

The museum and the old Montecatini mine



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Type: Hiking | Difficulty: T | ⚠ 60 m | 🚶 1 km

Località di partenza e arrivo: -

Attention: path temporarily closed for maintenance work!

A short but interesting walk, which can be connected to a visit to the 19th-century copper mine and, of course, the extraordinary medieval village. You start out right in front of the remains of the mine's main extraction shaft, Pozzo Alfredo, whose tower dominates the mining area and offers one of the most spectacular views of the Cecina Valley. The history of the medieval town of Montecatini Val di Cecina is linked to its copper mine, which gave its name to one of the largest industries of the 20th century: Montecatini S.p.A., later Montedison, although the Etruscans were the first to exploit the area's abundant natural resources.

The mining complex tells the story of the men, their industriousness and courage. The restored mining village, still partly inhabited today, adds a special charm to the visit, which is further boosted on a unique charm during the night-time opening. The walk through the village further enriches the visit to the mine and leads us to observe a work of extraordinary beauty, the Muraglione dam, built in 1856 for the needs of the mine but never used.

The dam is part of a project to upgrade six historic dams in Italy, and most of it is in the middle of the vegetation and with panoramic viewpoints towards the sea and the valley, this itinerary is a "must-walk" for everyone at any time of the year.

Points of interest

Valdicecina
- outDoor -

1. Start and end of the route - The museum and the old mine of Montecatini

Start-End



2. The mine dam

Historical-cultural feature

The spectacular Muraglione dam was built in 1856 for the needs of the mine but never used. The dam is part of a project for the exploitation of six historic dams in Italy.



3. Viewpoint over Cecina Valley

Viewpoint

Wide view over the lower Cecina Valley, as far as the sea



4. Pozzo Alfredo and the archaeological area of the mine

Historical-cultural feature

Built in 1855, it was the main extraction shaft of the Caporciano Mine below; it reached a depth of 315 metres and was powered by a 25-horsepower Cornovaglia model steam engine. Today one can still admire the internal structure, the tubs and the gears that operated this enormous "lift" of other times. The shaft was used exclusively for the extraction of material, while workers only descended and ascended from the depths on foot. The visit to the shaft is included in the visit to the mine below. Read more about the Mining Museum...

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5. Car park at the Mining Museum

Car park

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6. Picnic area near Montecatini Mine

Pic Nic Area