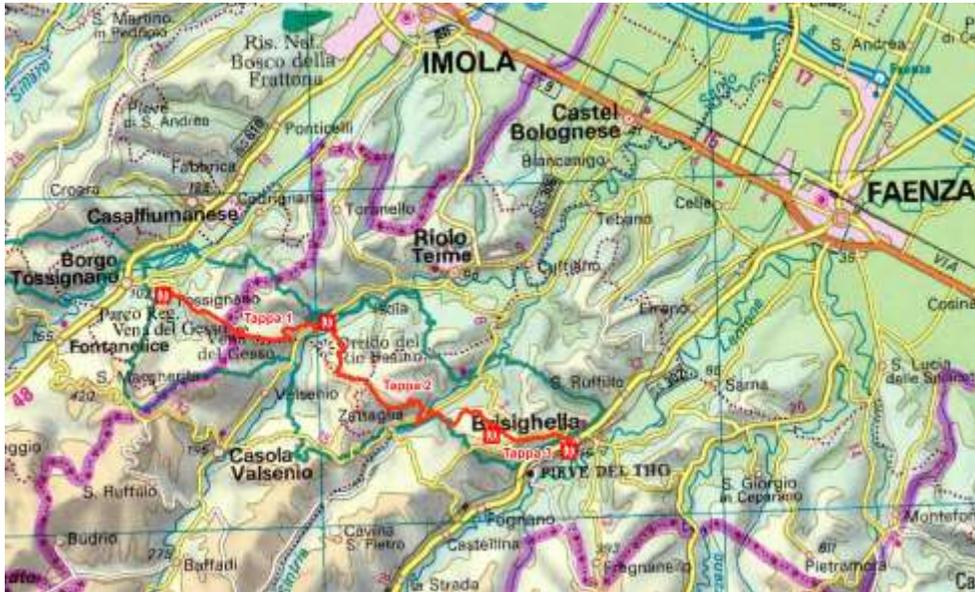
## TOPIC OF THE ROUTE:

Vena del Gesso Romagnola Park

## ONE HIGHLIGHT TITLE OF THE ROUTE:

*Discover the Parks' Upper Trail on the Vena del Gesso*

## SCHEMATIC TRAIL MAP WITH NUMBER OF STAGES:



## SMALL ARTICLE ABOUT THE HIGHLIGHTS:

This is one of the most unusual stretches of the Alta Via dei Parchi trail that crosses almost the entire ridge of the gypsum outcrop known as Vena del Gesso in three stages.

From the remains of Tossignano Fortress, we descend to Tramosasso Gorge, before climbing to the foot of the spectacular layered cliffs of Riva San Biagio. We continue

along the ridge, on the extraordinary rocky terrain made of translucent gypsum crystals. After Mount Casino, we reach Cà Budrio Pass, where a wealth of wild orchids bloom, and continue, climbing and descending slightly as we go, along the ridge to the small church of Sasso Letroso. Here, we take the road down to the village of Borgo Rivola. After crossing the boardwalk over the Senio, we climb again, skirting the tiny village of Crivellari and the near barren slopes of Mount Volpe, dotted here and there with holm oaks and terebinths. Continuing on the rocky terrain, after Cà Faggia Pass, which dominates the blind valley of Rio Stella, an area inhabited by wolves, we come across the road that climbs to the peak of Mount Mauro, close to which stands the recently-renovated, ancient parish church of Santa Maria in Tiberiaci. The final, steep descent leads to Sintria Torrent before climbing again, through fruit orchards, vineyards and small woods, to Carnè. From here, we finally reach the charming mediaeval village of Brisighella.

## **NAME OF THE ROUTE: Vena del Gesso Romagnola Park**

**INTRODUCTORY TEXT:** There must be something magical in the gypsum: for over 6,000 years Vena del Gesso rocks and caverns have caught man's attention and interest. This excursion leads us to discover this marvelous place, trekking across the crystal Mountain for three days.

### **DESCRIPTION OF EACH STAGE / DAY (Road Description):**

**DAY 1 - The San Biagio shore and the Re Tiberio cavern:** From Borgo Tossignano we climb to the rocky spur on which sit the ruins of the fortress of Tossignano before descending to Tramosasso Gorge, which has been carved out of the gypsum by Sgarba River, and the foot of the Riva San Biagio cliffs. We continue, across fields and through thickets, to Prè Pass and then climb and descend as we make our way along the gypsum ridge to Sasso Letroso, which overlooks the valley of the Senio Torrent, opposite the enormous quarry of Mount Tondo. Finally, we take the road to descend to Borgo Rivola.

**DAY 2 – Monte Mauro:** In Borgo Rivola, we cross the boardwalk over the Senio River and begin the steep climb to the tiny village of Crivellari and then 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 chalky spur of Mount Incisa and on reaching the valley floor of the Sintria, then through fruit orchards, vineyards and small woods to Carnè Park.

