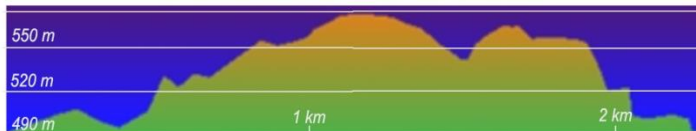


## NATURALISTIC PATH OF POGGIO CITERNA



**Itinerary:** Poggio alla Croce, Poggio Citerna, Poggio alla Croce

**Length:** 2,3 km

**Altitude** min: 487 meters, max: 590 meters.

**Altitude gap:** 103 meters.

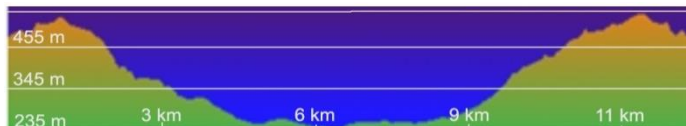
**Difficulty:** easy

**Travel time:** about one hour



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 LOPPIANO



**Itinerary:** Poggio alla Croce, Castello Pratelli, Loppiano, L'Entrata, Castagneto, Poggio alla Croce.

**Length:** 12,4 Km

**Altitude** min: 235 meters, max: 548 meters.

**Altitude gap:** 380 meters.

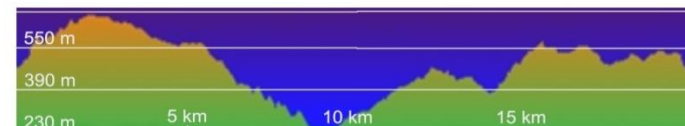
**Difficulty:** easy

**Travel time:** about four hours



It's an easy countryside route, mainly along narrow paved streets and gravel roads. You start from Poggio alla Croce following the path number five (CAI guide), which will lead you up to Loppiano. Along the way you can find, on the right side, the Castello di Pratelli, an old castle which is now a private residence. This castle was used in 1312 as a bulwark to prevent the German Emperor Arrigo VII from getting to Florence, but in the XIV century it was heavily damaged as a result of the struggles between black Guelphs and white Guelphs. From Loppiano you continue on the county road to get to the Maria Theotokos sanctuary and then you reach the village "L'Entrata", passing through cultivated fields and a small built-up area of stone houses. The return journey will be slightly uphill and will last about an hour and a half, passing the little hill of San Cerbone.

## 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:** 21 Km

**Altitude** min: 232 meters, max: 715 meters.

**Altitude gap:** 1000 meters.

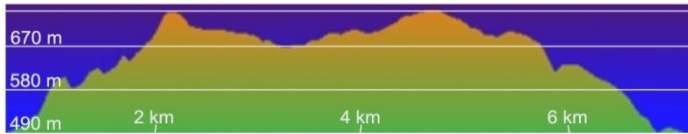
**Difficulty:** medium

**Travel time:** about seven hours



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 Moggio, 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.

# LOOP PIAN D'ALBERO



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

**Length:** 7,3 Km

**Altitude** min:490 meters, max: 756 meters.

**Altitude gap:** 416 meters.

**Difficulty:** easy

**Travel time:** about three hours



# LOOP CELLE



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

**Length:** 13 Km

**Altitude** min:401 meters, max: 715 meters.

**Altitude gap:** 715 meters.

**Difficulty:** medium

**Travel time:** about five hours



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.

# EXCURSIONS IN POGGIO ALLA CROCE



[www.poggioallacroce.it](http://www.poggioallacroce.it)

