



## NARROW-GAUGE TRAIN (F.A.P.) ITINERARY

Starting from **Campo Tizzoro**. From the parking lot (690 m.), enter the easily identifiable shared-use path and proceed on a roadbed that initially is paved and then becomes dirt, going through a fir-wood still following the main track. After about 1 km, there is a short, mixed track; keep left on Via Cassero to again join the bike path near a barrier bar near which is a panel that describes the entire route.

It is a pleasant and inviting route for both the minimal incline and the gravel roadbed as well as for the availability of benches and the panoramic stretches. Shortly, we come to the **old Maresca station**, recently renovated and now the seat of a credit institution. Continue to the end of the square and passing the flowered traffic circle, continue on Via Ponte Grosso (for those following the itinerary on mountain bike, pay attention to the short no-entry stretch). Then go past the bridge and take the main road to the right, uphill. After 100 m. on the opposite side, also highlighted by a descriptive panel, take up again the old narrow-gauge train route, initially uphill and then across mostly flat ground where a beautiful panorama can be seen between the trees. Go to and then beyond the paved **Oppio - Gavinana** road from where we can admire the **old Oppio station**. We continue over grassy terrain that a little further on becomes a narrow trail. However, this stretch is short and after a bit, the small road exits on to the paved road (830 m.). From here, continue to the left downhill for 1.2 km as far as the old Gavinana station (780 m.). This building has also been renovated and now houses a pub-restaurant. A total of 5.6 km is covered.

Go past the gardens and continue to the left downhill towards the sports field and "Fondazione Turati". Then another barrier bar to the left indicates the old railroad route. Continue again slightly downhill along the main route. The route is easily recognizable by its width and the availability of benches. At a certain point, there is a panoramic view of **Limestre**. One point of interest a little further on is an old, renovated signalman's house. Continue ahead, crossing a stretch of wood and a bridge until shortly reaching the old Limestre station and the barrier bar, near a fountain, indicates the end of the route (647 m.). From here, **San Marcello Pistoiese** is clearly visible and easily reachable; it is a vacation spot and the main town in the Pistoian mountains. Public transport (COPIB Bus Lines) is available to return to the starting point.

### F.A.P. - FERROVIE ALTO PISTOIESE

The image of Campo Tizzoro is linked to the factories set up in 1910 by the Società Metallurgica Italiana, today L.M.I., a company that fostered the founding of many artisanal firms also in the nearby communities. This route unwinds along a part of the route of the former Ferrovie Alto Pistoiese (FAP) railway, a narrow-gauge line (950 mm) created in 1926 that was a little less than 17 km long. It connected Pracchia and Mammiano passing through Pontepetri, Campo Tizzoro, Maresca, Gavinana, Limestre and San Marcello Pistoiese. The line started at the large square outside the Pracchia railroad station (at 616 m. a.s.l.) and ran for 600 meters along the right bank of the Reno River. It crossed a bridge on a curve and then settled on the provincial road from Pracchia to Pontepetri as far as Campo Tizzoro where it flanked the Società Metallurgica Italiana factories. From this point, the line left running along the national road and continued on a dedicated track running through the Maresca River valley, crossing the river on a bridge. With an incline of 40 meters per kilometer, it crossed a beech forest and arrived in the village of Maresca (at 780 meters a.s.l.). Leaving the village, the railway again crossed the river on a 4-span viaduct. With a long circular curve, it began the climb as far as the Oppio Pass, the ridge between the Adriatic and the Apennine slopes at 843 meters a.s.l. Then it began the descent towards Gavinana along a route with many curves until it arrived in Limestre, the seat of another S.M.I. factory. It then went back along the state road, reaching San Marcello Pistoiese (at 632 meters a.s.l.). From San Marcello, the railroad - partly on a dedicated track, partly on a national road - ended after a kilometer and a half in Mammiano (at 613 meters a.s.l.). The journey lasted about 45 minutes at an average speed of 20 km/h. The line was abandoned on 30 September 1965 and completely dismantled. In some stretches, the track has been re-used as a shared use path.

#### MAPS, TEXT AND PHOTOS

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PROVINCIA  
DI PISTOIA

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WALKING ITINERARY

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S.MARCELLO P.S.E



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

[www.pistoia.turismo.toscana.it](http://www.pistoia.turismo.toscana.it)

# NARROW-GAUGE TRAIN (F.A.P.) ITINERARY

**Starting point:** Campo Tizzoro (715 m.) - Via Caterina Bueno parking lot

**Access:** From Pistoia, going west on the beltway, follow the signs for SP 66 San Marcello Pistoiese - Abetone; Campo Tizzoro is 21 km. away. The Via Caterina Bueno parking lot is on the right, near the LMI (former SEDI) factory

**Total length:** 9 km (round trip, 18 km).  
Possibility of returning to the starting point by public transportation with the COPIT bus service

**Terrain:** mainly dirt roads

**Difficulty:** easy- suitable for everyone

**Notes:** nature-tourist itinerary passable on foot or by mountain bike all year (in winter, probability of snow on the ground)

**To visit:** Pracchia - Maresca - Gavinana - S. Marcello Pistoiese and the old railroad stations of Pontepetri - Campo Tizzoro - Mammiano

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

