



## PITECCIO • CASTAGNO • SAN MOMMÈ HISTORICAL PORRETTANA RAILWAY

Start from the church square in the village of **Piteccio** (225 m.) and begin walking north on Via XXIV Maggio. A few dozen meters further on, after crossing the Fosso di Castagno, turn right in front of the pharmacy, going uphill following the red-and-white signs for the **CAI 212 Capriolo Trail**. The route climbs, passing under a majestic bridge (48 m. high) as far as an old railway building (Via di Castagno n. 6). (A short detour to the right is recommended to visit the **Piteccio station**, currently closed to passengers but the seat of the Gruppo Fermodellistico La Porrettana, or Porrettana Model Train Group). Then proceed uphill on the dirt road following the main path, lined in stretches by box hedges, and the red-and-white signs until passing near the paved road after about a half kilometer (343 m.). Continue uphill on the trail until reaching a roadside shrine where the itinerary continues to the left. However, first, a short detour to the left is necessary to visit the characteristic village of **Castagno** with its “**open-air museum**” and small railroad station. Leaving the village, return to the roadside shrine. From here the mule track continues downhill and crosses a wood dominated mainly by chestnut trees but also with elder, black locust, and heather. Next, the route continues on rather flat ground and comes to the small hamlet of **Case Bruni** (Via Valdi e San Mommè) and, after an evocative stroll among the houses, it continues downhill until reaching the paved Piteccio-San Mommè road. Go right, climbing slightly until the fork for **La Crocetta**. Here cross the bridge over the Ombrone River and continue climbing until the end of the pavement. Then, follow the cement path uphill, easily identifiable by a metal railing, to come again to the dirt road. From here, continue following the main trail until arriving shortly in the village of **San Mommè**. Interesting sights to see: the church and oratory of S. Maria in Savaiana and the little railroad station.

### THE PORRETTANA RAILWAY

The Porrettana railway line was the first connection across the Apennines between Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna; it straddled the Apennine ridge connecting Bologna and Pistoia. Also known as the Strada ferrata dell'Italia Centrale (Iron Road of Central Italy), it was officially inaugurated by Vittorio Emanuele II in 1864. At the time, it was an enormous feat of engineering with its 47 tunnels and 35 bridges and aqueducts for a total length of 99 km. The most difficult stretch was the one between Pracchia and Pistoia where a 550-meter difference in level within 26 km had to be overcome. The effort was entrusted to the French engineer Louis Protche who resolved the problem by designing a spiral tunnel in the stretch between Piteccio and Corbezzi. The design was later re-used for the construction of San Gottardo tunnel.

#### MAPS, TEXT AND PHOTOS

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## WALKING ITINERARY

# PITECCIO CASTAGNO SAN MOMMÈ HISTORICAL PORRETTANA RAILWAY

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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

WALKING ITINERARY

# PITECCIO • CASTAGNO SAN MOMMÈ HISTORICAL PORRETTANA RAILWAY

This interesting itinerary offers the possibility of visiting some characteristic villages involved in the history of the Porrettana railway line as well as a pleasant walk in the woods

Starting point: Piteccio (Municipality of Pistoia)

Access: from Pistoia, take the beltway north towards Abetone - Modena to the end. Then, rather than continuing uphill on SP12, turn right towards S. Felice - Piteccio and then take the first left, coming to Piteccio after 4 km. This itinerary can also be done by arriving in Piteccio using the COPIT bus no. 25 and returning to Pistoia from the San Mommè train station on the Porrettana railway line

Total length: 5.5 km (round trip, 11 km.)

Terrain: mainly dirt roads and a short paved stretch

Difficulty: easy – suitable for everyone

Notes: passable all year on foot, following first the red-and-white signs for the CAI 212 Capriolo Trail

By mountain bike, it is suitable only for expert cyclists because there are some very narrow stretches of the trail

Fountains located along the route

- Start
- ↔ End
- Direction
- Point of Interest
- ⚠ Caution
- i Information Point
- 🗿 Fountain
- 🍴 Refreshment
- 👁 Panoramic Point
- 🏕 Picnic Area
- 🚶 CAI Trail

