

Departure and arrival:

Badia Prataglia

Public transport:

LINE H02 departing from Bibbiena (Etruria Mobilità)

Support facilities:

Rifugio Casa Santicchio

Difficulty: 4



First day:

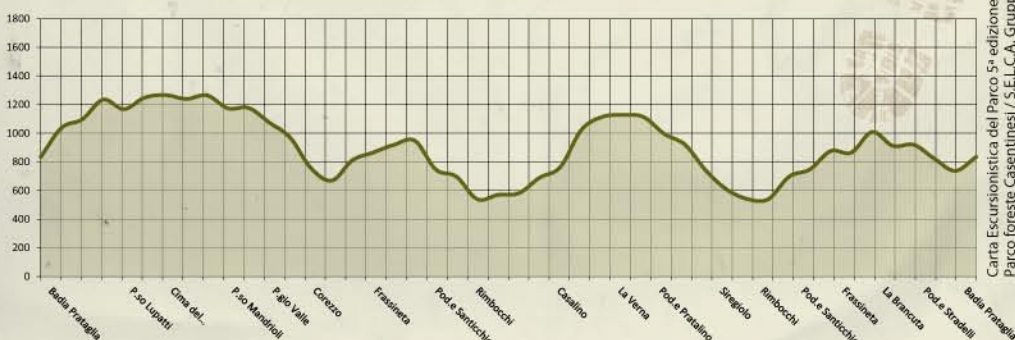
6.5 hours, 16 km length, 800 m uphill height difference, 1150 m downhill

Second day:

7 hours, 18 km length, 800 m uphill height difference, 700 m downhill

Third day:

3.5 hours, 9 km length, 350 m uphill height difference, 400 m downhill



Verna and Valle Santa

DA RIFUGIO
A RIFUGIO



A special ring route which will allow us to reach Sacro Monte della Verna in the most beautiful and spectacular way possible, on foot: the welcoming small villages of Vallesanta, the arrival to the Monumental Forest, and the view of the spectacular rocks on which the Sanctuary is poised will bring emotion to even the most distracted hiker.

ring route 8



8 • Verna and Valle Santa

FIRST LEG > A number of paths start from Badia Prataglia, and all are beautiful. Ours begins behind the elementary school, in the town centre, rising among the houses and entering the woods, which are initially of chestnut groves and then fade into the monumental fir tree woods which surround Campo dell'Agio. At the opposite corner of this clearing our path, number 60, proceeds uphill. The beech forest takes over a little later, upon arrival to Fosso della Casella. The walk uphill then becomes harder and ends at the ridge from where, heading to the right, Passo dei Lupatti can easily be reached. On the opposite side of the forest road (della Lama) the path starts to head upwards once again, and keeping to the right at the following junction we head straight towards Poggio della Lombardona, an amazing panoramic viewpoint which overlooks Passo dei Mandrioli. After lowering ourselves down to a paved road and reaching the famous Tuscany-Romagna pass, we enter the ridge path until the first junction, where we take to the right through path 56 which exits the beech woods, enters a fir tree forest, crosses a vast pine tree forest and reaches the village of Corezzo. However, our descent is not yet over, and will now become even steeper after entering the protected area and reaching the ditch. The slope now goes upwards until Frassineta, a small village characterised by its church, and right in front of it we must enter the tiny village of Chiusi della Verna, skirt the houses, and follow the road which heads into old abandoned fields and thick woods. At the pass, keep to the left and follow another dirt road until Poggio della Forca, where a small path branches out to the right and goes directly into Podere Santicchio.

SECOND LEG > The second day's hike begins with a road that goes downhill through Podere Caggio and reaches Rimbocchi. A rather long stretch awaits us along the road that points towards La Verna, but if the Corsalone stream isn't full and you have good legs, there's an alternative to the road: path 053 of Poggio Montopoli. If you choose the more comfortable option of the road, after about a kilometre take the small road that takes to Santa Fiora, and just before arriving the path turns to the right and heads up towards Podere Pratalino. La Verna is very close, but after the paved road there's a magnificent part of forest to visit. This is Bosco della Ghiacciaia, which in the shade of its enormous beech trees and lush mosses still guards the monks' ancient ice warehouse. Turning anticlockwise, the arrival to the sanctuary is anticipated by the spectacular view of the convent on the top of the cliffside. To reach it, continue upwards from beneath the great rock and follow the original access way known as "della Beccia". Once La Verna has been visited, we can leave immediately or allow ourselves an hour's walk towards the upper ring of the Sacro Monte, to then reach the peak of the Penna and enjoy the boundless panorama. The way back begins from the hairpin bend after the Melosa parking lots, completing the route around the mountain and taking us back to the Sasso Cavallino crossroads and then to the one of Podere Pratalino. This time the descent to Corezzo can be the one to the left, which enters the Fosso della Croce and goes through Siregiolo. We will then reach a paved road, and from here turn to the right, at the bridge on the Corsalone take path 070 which leads back to Podere Santicchio.

THIRD LEG > On the third day we depart going uphill, and after going through Poggio della Forca we will easily reach the Bellaria pass, where upon turning to the right we will just need to follow the comfortable little road that takes down to Frassineta. A small chapel with a bell marks the beginning of path 073, and upon reaching the Quattro Vie pass, choose the first path to the

right, which remains on the ridge and continues uphill until Poggio della Cesta. Badia Prataglia is close now, and after some clearings and a beautiful wood of turkey oaks we will reach the first houses of Romito, then the bridge on the Archiano, and finally the walk up through the town ending near the abbey. This ancient church, with a crypt which is now over a thousand years old, is one of the main things to see. Furthermore, behind the same building lies the Forest Muesum, and a little further on is the Carlo Siemoni Arboretum, with an enormous sequoia standing out, which can be entered from the National Park Visitor Centre

FIRST AND SECOND NIGHT

Rifugio Casa Santicchio

Loc. Casa Santicchio, 15

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House pets welcome

Free Wi-Fi connection available.



DA RIFUGIO
A RIFUGIO

Parco Nazionale
Foreste Casentinesi
Monti Falteroni
e Campigna

PARTENZA