# Santa Maria d'Argon - Moon Trail

# **Road access from Bergamo:**

San Paolo d'Argon (Valle Cavallina), car park of the monastery of via San Mauro Km. 14

#### Start of excursion:

Car park of the monastery of via San Mauro (250 m.)

# **Travelling time:**

1h 45' (a/r)

# **Height difference:**

232 m.

#### **Difficulties:**

ΑE



### **Recommended period:**

All year round, to be avoided after recent rains.

#### Water on the route:

YES, near the church of Madonna d'Argon, at the highest point of the route.

#### **Rest stop:**

On the route no, restaurants and bars in the village.

#### Information:

Parco delle valli d'Argon Lead partner San Paolo d'Argon Spinning Wheel Square, 3 Email: <u>info@plisdellevallidargon.it</u> Tel: 035 425311

# **Topographic map:**

IGM F. ° 33 II S.O. Alzano Lombardo

#### **Geographical coordinates:**

45,6864° N, 9,7996° E

A hike in the Valli d'Argon park, on dirt roads and paths, surrounded by greenery. The starting point is the monastery car park, in Via G. Masoni, to the east of the parish church dedicated to the conversion of St Paul the Apostle.



Walk along the small road north of the car park in a westerly direction, towards the church.



At the end of the narrow road, turn right uphill onto the tarmac road, following the signs PLIS delle Valli d'Argon.



Follow the indications on the information signs.



Go uphill until you come to a cemented road on the right; continue to the right.



Continuing uphill, we pass a rest area with a bench.



We continue uphill until we reach a meadowy widening, equipped as a rest area, at the foot of an old abandoned farmstead; we are in the hamlet of Casocc. Looking west, towards the hillside, we find three routes, we take the central route uphill, following the signs: Santa Maria d'Argon.



We climb along the dirt road until we reach another meadowy widening, with a hunting lodge; we continue to the right, following the dirt road.



We continue along the dirt road until we cross the road leading to the church of Santa Maria d'Argon; we ascend the short asphalted stretch to the left.



Continuing on, we turn immediately right again onto the dirt track.



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



We are now in sight 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 a few steps down the steps, which ascend into Argon from an alternative route.



After refuelling, we return to our route.



Retracing our steps, we descend on 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 follow this wide path staying on the main route, and at an obvious fork, we continue left on the main path.



After the straight stretch, we turn left.



We gently ascend the hill called Mappol by the locals.



We now descend a short steep section, until we return to a level path, where a little further on, at a fork in the path, we leave the ridge path to take the Moon Path.



The name of this path derives from the name of the rocks (Sasso della Luna), which make up the main body of the hill. This rock has the characteristic of being sensitive to light and tends to flake after long exposure to the sun, while the covered part remains hard and compact. The Moon Path takes us back to the hamlet of Casocc with a level course, becoming narrower. The route takes on the character of a path, becoming narrower.



We continue straight along the path.



Along the path we find forks that branch off in other directions, we remain on the main path. In the locality of Pincì is the first fork, here we briefly climb up into the meadow area above and find a rest area.



We continue on level ground.



We continue into the forest along the path.



Continuing on, we come to the locality of Chignolo, a place where the alpine soldiers of San Paolo d'Argon erect a large structure in the shape of an alpine hat for the Christmas festivities, which when illuminated can be seen from a great distance. Here we come to a series of two forks in the road, which we meet within a short distance of each other. At the first fork, we continue to the left.



At the next fork, we leave the dirt track that connects with the route taken uphill, and turn right onto the last section of the Moon Path.



We walk along this stretch until we reach the hamlet of Casocc.

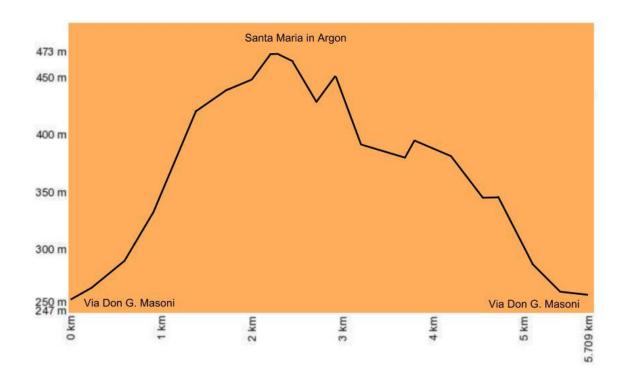


Here we find ourselves on the route taken on the outward journey, now all we have to do is descend again on the cemented road.



When we reach the parish church on the level, we walk along the short road that takes us to our starting point, where we have parked our vehicles.

# Altimetry



# Route Map

