



MONTECATINI AND THE HAMLETS OF VALDINIEVOLE
ROADBOOK

0,000	➔ Starting point: Piazza Italia , In front of the railway station: proceed towards the centre of Montecatini along Corso Matteotti . Pass a traffic light
0,850	Once arrived near San Martino , turn right and follow the road bending to the left , and then turn right taking Viale Verdi . In front of the Thermal Baths follow the road bending to the left, and then turn right taking viale Fedeli
1,950	At the traffic light, turn left towards “Pescia” , and continue along the tree-lined avenue that leads out of Montecatini
3,550	At the yield sign, continue straight ahead taking the Strada Regionale Lucchese . Cross the bridge , and continue along the road; pass a traffic light and a roundabout , and continue straight ahead
6,100	At the roundabout , take the first exit to remain along the same road
6,200	Petrol Station at km 6.200
6,300	Turn right towards “Borgo a Baggiano” , and continue along Corso Indipendenza , the road that runs across the town
6,750	Turn right towards Piazza Coluccio Salutati ; turn around the square, in the only possible direction: first right , and then left , and continue straight ahead to get out of the square
6,850	At the STOP sign turn left , and follow the road through the railway underpass
7,000	Just after the underpass , turn right along the Strada Provinciale Colligiana SP29 , which leads to the top of the hills
7,900	Arrival at Buggiano Castello . Park along the road in the available parking areas: the town is a limited traffic area. To continue the itinerary, go along the uphill road, lined with century-old olive trees. At about km 9.500 , you can park along the road and visit the hamlet of Colle di Buggiano

11,200	Turn left , in a very sharp bend, along the SP31 road towards Cozzile . Continue straight ahead for about 400 m to arrive in Massa ; park along the road: the town is a limited traffic area
13,650	Go along the residential area of Cozzile ; at the end of the town there is the possibility to park along the road: the hamlet is a limited traffic area. To continue the itinerary, proceed along the road that runs through a broad-leaf trees mixed forest
19,100	At the STOP sign, turn right
20,350	At the yield sign, turn right towards “Marliana” taking the SP633 road, which runs downhill with bends very close to each other
31,850	Turn left towards “Montecatini Alto” , and go along the road lined with a long brick wall. At km 32.200 keep to the left and continue uphill
33,550	Once arrived in the hamlet of Montecatini Alto , park at the entrance of the town: limited traffic area. On the left, there is a panoramic view of Montecatini and Valdinievole . To continue, go back over the same road
35,300	At the yield sign, keep to the left and continue straight ahead At km 37.700 , follow the road bending to the right. At km 36.300 Grotta Maona
38,150	Turn left towards “Pistoia” . Pass a traffic light
38,850	Turn left
39,700	At the roundabout , take the second exit , via Sardegna
40,000	Once reached the roundabout of Piazza Italia , you have reached the arriving point of the itinerary



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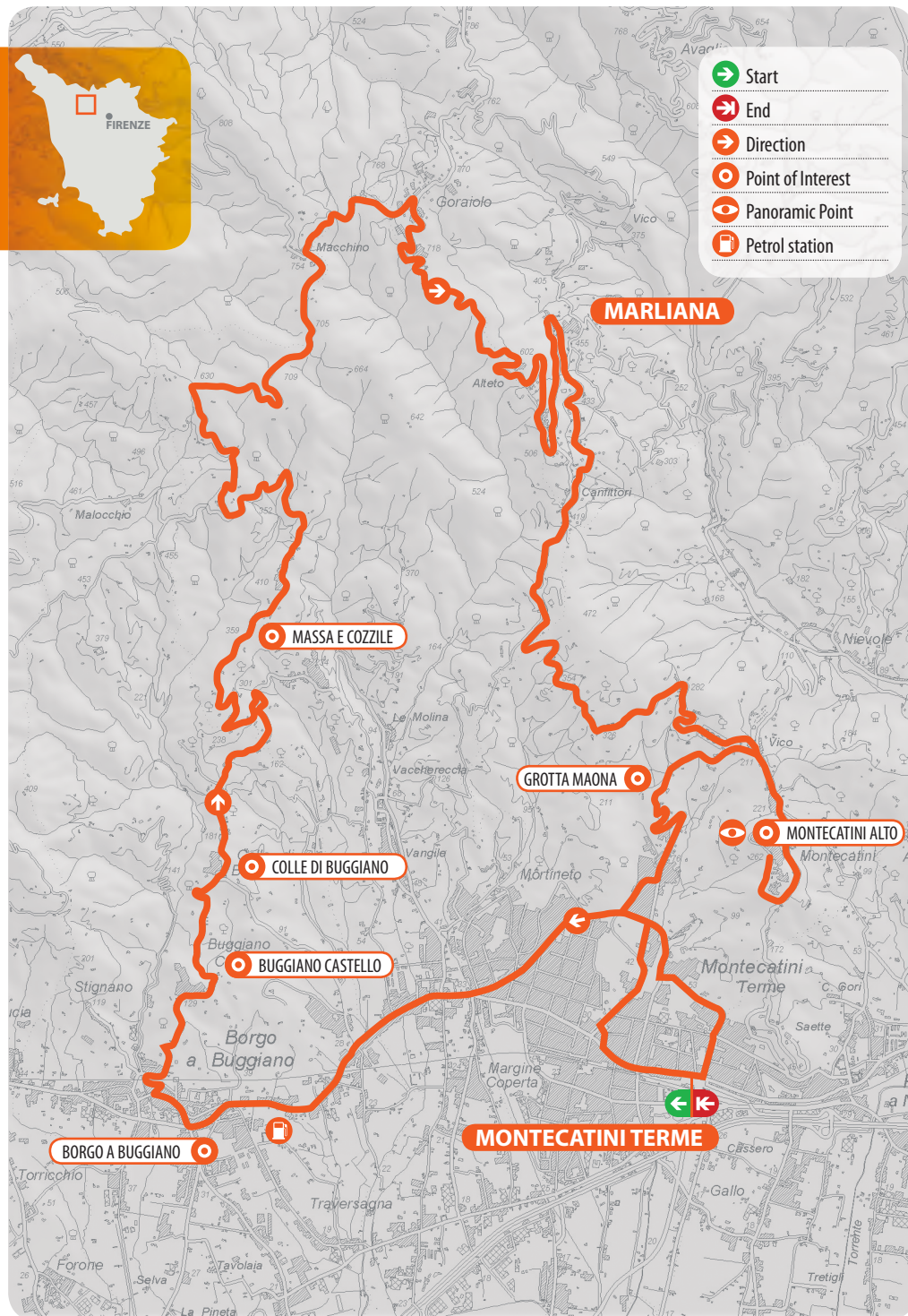


