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72T DA CAMPOROSSO A COLLE SAN BARTOLOMEO - STAGE 1 : from Camporosso to Taggia

Planimetry (temporary map)



Description

Features of the stage: level of difficulty red; length 48,33 Km; elevation change m. 1085; recommended period: all the year.

Departure from the Amicizia Bridge at Camporosso. You follow steep Via Turistica to the nearby pass at Madonna dell'Annunziata (250 m) and then head north on the long stretch of dirt track running flat along the

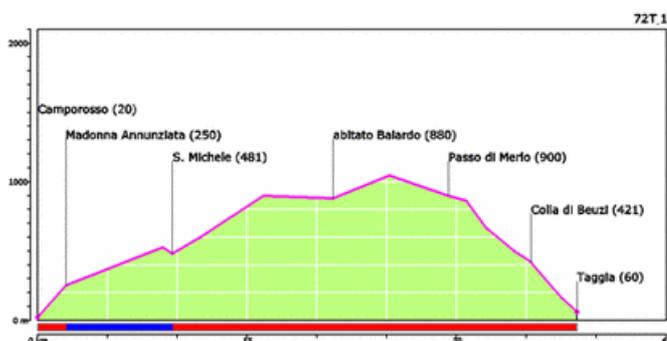
crest. After various crossroads (follow the signs carefully) you come to the Dolceacqua – Perinaldo town road at Cresta della Biscia (526 m., very scenic spot). Now bear right until reaching the lovely old town of Perinaldo stretched out on the slope (monumental edifices and the Cassini astronomical observatory to visit).

Once you leave Perinaldo (590 m., lodgings possible), follow provincial road 61 to the Brunengo tunnel (895 m.). On the left you enter a well-marked trail going north to Passo Ghimbegna, near the village of Baiardo (interesting old town in an exceptionally scenic position).

Turn right and then at the crossroads turn left and head in the direction of Mt. Ceppo until the junction with the dirt track on the right (1044 m.) for Fascia d'Ubaga. Follow the crest slightly downhill for about 2 km. Once you have passed Cima Furché (notice the monumental chestnut tree with explanatory plaque). At c. 1000 m. altitude now you turn right and circumvent the peak of Mt. Merlo by going along the side of Armea valley. Then after a fairly long stretch you rejoin the crest again (c. 900 m.). From here follow the wooded slope for 1 km. more. Then take the little path on the left that stays in the middle of thick woods and joins a path from below (at 660 m.). Going in the opposite direction from our itinerary, this path leads to the rural Sanctuary of the Maddalena (still a traditional place of worship).

Turn south instead, arriving at Albareo (498 m., lovely amphitheater of former cultivations and scenic view over the valley and the Taggia plain). Then at the fork in the road bear right and head down towards Colle di Beuzi (421 m). After passing Punta Pistarini turn left, and after a few meters on asphalt you enter the old town mule track that used to connect Ceriana to Taggia and traverses the slope between cultivated fields and overgrown zones. About where the motorway viaduct is, the mule track joins a road paved in cement that steeply descends to the beautiful old town of Taggia (c. 200 m.).

