

## Departure and arrival:

Casa Ponte

## Support facilities:

Eremo dei Toschi and San Benedetto in Alpe  
(Ostello Vignale or Rifugio Prato ai Bovi)

## Difficulty: 5



## First day:

6 hours, 16 km length, 950 m uphill height difference, 700 m downhill

## Second day:

7 hours, 19 km length, 600 m uphill height difference, 1000 m downhill

## Third day:

6.5 hours, 17 km length, 900 m uphill height difference, 800 m downhill



# Acquacheta and Alto Montone

DA RIFUGIO  
A RIFUGIO



Monumental beeches and trees, ridges, pastures, Lago di Ponte, the waterfalls of Acquacheta and of Lavane, panoramas and streams: an incredibly varied itinerary between the valleys of Tramazzo and of Montone, in the northernmost part of the Park where you can breathe the air of rural and forest Romagna.



ring route 9



Parco Nazionale  
Foreste Casentinesi  
Monte Falterona  
e Campagna

## 9. Acquacheta and Alto Montone

**FIRST LEG >** From the Casa Ponte shelter we reach the lake of the same name. Walking along the right-side bank we reach the starting point of the Nature Trail. Following path 559 we will reach a road and from there the entry to path 553. Cozzo del Diavolo is the first elevation of the long ridge that now sends us westwards until Passo Peschiera. Here we cross the road and go up the opposite side, and just one kilometre later we turn to the left to enter path 429. This ridge is scenic and points southwards: a quick descent takes us to Pian Baruzzoli and, staying at the edges of the fences, we cross the pastures and plunge back into the woods. Trees, ferns, a gate, and we find ourselves in front of the Acquacheta waterfalls and, just a few steps to the right, at the Lavane waterfall. Past the ford we will have to proceed uphill to Pian dei Romiti. At the top left are the old houses of the complex which was once inhabited by monks. On the left, the wooden bridge is our new starting point. Upon reaching the first ford, if the water isn't too high, we can continue to the right in the middle of the valley, wading across the stream once again. An enormous fallen willow is the indication that we need to leave the valley by heading upwards on a dirt road, with the panorama opening up all around it. We soon find the sign that points us to the end of today's leg: in 15 minutes we descend to Eremo dei Toschi.

**SECOND LEG >** From the hermitage, we walk back up the road we came from the previous day, continuing for two kilometres. The path then keeps to the left, rising along the ridge towards the south. We come across the road once again in Colla dei Lastri, but only for a few minutes, after which we once again go to the left, through the meadows of Fiera dei Poggi and finally to Passo del Muraglione. Beyond the ancient wall are three paths: ours is the middle one. When we reach the small road of Tre Faggi we turn to the left and have a long walk through a beautiful beech forest, which one step at a time becomes a discreet and protecting travel companion. After reaching the tallest point of Monte Pian Casciano, we descend until Passo del Bucine. Here we are greeted by large beech trees, a gravel road, and the panorama overlooking Castel dell'Alpe. Now we have two options. If we want to choose the shortest way, we should take the road to the left, crossing the pastures of Pian d'Astura, heading down until San Benedetto in Alpe. If we still have some strength and we want to avoid this forest road, beautiful in the first section but boring in the second, we continue on the 401 and then deviate to the left towards Pian delle Tavole. Finally we follow the 417 up to San Benedetto (adding about 2 km). Those staying at Ostello Vignale must now head uphill to the higher part of town; those staying at Prato ai Bovi must head over a paved road and then path 427, gaining about an hour from the route for the next day.

**THIRD LEG >** Path 427 can be found in the town of Balduce, and connects San Benedetto and Bocconi: its route is tight and somewhat difficult, but spectacular as it faces the river Montone. The arrival to Bocconi, after about 3 hours, is announced by the beautiful stone bridge which leads to the other edge and to the main road of the small village. Once on the road, we turn to the left and find the entrance to path 425. A constant but not impervious walk up, through deciduous woods first and coniferous ones later. On the ridge we are welcomed by a gravel road and, turning to the right on the crossroads to Monte Collina, the great beech trees of Fonte del Bepi.

Only after heading to the right through path 565, however, do we meet the most beautiful beech tree of this area: the Tramazzo giant. After taking the customary holiday snaps, it's time to leave once again and to travel across the entire Valdanda. Suddenly a road appears at the bottom left: it's best to follow it, so after a few minutes we can turn to the left to enter the beech forest in the lower part of the valley. When the stream approaches, it's time to turn to the left, wade through a couple of torrents, and prepare for the final ascent at the end of Lago di Ponte.

## FIRST NIGHT

### Agriturismo Eremo dei Toschi

Loc. Eremo, 58  
50060 San Godenzo (FI) - Tuscany  
Cell phone: 340.3258726  
sebula@lamiemail.net  
www.parks.it/loc/eremo.dei.toschi  
House pets welcome

## SECOND NIGHT

Ostello Vignale  
Via Acquacheta, 68  
47010 San Benedetto in Alpe (FC)  
Emilia-Romagna  
Cell phone: 347.5999078  
347.4494289  
ov@ostelloilvignale.it  
www.ostelloilvignale.it  
House pets welcome

### Rifugio Prato ai Bovi

Strada Statale 67 - km. 148  
Località Bocconi  
47010 Portico  
e San Benedetto (FC)  
Emilia-Romagna  
Cell phone: 347.1351510  
rifugiopratoalbovi@gmail.com  
facebook.com/rifugiopratoalbovi  
House pets welcome





DA RIFUGIO  
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PARTENZA

