

Albano Valley loop trail

Road access from Bergamo:

Albano Sant' Alessandro, Public parking of via Valle di Albano
Km. 13

Start of excursion:

Public parking on via Valle di Albano (243 m.)

Travelling time:

2^h 30'

Height difference:

208 m.

Difficulties:

AE  

Recommended period:

All year round, to be avoided after recent rains.

Water on the route:

YES, near the Church of Our Lady of Argon, at the highest point of the route.

Rest stop:

NO, restaurants and bars are in the village

Information:

Parco delle valli d'Argo Lead partner San Paolo d'Argon
Spinning Wheel Square, 3 Email: info@plisdellevallidargon.it Tel: 035425311

Topographic map:

IGM F. ° 33 II S.O. Alzano Lombardo

Geographical coordinates:

45,695078° N, 9,778687° E

An excursion in the Valli d'Argon park, on dirt roads and paths surrounded by greenery, with a visit to the two churches, Santa Maria d'Argon and San Giorgio, united by a path that runs along the ridge of the Monti d'Argon.



The starting point is the public car park in Via Valle di Albano.



We move along the asphalted road, continuing on via Valle di Albano, in a north-easterly direction, towards the head of the valley.



After a little less than a kilometre, at a Tribulina, we turn left to ascend on an asphalted stretch.



After the short shortcut, the uphill section that takes us to Colle dei Pasta begins, and we continue uphill on asphalt. After two hairpin bends and the Cascina Colombi, the road becomes a mixture of asphalt and cement.



We find ourselves amidst tidy vineyards and olive groves, a clear sign of man's patient work.



After a last hairpin bend we continue to an obvious crossroads, continue to the left and the ground changes to a coarse dirt road and the road narrows.



We are at Colle dei Pasta, municipality of Torre de' Roveri. Our ascent ends near a strange grove with blue-coloured trunks.



We leave the grove to the right and continue on level ground to the left until we come to two pillars that indicate the entrance to the road that we came out of.



At the exit between the pillars, we turn right.



Immediately after the pillars, we ascend the short steep cemented road to the right.



We have just begun the dirt road that runs along the ridge leading from the Colle dei Pasta to the church of Santa Maria d'Argon.



Along this stretch we come across a farmstead with a stable with cows and barns outside.



Just ahead is the small church of Santa Croce (or San Cristoforo) with its majestic cypresses.



The little church is distinguished by its characteristic colour.



In a window in the greenery, on the right, beyond a gate, in addition to the view over the plain, we notice, below, an unusual construction: it is a private astronomical observatory.



Other windows, again on our right, show us both the path, uphill, where we have parked, and the profile of the hills where our walk will continue.



The area is well maintained and protected.



We remain on the main route until the end of the road, in front of the gate of a private house, on the right, a dirt road starts with a bar that is generally always open, in any case we can pass by.



We continue uphill until we reach a last flat widening, at the foot of the last uphill stretch, on the left, the one that leads into the meadow of the church of Santa Maria d'Argon and the Hermitage of Argon.



We continue straight towards our destination.



We now see the church of Santa Maria d'Argon.



Here we are at the highest point of our route, the church of Santa Maria d'Argon on Mount Argon, (482 m).



Here we also find a water fountain, just down a few steps of the staircase that climbs up to Argon from an alternative route.



Having finished refuelling, we resume our walk.



We retrace our steps and descend the flat stretch, neglecting the path to the right, which we have just taken uphill, and continue south-west on the ridge path that connects the church of Santa Maria d'Argon and the church of San Giorgio, which is in the territory of Albano sant'Alessandro.



We cross the barrier and continue straight on.



We walk along this wide path staying on the main route. At an obvious fork, we continue left on the main path.



We now turn left.



We ascend gently and descend abruptly, this hill known by the locals as 'Mappol'.



We reach a series of fences on an extended s-shaped path and pass them.



At the end of the short steep section, the path becomes flat again and a little further on, we cross the diversions of the Sentiero della Luna (Moon Path), the destination of other hikes.



Staying on the main route, we notice, firmly embedded in the ground, some ancient boundary markers engraved with the symbols of the Benedictine monastery.



We pass this section and continue along the path.



We soon reach a rest area and crossing point of paths. To reach the small church of San Giorgio erected on the hill of the same name, we must continue on, here we return to begin the descent that takes us back to the Albano Valley.



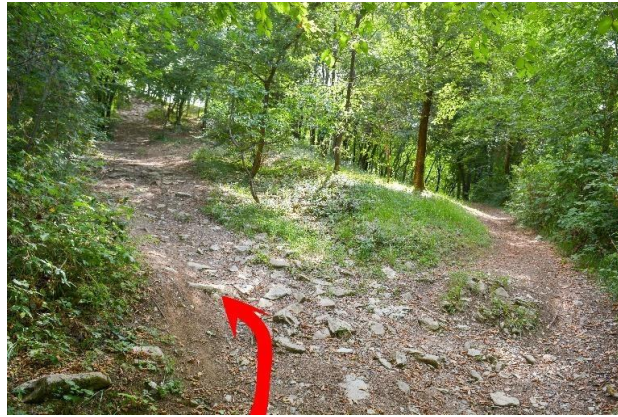
We continue on level ground as far as another boundary stone, this one marking the boundary between the municipalities of San Paolo d'Argon and Albano sant'Alessandro. Beyond the boundary stone, a downhill section begins and at the same time the route takes on the characteristics of a real path.