Altitude chart

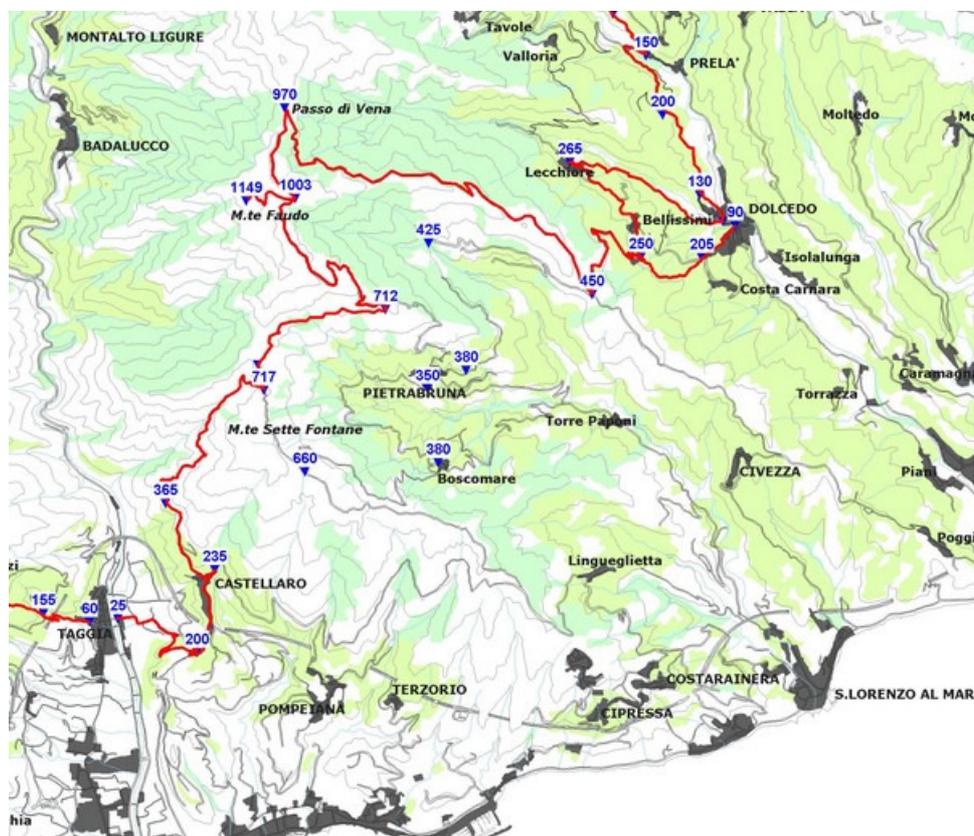


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72T DA CAMPOROSSO A COLLE SAN BARTOLOMEO - STAGE 2 : from Taggia to Dolcedo

Planimetry (temporary map)





Description

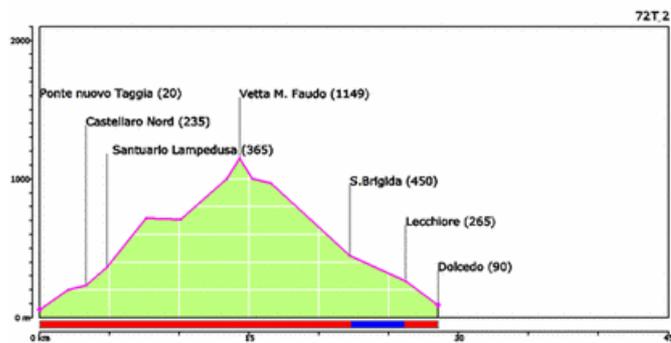
Features of the stage: level of difficulty red; length 30,3 (31,10) Km; elevation change m.1229; recommended period: all the year.

From the left bank of the Argentina (Nuovo Bridge) you go up winding roads flanked by flower cultivations and houses until reaching the SP 51 (c. 200 m.). After turning left you take the provincial road for a brief stretch, quickly coming to Castellaro (lovely old town stretched out on the crest). Keep left for the narrow street to the Sanctuary of N.S. di Lampedusa (Baroque votive church with an interesting collection of votive offerings; very scenic spot to stop). Now bear right and pick up the dirt track up the steep slope to the watershed. When you reach the top (717 m.), head north and go past the little S. Salvatore chapel. The trail is horizontal at first and then goes uphill until a fork in the road (1003 m.). On the left is an asphalted tract of about 900 m. that takes you up to the vast level summit of Mount Fauto (very scenic spot).

After going back down to the fork again, turn left and go along the trail that quickly takes you down to S. Brigida (old rural chapel at 450 m.). Now ride down the asphalt road that goes through a beautiful oak woods and then vast olive groves on the way to Trincheri (c. 300 m.). From here you can either continue in the direction of Bellissimi and then Lecchiore (possible lodgings in agriturismo) or bear right on the easy dirt track that goes through the olive woods and comes out at the village of Castellazzo. Now head down to the center of Dolcedo (75 m.), important old town center.

You can get to Dolcedo from the hamlet of Lecchiore by following the marked path that gradually descends the slope, with the river below.