AGENZIA
PER IL TURISMO
ABETONE PISTOIA
MONTAGNA P.S.E



Intervento realizzato all'interno delle azioni previste dal progetto interregionale (L.135/2001 art. 5) "Valorizzazione comprensorio sciistico toscano emiliano" cofinanziato da Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri - Dipartimento per lo sviluppo e la competitività del turismo - e dalla Regione Toscana

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Toscana
in
Valdinievole

MONTECATINI AND THE HAMLETS OF VALDINIEVOLE

The itinerary starts from Montecatini Terme to continue through the hills that surround it, rich in hamlets, churches, parish churches, and buildings. They are the evidence of the medieval peasant past that characterised the Valdinievole. The itinerary develops in an uncontaminated scenario of forests, and the fortified hamlets of Buggiano Castello, Colle, Massa, and Cozzile are located along it. They are characterised by their ancient battle-mented fortifications and the houses closed round the town.

TOTAL LENGTH OF THE ITINERARY: 40 km

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: average-easy, slightly challenging only on the hills and bends

TYPE OF STREET SURFACE: asphalted, and generally in good conditions

TRAVELLING TIME: 1 hour and 15 minutes of itinerary, excluding stops

MINIMUM ALTITUDE RANGE: 22 m above sea level

MAXIMUM ALTITUDE RANGE: 755 m above sea level

MONTECATINI ALTO

Montecatini Alto was a castle of Roman origin located on a hill, the only one existing in Montecatini. Originally, the thermal baths were only at the foot of the castle. They have been known for their curative properties since ancient times, probably already by the Etruscans, but the area was unhealthy because of stagnant waters, even if during the 1500s measures were taken to contain waters in thermal baths. It was Leopoldo, the Grand Duke of Tuscany, who ordered the construction of the draining channels, thus contributing to the creation of a second hamlet, the “Bag-ni di Montecatini” (Montecatini Baths), whose importance increased in time, until it became the main hamlet. Only the

Town’s main gate remained of the six access doors of Montecatini Alto, while the various existing towers have been incorporated by other buildings, from the bell tower of the parish church, to the remains of the citadel; only the clock tower, and the one in front of S. Maria convent, remained as they were.

BORCHI MEDIEVALI

Buggiano is the first of the ancient hills hamlets that can be found along the itinerary, and together with the ancient Parish Church of San Niccolao and the Palazzo del Podestà (Podestà Building), it is the evidence of a past intense town activity; then comes Colle that once hosted the headquarters of the Knights Templars,

who assisted the pilgrims that were going to Rome through the below Via Francigena, and where we also find the Pieve (Parish Church) of S.Lorenzo, with its fourteenth century frescoes, and wooden Crucifix of the XIV century. Massa and Cozzile are clearly of medieval origin, as evidenced by the remains of the walls, the town gates, and the city morphology; very interesting are the Palagio del Podestà (Podestà Building) and the religious complex with the Parish church in Massa, and the Palazzo de Gubernatis (de Gubernatis Building) in Cozzile.

MAONA GROTTA

The Maona Grotto centuries-old natural grotto, the only one in Italy with the presence of two pits: you go down, by the entrance pit, inside the 20 m depth cavern, and passing through various galleries, where nature and water have created fantastic drawings made of stalactites and stalagmites, you return to the surface from the second pit. Open from April to the middle of October with guided tours.



TOURISTS INFORMATION OFFICE OF MONTECATINI TERME

Viale Verdi, 66/68

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Opening hours:

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. / 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

, every day, all year round

(closed on 25.12. and 01.01.)

ALONG THE ITINERARY

If you pass from Montecatini, you must taste the “Cialda di Montecatini” (Montecatini’s Waffle), a gastronomic speciality of this city: it is crumbly, and very similar to wafers with chopped almonds and sugar filling; it is excellent combined with ice creams, tea, hot chocolate, and vinsanto (sweet white Italian dessert wine)...