**DAY 3 - Brisighella:** From Carnè, we circle Mount Rontana and follow the vehicle-accessible path that leads firstly, to Cà 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 center of the charming mediaeval village of Brisighella.

**PACKAGES RELATED TO THE ROUTE:** The package's duration is 3 days and 2 nights. The fee of the package includes: 2 overnight stays, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, 2 packed lunches, train back to Brisighella-Faenza.

The traveller must have his/her own pillow and sleeping bag for the overnight stay.

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:

Tossignano: possibility to visit the geological museum at the Baronial Palace, visiting centre of the Park.

Re Tiberio cavern: possibility to visit on reservation.

Riolo Terme: possibility to visit the Rocca and the Vena del Gesso Park Museum.

Tanaccia Cavern: possibility to visit with the rental of speleological equipment.

Brisighella:

- historical/cultural ring itinerary of the city on Gessi of Brisighella (the Donkey Path);
- visit to the outdoor geological museum "il Monticino"
- visit to the Rocca of Brisighella;
- visit to the Marana Gallery and underground pond;
- visit at the Romanesque pieve of Tho;
- gourmet virtual itinerary: Brisighella oil (visit and tasting sessions at the oil mill), Romagna goat cheese, "Mora romagnola" pig, PGI brand, white beef of the Central Apennines, PGI Moretto artichoke of Brisighella, PGI shallot of Romagna, forgotten fruits, medicinal herbs of Casola Valsenio, PGI nectarine of Romagna.



## GENERAL PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

**Difficulty Level:** EE – skilled hikers

**Situation:** departure from Imola Italian Railway Station to Borgo Tossignano with bus line n. 44 (journey time 30'); ticket purchase on the spot, not included in the package.

**Number of stages / days:** 3 stages

**Total Distance:** 19,5 km

**Total estimated time:** 11,45 h

**Cumulative elevation gain:** +1350 m

**Cumulative elevation loss:** -1310 m

**Maximum altitude (m):** 515 m (Monte Mauro)

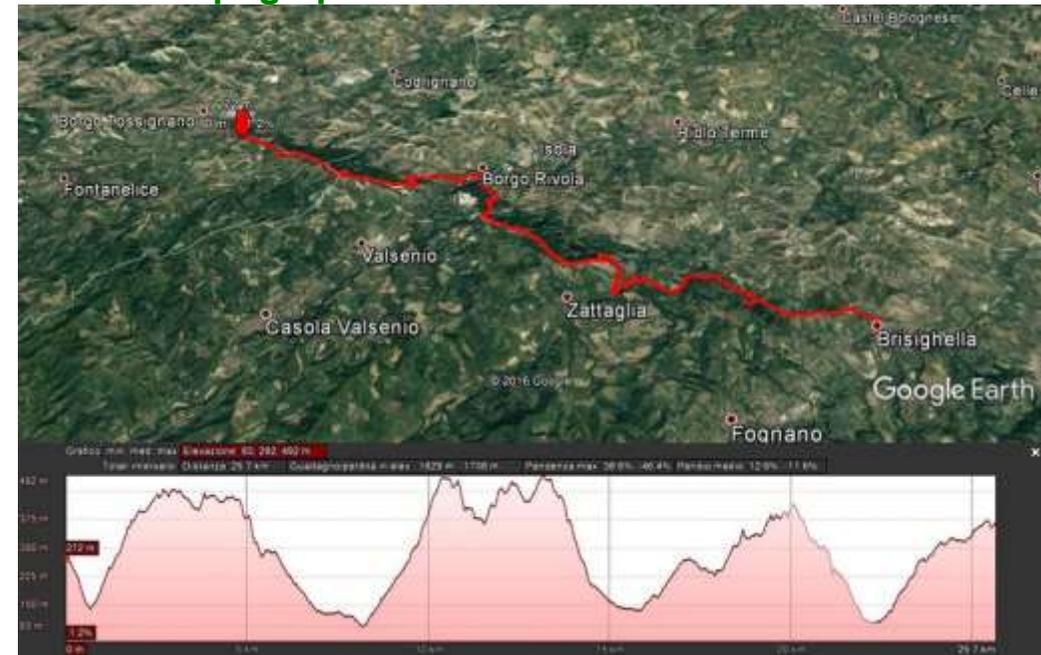
**Minimum altitude (m):** 94 m (Borgo Rivola: footbridge on Senio river)

**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.

The entire itinerary follows signposted paths that are part of the CAI - Italian Alpine Club network. These paths are generally in a good state of repair, but in most parts, for many months of the year the clay soil turns to particularly sticky mud and mire.

## General Topographic Profile:



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