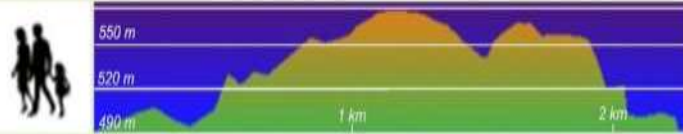


NATURALISTIC PATH OF POGGIO CITERNA

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.

Loop castle celle



Itinerary: Poggio alla Croce, Pian D'Albero, Celle, Badia Montescalari, Cappella dei Boschi, Fonte ai Trogoli, Poggio alla Croce.

Length: 13,4 Km
Height min: 401 m. max: 715 m.
Altitude gap: 715 m.
Difficulty: E Medium
Travel time: 5 hours

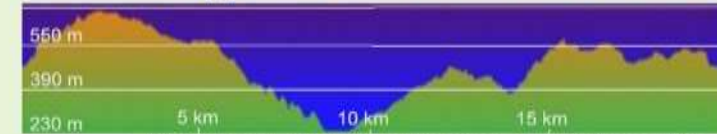


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Walk to Pian d'Albero, then take the path number 21 until the rough and steep junction where you have to go left and after about an hour, you arrive at the cemetery of Celle. Here, take path number 23, which leads to the steep ravine and then up a steep trail to the castle of Celle. After a level stretch, the trail descends to a small architectural jewel: a stone bridge of the Middle Ages, on the gully of Scandelaia. Climb until the abbey of Montescalari without much difficulty (700 m.) This abbey dates back to the early decades of the eleventh century and had a lovely bell tower that was destroyed during the last world war. The abbey is no longer open today because it is a private property. A hundred meters ahead you can enjoy the beauty of an old oak tree. Take path number 00 to return to Poggio alla Croce, which passes near Cappella dei Boschi e Fonte ai Trogoli, before the final descent. To return to Poggio alla Croce take path CAI n. 00, passing next to the Cappella dei Boschi, to the Fonte ai Trogoli, before the final descent.

Loop San Polo



Itinerary: Poggio alla Croce, Fonte ai Trogoli, Pian della Vite, Linari, San Polo, San Miniato di Rubbiana, C.Aiaia, Fabiano, Monte Muro, Poggio alla Croce

Length: 21Km
Height min: 232 m. max: 715 m.
Altitude gap: 1000 m.
Difficulty: E Medium
Travel time: 7 hours



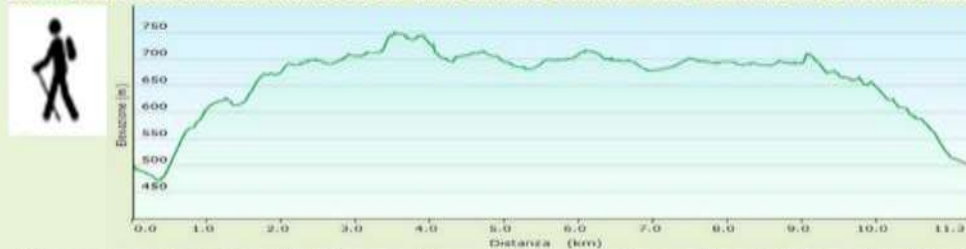
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You start from Poggio alla Croce taking the path 00 (CAI) in the direction of Badia Montescalari. When you arrive at Fonte ai Trogoli (692 m.) you go right along the path number 20 that initially passes by Monte Moggino, where, on the flat top, you can see the ruins of an ancient tower house, bombed by the British in 1944. The path continues along a beautiful ridge and you will enjoy beautiful views of Florence and the Apuan Alps. After passing through the ruins of Pian della Vite, the road begins to descend until you get to Linari (440 m.). The name "Linari" is most likely derived from the cultivation of flax ("lino"). Continuing along an easy dirt road (about 2.5 km) you reach San Polo in Chianti. Then keep walking in the direction of Val di Rubbiana among cypress and olive trees until you reach the ancient parish church of San Miniato a Rubbiana (1077 A.D.), built on a pre-existing longobardic church. The journey continues on the path 00, between cypress and oaks, where you can admire Villa Fabroni (building of XIX century) and Casa Fabiano, then you go up to Monte Muro. On the way back to Poggio alla Croce you pass through a charming and panoramic place with the little church of San Cerbone.

The Path of Remembrance Monti Scalari and Pian d'Albero

The Path of Remembrance follows the areas protected by the Sinigaglia Brigade before the battle for the Liberation of Florence. The path also passes in front of the country house by the name of Pian d'Albero which was the site of the Nazi massacre of June 20, 1944. Situated along this path are the specific locations where the battle between the Allied Forces and the German Army took place, while they were fighting to destroy the Mädchen defensive line. All of this exists amidst the beautiful Tuscan landscape.



Itinerary: Poggio alla Croce, Pian d'Albero, Cappella dei Boschi, Badia Mote Scalari, Cappella dei boschi, Fonte ai trogoli, Monte Moggio, Fonte ai trogoli, Poggio alla Croce.

Length: 11,3 Km.

Height: min: 480 m. max: 750 m.

Altitude gap: 416 m.

Difficulty: E Easy

Travel time: 5 hours



The Remembrance Path is a looped trail that begins and ends at Poggio alla Croce. Starting from Poggio alla Croce you take trail n.21, which descends for a short distance on the road heading towards Figline Valdarno. Look for the start of the trail on your right that heads up through the woods. It is a difficult climb, because of the altitude gap and the rough and stony path, but your effort will be rewarded by the beautiful view you will find of the

upper Valdarno and Pratomagno valleys.

After the climb up, you will reach the plateau called Pian degli Olmi, where you will immediately recognize on your left the farm house known as Pian d'Albero (695m.) Here there is a memorial of a nazi-fascist massacre that took place on June 20, 1944. After a dutiful visit to this symbolic site of the Tuscan Resistance, continue your journey by taking the CAI n. 7 trail heading towards Badia di Montescalari which goes up to the two hills above which are named Poggio La Sughera and Poggio Tondo.

After a few hundred meters, take the detour on your right that heads towards Casa al Monte. Here you will find the ruins of this house which was inhabited by the Venturi Family. This is the place where the brigade's bread was baked. Moving a hundred meters away you will find the Pianello. This is the place where the Allied airdrops landed, while the Venturi family worked tirelessly to help. In this natural basin, which offered shelter from the danger of being seen, between May and June the brigade most likely received at least two crucial airdrops from the British army. They equipped the partisans which much-needed weapons.

From here you will descend along the Borro Grande towards the main CAI 07 trail, you will turn right and continue to the Cappella dei Boschi (Chapel of the Woods), where, taking the CAI 00 path, turning left, you will reach the Abbazia (Abbey) di San Cassiano, also known as the Badia Montescalari. It was founded in the 11th century and served as a refuge for German troops. From there head in the direction of the natural wonder of the Cerro dai Cento Rami (Tree of One Hundred Branches). From here turn back on the CAI 00 trail, where after passing the Cappella dei Boschi you will find the Fonte ai Trogoli. This is a small spring that was used in the past to water animals. A little further on, turn left on to the CAI trail 20. After a few dozen meters leave path 20 to turn left again towards the Casolare di Monte Moggio. This house was also used by the partisans as an oven for baking bread.

From here turn back around and find the CAI 00 path which, turning left, will take you back down to Poggio alla Croce in less than an hour.

EXCURSIONS

IN

Poggio alla Croce



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