

Agricultural landscape

Forest, flora and fauna

The Poggio Vecchio ring route



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Type: Hiking, On Horseback | Difficulty: T/E | ↗ 150 m | ⇄ 5 km

Località di partenza e arrivo: -

The starting point of the route can be reached from the villages of Libbiano, Micciano and Serrazzano, following the easy dirt road that leads to the Monterufoli Reserve.

This is an easy ring-route with many opportunities and options that can lead you to discover all the forest types of Monterufoli and take you to an interesting area for wildlife watching. In the vicinity of the ruins of the Poggiovecchio farm you may, with the help of the quietness of the area and a little luck, spot ungulates such as fallow deer, roe deer and wild boar, as well as birds of prey.

The presence of prey and the silence makes this area one of the favourite spots of elusive predators such as wolves and wildcats. Climbing to the head of the Vallon Cupo, a deep fissure that plunges into the Adio torrent below, with stretches of deciduous forest characterised above all by turkey oaks.

The air can sometimes smell of sulphur, because you are now on the edge of one of the most important geothermal areas in Europe. Some very long-lived holm oaks indicate the presence of the few remains of the small church of S. Ermete, together with strawberry trees, junipers and manna ashes.

The final part of the route, through pine forests and clearings, offers wide views and impressive mosaics of colours, especially in autumn, thanks to the numerous rowan trees, wild service trees and maples.

Points of interest



1. Arid meadows Naturalistic feature

Environments that were once grazed, today they are important habitats to be preserved by avoiding the spontaneous return of the wood; in the spring months they reveal the multiform flowering of rare Mediterranean orchids of the genus *Serapias* and *Ophrys*.

Valdicecina
- outDoor -

2. Viewpoint Viewpoint



3. Fields of Poggiovecchio Naturalistic feature

No longer cultivated, they are maintained, avoiding the return of the forest, as important natural pastures for wild ungulates such as wild boar, fallow deer and roe deer, but also hunting grounds for predators at the top of the food chain such as wolves and wildcats. They are also important for the presence of numerous species of orchids.



4. Remains of the small church of St. Hermes Historical-cultural feature

Old holm-oaks mark the scant remains of the church at the head of the Vallon Cupo, a deep incision in which several streams meet before flowing into the beautiful Adio stream.

Valdicecina
- outDoor -

5. Viewpoint: Monterufoli Forest Viewpoint



6. The maquis between Berignone and Caselli

Naturalistic feature

On the hot, arid slopes, the maquis is dominant. The plants have small, thick, leathery leaves with a high degree of pilosity to reduce water loss. The wildcat finds its ideal habitat here, along with many other animals.