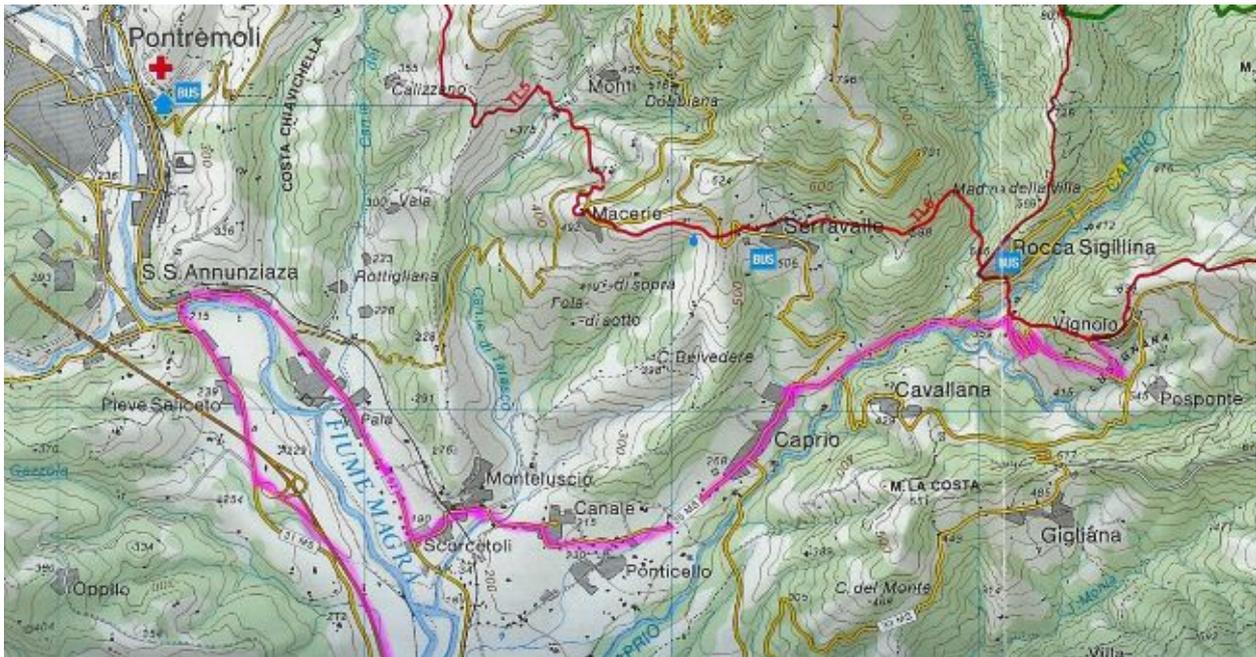


Directions from Pisa Airport to Lusignana



After you land at Pisa airport, pass through passport control and baggage reclaim and proceed through the electrically operated sliding doors to outside. Turn right. After 100yds or so you will see the bus stop for the (free) coach to the hire car terminal building. This contains reception desks for all the main hire companies - Hertz, Europcar, Sixt Budget, Thrifty etc - together with a bar (WCs to RHS of bar). Check in, then collect your car at the immediately adjacent storage compound. Before starting off do check the controls - we once got to the first toll booth and couldn't work out how to lower the windows to pick up an entry ticket!

Leaving the car hire area (hire terminal your left), turn right and continue a short distance until you come to a (very busy) mini-roundabout where you turn left. Continue parallel to the autostrada for a short distance, proceeding straight ahead at the first roundabout. Take the second turning on the right (signed A12 Autostrada Genova). Go up the slip road and join the autostrada. After a couple of miles you will encounter toll booths. Use any booth (except ones signed "Telepass" & "ViaCard") and pick up a ticket. Leaving the booth, keep right and take the A12 slip road (if you fail to heed this instruction you will end up at Livorno – not recommended!).

Continue on the A12 for about 40 minutes until you see signs for the A15/E33 to Parma and follow these for about another 20 minutes. Eventually you will see the exit for Pontremoli. Turn right at the T junction you will encounter as you leave the toll booth (signed Cisa/Villafranca) and head towards the centre of Pontremoli. After $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile the road kinks to the left and at that point you should turn right onto a single track bridge over the River Magra (the main bridge adjacent to the autostrada exit was destroyed in the October 2011 floods). At the other end of the bridge turn right and proceed for about 1.5 miles until you see a sign mounted on your right (indicating Aulla straight on and Scorcetoli to the left) immediately followed by a sign mounted on your left littered with place names including Caprio, Cavallana & Lusignana (7km). Turn left and note the Farmacia (Pharmacy), Poste Italiane (Post Office) and bar to your immediate right. Carry on, passing beneath the railway line and winding your way upwards.

Eventually you arrive at Caprio di sotto. You are faced with a narrow entrance to the borgo with a church on your left and a car park/refuse point on your right. Keep straight on through the borgo. When you emerge you will see a car park/refuse point on your left. Keep straight on past another pinch point at Caprio di sopra. After 5mins you will encounter a sharp left hand bend on which there is a road to your right. This is signposted Lusignana – turn so as to pass along it. Cross the bridge over the gorge and wind your way up the hill. After 5mins you will leave the trees and be faced with an impressive view of the valley to your right. Shortly afterwards there is a road to your left signposted Vignolo which rises steeply to the village's lower car park. This is where you need to be.

From the lower car park walk a few yards up the hill to a little piazza (green waste bin and gas regulator cubicle to your right), then continue left along a concrete pathway between two houses. 50m later turn sharp left by a little shrine embedded in a wall. The entrance to our house is 50m up a steep incline on your left.