

Route Name: Querceto Ridge (Posponte)

Starting Point

The walk starts and finishes at Vignolo. It is a pleasant half day's stroll, the main feature of which is a trek along the Querceto ridge which forms the boundary between the Lusignana and Biglio valleys. In winter when the trees are bare, good views can be had to both sides of the ridge. In summer the views are obscured by foliage, but by way of compensation the woods provide welcome shade from the heat of the day.

Note that "la quercia" is an oak (tree) and that roughly speaking "querceto" means a copse of oaks.

Distance/Walking Time

The walk is about 5.5km long. At a relaxing pace it can easily be completed within two hours.

Ascent/Grade

The walk starts at 544m and initially the going is almost all downhill to the low point of 470m (which is on the Gigliana Road, just as it straightens out after the hairpin bends). The walk then involves a steady, but gentle, climb the highest point which is at 725m. There follows a continuous steady descent back to Vignolo.

This is about as undemanding a walk as one can find in the area – anyone of average fitness should experience no difficulty.

As with all walks it is possible to get lost, but it is unlikely that you will become hopelessly so – especially if you have a compass. Note that the map indicates a path which appears to run directly from the Querceto Ridge to Posponte – an attractive short cut home. Be advised that although the starting point of this path is easy enough to find, it rapidly becomes indistinct as you approach the stream (spot height 569m on the map) – a recipe for trouble and best avoided.

Refreshments

None – take your own.

Instructions

Walk down the road from the lower car park at Vignolo until you reach the T-junction. Turn left over the bridge and proceed uphill for a short distance, then turn right along the road to Gigliana/Cavallana. This winds gently down the valley, eventually reaching a low point from which it rises Westwards in a straight line towards of Cavallana. To the right there is an open vista which includes both Vignolo and Rocca. To the left is a virtually treeless embankment covered in debris (the site of a landslide). Just after the trees resume, turn left off the road and climb steeply for 50m or so. The path is initially indistinct but in no time you will see a well worn track rising to your right. Follow this upwards until it meets the Gigliana road once more. (If you are in the right place you will see a shrine directly opposite as you emerge from the woods). Turn sharp left up the white road which leads to Biglio and turn left again after about 50m. You should now be on a gently rising track which keeps to the South (Biglio) side of Querceto ridge.

Continue upwards along the ridge and enjoy the rustling leaves and the forest glades. The path alternates between gently rising sections and virtually flat ridge. Eventually you will emerge from the trees and find yourself on a white road. Turn left and continue downhill all the way back to Vignolo where you will arrive at the top car park.

