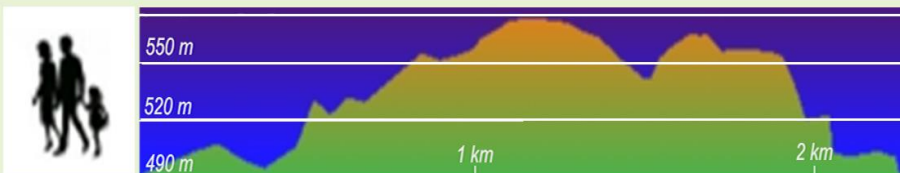


NATURALISTIC PATH OF POGGIO CITERNA

This nature trail is an easy loop that leaves from and returns to Poggio alla Croce after riding the crest of the hill of Citerna. During the walk you will discover an interesting historical scene-both environmental and panoramic. As you follow the information panels you will enjoy extensive views and great beauty.



Itinerary: Poggio alla Croce, Poggio Citerna, Poggio alla Croce.

Length: 2,2 km

Height min: 496 m. **max:** 590 m.

Altitude gap: 94 m.

Difficulty: E Easy

Travel time: 1 hour



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Departure from Poggio alla Croce, slightly uphill until you arrive at the “Valico della Crocina” (530 m), then you climb right for a few minutes until you reach “Poggio Citerna” (590 m.) where there’s an iron cross on the hilltop. Here you can find an area equipped with wooden benches under the shade of oaks and chestnuts and you can enjoy a beautiful view over the valley (on clear days you can see as well the cathedral of Florence!). Further along the ridge we arrive on the Valdarno slope (582 m.) where you can admire the distant plain of Arezzo. On this side, in addition to wide-ranging views, you can find the ruins of a convent dating back to the thirteenth century. Some Augustinian nuns have lived up here for almost two centuries, probably occupying a fortified building of even older origins, before being called up in the city at the end of the fourteenth century. Their presence in this place is part of the historical event called “eremitism female”, which was very popular in the Middle Ages in Tuscany. An easy path, probably the same walked by the nuns, will take you back to the village of Poggio alla Croce, where a few centuries ago, there was only a small field hospital and a little else.