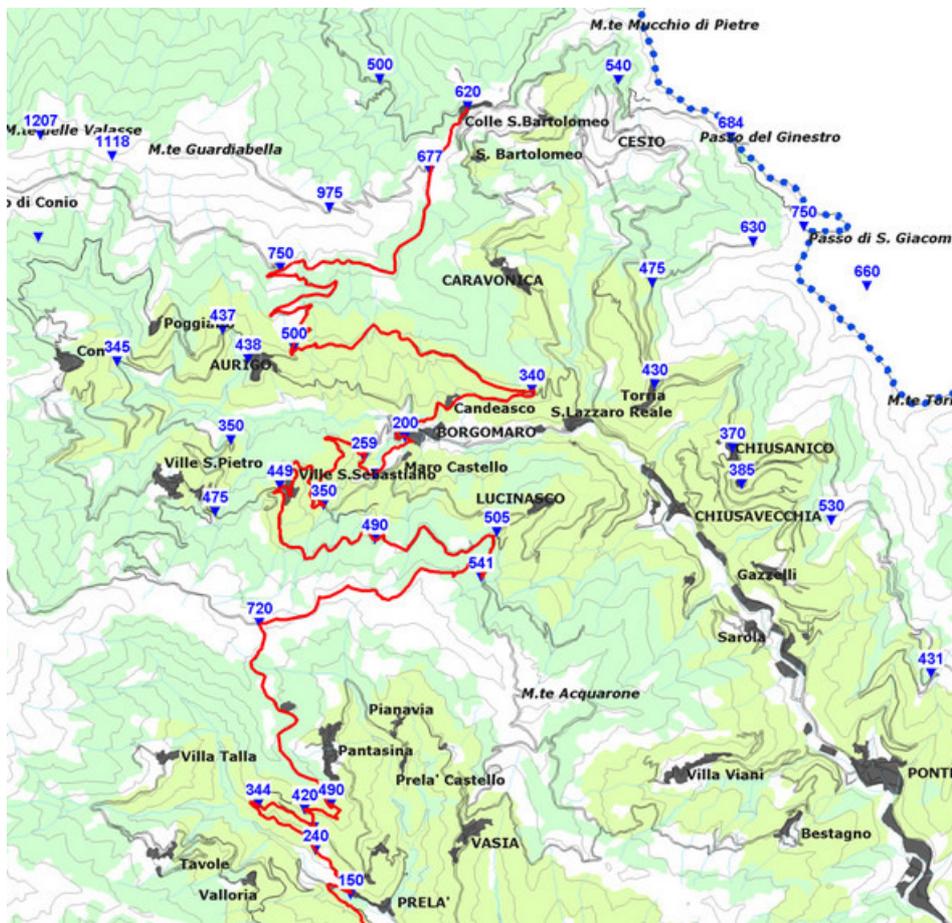
Altitude chart



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72T DA CAMPOROSSO A COLLE SAN BARTOLOMEO - STAGE 3 : from Dolcedo to Colle San Bartolomeo

Planimetry (temporary map)





Description

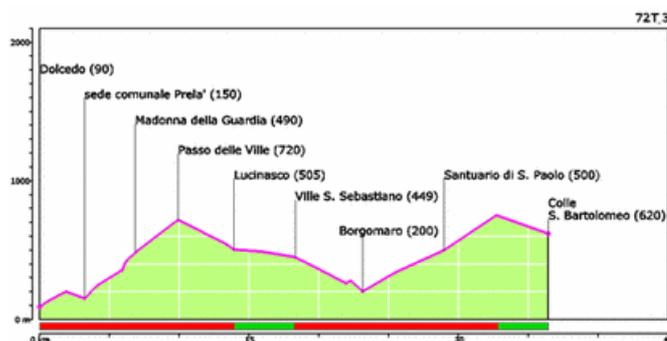
Features of the stage: level of difficulty red; length 36,0 Km; elevation change m. 1139; recommended period: all the year.

Near Dolcedo cross the medieval bridge and then ride up to the magnificent village of Ripalta (150 m.). Then take the easy trail through olive groves in the direction of Prelà. At the first fork bear right and then continue straight on until you come to the SP 39. Turn right, go across the bridge, and you quickly reach the village. Now take the little road going up to the cemetery and after about 800 m. you come to the houses of Canneto Sottano, a small village immersed in the olive woods. Turn left and head north through the olive groves covering the slope. You are on dirt trail, walking on path for about 300 m. and then back on dirt trail again until you come to the SP 93 and the church of Madonna della Guardia (490 m., beautiful scenic spot). Just below is the village of Pantasina (possible lodgings in agriturismo).

Set off again by going up the SP 93. At an altitude of 720 m. you will come to the junction of the dirt trail, which you follow for 4 km. to Lucinasco (scenic medieval village). Near the lovely church of S. Stefano turn left into the asphalted inter-town road. After a long descent through woods and olive groves it will take you to Ville S. Sebastiano (hamlet of Borgomaro), hooking up with the SP 24 and itinerary 73 T.

Once beyond the village, take the dirt track on the left down to the beautiful Abbey of S. Nazario. At the exit (259 m.), back on the SP 24 again, you turn right and climb for a brief stretch. At the end of the road take the lane that goes straight into the old town center of Borgomaro (parish church to visit - 200 m.). After crossing the Impero torrent, turn left. Then take a right into the SP 26 up to Aurigo. At the first turnoff on the right, leave the SP 26 and go on to Candiasco (288 m., exceptional Baroque church at the end of the village). From here continue for about 1 km. on the asphalt farm track for Caravonica. At the first fork you leave the track, turning left into a little road that winds up the slope through fields, olive groves and overgrown zones. Near the cemetery (500 m.), the road joins the asphalt town road going up to Guardiabella, and after passing through magnificent oak woods it comes to the SP 21 at an altitude of 750 m. From this point, go right for about 3 km. on level ground until you come to Colle S. Bartolomeo (620 m., scenic spot).

Altitude chart



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