

LA PIEVACCIA • SERRA

Start from **Panicagliora**. Proceed towards Goraiolo-Pescia and at the edge of the hamlet, near a roadside shrine, a tourist sign indicates the direction for the **Parish Church of S. Andrea di Furfalo**.

The route, always following the main trail, runs along an ancient track that connected the two Panicagliora-Serra ridges, crossing first a fir-wood, then a chestnut grove, and next, a downhill stretch that then becomes level. In less than 2 km, you come to the remains of the **Parish Church of S. Andrea di Furfalo**, also known as "**la Pievaccia**" (678 m.). Today only some imposing ruins remain of the ancient building. The ancient parish church can be reached during any season and is a popular destination for walks, events, and processions.

The main trail, indicated by red-and-white signs, continues gently uphill towards **Serra**, already clearly visible on high in front of us. Then, after a long stretch on relatively level ground and passing the Pescioline River, near a gentle curve to the left, a mule track leaves the wood. Be careful not to continue along the nearly level cart road that can seem like the main trail but in reality is used only by the forest rangers and woodsmen for maintenance and deforestation work. From there, join the grassy-bed trail that climbs steeply to the village of **Serra Pistoiese**.

LA PIEVACCIA

The ancient medieval Parish Church of S. Andrea di Furfalo, also known as La Pievaccia, was founded by eastern missionaries who greatly venerated the apostle Saint Andrew and were in Italy between the VI and VII centuries A.D., precisely during the conflicts between the Lombards and the Byzantine Empire. At the end of the VI century A.D., together with the Neure parish in the Nievole Valley, it became part of the irregular line of defense set up by the Byzantines along the border between the, already occupied, diocese of Lucca and that of Pistoia so as to check the progressive invasion towards the East by the Lombards, first of the entire Valdinievole and then of the Pistoia territory. Its isolation has been put into context by historians with the identification of the church as the *Aeglesia S. Andree ubi est baptisterium*, claimed as falling into its own diocese by both the bishop of Lucca and that of Pistoia in 716 A.D. In Emperor Otto III's Diploma of 25 February 998 A.D., the parish church - called *Plebs de Furfalo* - was placed under the jurisdiction of the bishop of Pistoia. There is another citation from the XI century, in the cartulary of the Chapter of the Cathedral of Pistoia, in which it is specified that its protector saint is Saint Andrew (S. Andrea) located in Furfalo. The current name of the Forfora Valley derives from the place-name of Furfalo or Forfalo. In 1200 A.D., coinciding with its renovation in the Lucchese Romanesque style, it was simply called the *Plebs S. Andree de Serra*, given its proximity to the castle of Serra Pistoiese that belonged to the free Commune of Pistoia. In 1327, the consul-for-life Castruccio Castracani degli Antelminelli with his army placed the Serra castle under siege and destroyed some parts of the ancient church. Its decline began at that time, but it was abandoned definitively only in 1651 A.D., when the Church of San Leonardo was constructed within the Serra Pistoiese castle.

MAPS, TEXT AND PHOTOS

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WALKING ITINERARY

LA PIEVACCIA SERRA MARLIANA



AGENZIA
PER IL TURISMO
ABETONE PISTOIA
MONTAGNA PSE



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

www.pistoia.turismo.toscana.it

LA PIEVACCIA SERRA

Starting point: Panicagliora (Municipality of Marliana)


Access: from Pistoia, take the beltway west, following the signs for SP17 - Zoo - Momigno - Femminamorta. After 14 km, at the intersection with Mammianese Provincial road 633, turn left towards Panicagliora for about 3 km.

Total length: 3.5 km (round trip, 7 km)

Terrain: completely dirt

Difficulty: easy - suitable for everyone

Notes: passable all year on foot or by mountain bike following the red-and-white signs (in winter, probability of snow)

-  Start
-  End
-  Direction
-  Point of Interest
-  Caution
-  Information Point
-  Fountain
-  Refreshment
-  Panoramic Point
-  Picnic Area
-  CAI Trail