We pass over a depression, neglecting the path that descends to the left, and uphill we follow the stretch that takes us to Monte San Giorgio.



We continue along the path, which now has a mixed surface of earth and stones.



At the crossroads, we turn left.



Before we reach the meadow area where the church of San Giorgio has been erected, we must pass under the canopy of a very large and magnificent oak tree.



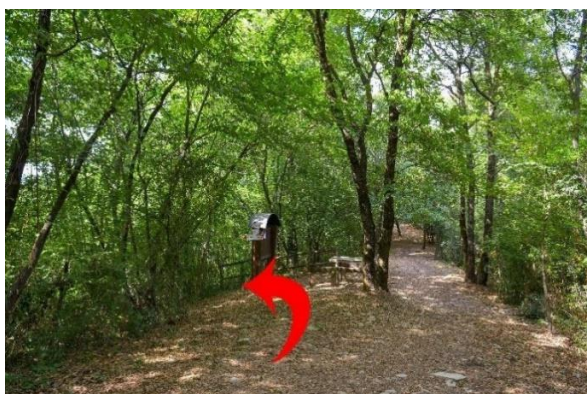
A few more steps and we have reached the summit of Mount San Giorgio, where we find the church with its cypresses, which has become the symbol of the PLIS of the Argon valleys.



Our gaze can sweep from the Po Valley to the Piedmont and Lombardy Alps, on a clear day we can see with the naked eye, the skyscrapers of Milan, Mount Rosa, Monviso.



Our gaze wanders to the Bergamo mountains.



After resting, just enough, we retrace our steps to the rest area, which we had previously crossed, we turn left and continue on our way.



We continue between two fences.



This descent is characterised by shortcuts created by mountain-bikes; we try to stay on the official path until we reach a dirt road, which we take to the left, tending to descend.



At the next fork we continue straight ahead.



We continue by turning left.



We turn left again.



Our route continues downhill.



We continue without leaving the path.



We remain on the dirt road, which always continues downhill, with even a few hairpin bends, ignoring all deviations.



We pass through a stretch of sparse woodland, equipped with many tables, near a now exhausted spring called the Fontanino di Albano. This is probably where the idea of setting up day care centres for the elderly originated, in fact this place was for years a reference point for the elderly, from Albano Sant'Alessandro, who met to play bingo and cards.



There are tables and benches for a peaceful rest.

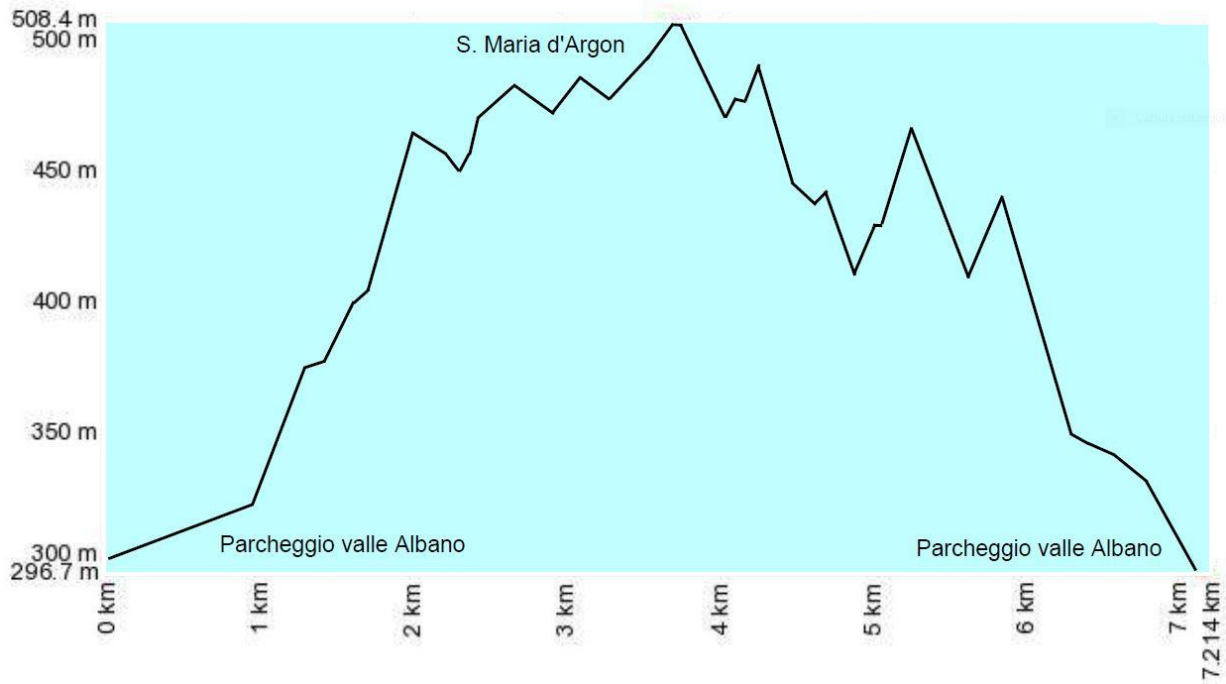


A few more metres and we leave the woods, crossing a small bridge.



We are now near the public parking area of the Albano valley. We finish our tour after having covered 7.8 km and 208 metres of total altitude difference.

Altimetria



Mappa del percorso

