

From Fontanella to Canto of Pontida

Road access from Bergamo:

Ponte S. Pietro, Presezzo, Valtrighe, Piana, Fontanella.
Km 19

Start of excursion:

Via Regina Teoperga, 16, Fontanella, Sotto il Monte (487 m.)

Travelling time:

1^h 30' (a/r)

Height difference:

217 m.

Difficulties:

AE   

Recommended period:

All year round

Water on the route:

YES only at the start

Rest stop:

Fontanella "Il Vitigno" restaurant

Information:

Ristorante "Il Vitigno" Tel. 035-791178

Topographic map:

IGM F. ° 33 III S.O. Caprino Bergamasco.

Geographical coordinates:

45,4300° N, 9,3057° E

Mount Canto (710 m.) is the highest of the hills rising to the west of the San Martino Valley. Just below the top of the mountain is the ancient village of Canto di Pontida, a nucleus of farmsteads inhabited until the 1950s, now almost completely abandoned. The village is currently fenced off, as the houses are unsafe and prone to collapse. Our itinerary begins at Fontanella Abbey (450 m) and stops at the small church of Santa Barbara, not far from the ruins of the Canto.



It runs along the ancient mule track that connected the abbey with the Canto and then to Pontida, the other historic abbey.



The monastic complex of Sant'Egidio, later the Priory of Sant'Egidio, founded at the end of the 11th century by Alberto da Prezzate, has suffered much damage over the centuries due to neglect and military actions during the medieval period.



Having passed the church on the left, we reach a small fountain.



We now set off along the mule track that still preserves long stretches of the old paving (C.A.I. signpost 891), at the beginning, the route climbs up the vineyard slopes.



Reaching the end of the ascent in an almost flat stretch, we reach a fork where we continue keeping to the left and enter the dense woods of chestnut, oak and hazelnut trees.



We leave the forest for an open stretch with olive trees on the left.



Back in the forest, the terrain changes and the route winds its way up and down continuously.



When we reach a fork in the road at Porcile (543 m. 30' from the start), we follow the signs and continue to the right.



We now pass a shrine on our right.



Along the way, after a bend to the right, we pass a masonry rock on our left.



We reach a new fork, where we turn right and ascend towards the little church of Santa Barbara (667 m).



We see the little church on the ridge.



We now reach the entrance to the little church. It is a beautiful church, set in a panoramic position; the view sweeps over the plain from the Adda river to the Serio river and on a clear day, beyond the plain, the heights of the Apennines of Piacenza can be seen. The white colour of the walls, the bell tower made of local stone, and the avenue of cypress trees neatly lined up at the side of the church form a striking ensemble.



After a brief stop for refreshments and to enjoy the view, we resume the outward journey to the junction at Caprile, where we keep to the left.



We reach the agriturismo Cavrìl.



From this vantage point, the view turns towards the plain.



After passing the tourist farm on the left, we enter the forest along the path and pass from one side of the hill to the other, until we reach a gate.



We reach a fork in the road at Colle di Monte Albano, where we turn right and descend along the path.



We pay attention to the final stretch, full of stones and rocks, before reaching the asphalt road. At the end of our circular route, we again reach the church in Fontanella.

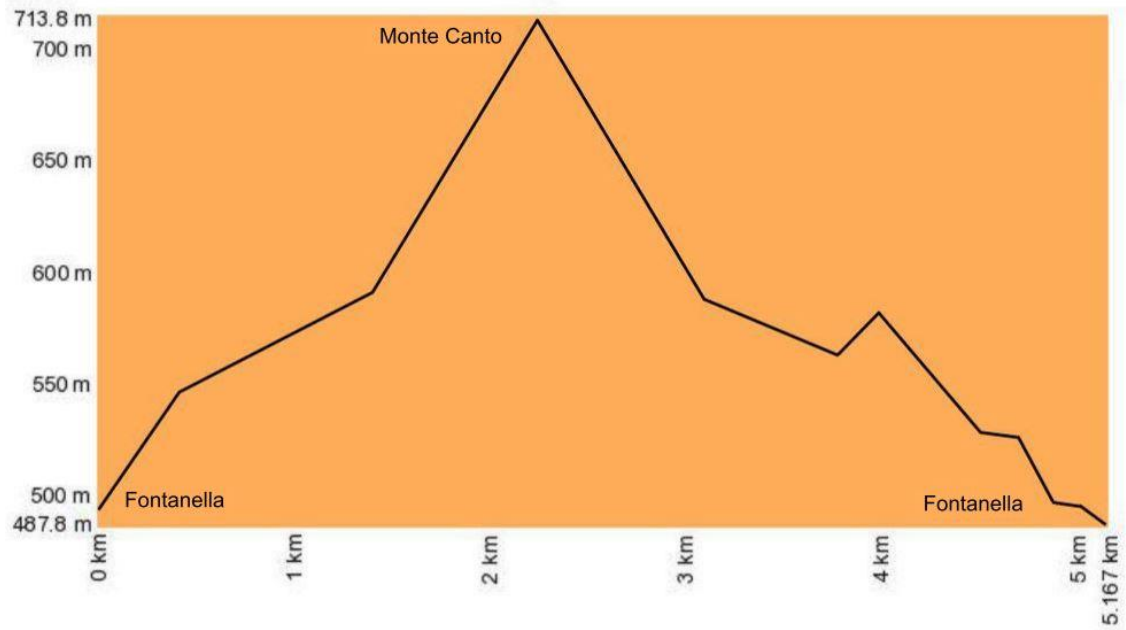


We enter the church and admire the Romanesque style present and the state of conservation.



We leave the church and reach the car park.

Altimetry



Route Map

