

D-Via Francisca

Leg 01



Technical overview

Departure

>> Sorico 216 m

Arrival

>> Samolaco 216 m

Duration

>> 5 hours

Total Distance

>> 13,70 km

Difficulty

>> T

Elevation gain

>> 668 m

Elevation loss

>> 635 m

Low point

>> 197 m

High point

>> 522 m

Altimetry



Description

Our route starts in **Sorico**, in piazza Cesare Battisti: we cross the road and follow the pedestrian path parallel to the state road, then turn left, heading to **Sorico's Torre Nuova**. The path continues on a mule track and reaches **via Palate (332 m, 1 km)**, which leads to Albonico.

Alternatively (marked as an substitute route), we hike up on the cobblestone steps to the left of the tower to the scenic **church of S. Miro (325 m, 0,4 km)**, walk around it and continue until we merge with the road nearby the **houses of Masina (385 m, 1,1 km)**.

Regardless what path we chose, we now follow the road to **Prati Meriggi**, where, right after an old electric transformer tower, we turn right and continue downhill (**signpost for the Sentiero del Giubileo 2000, 365 m, 2.3 km**). The mule track heads into the woods and comes out at via Bruga's switchback in **Dascio (237 m, 3.9 km)**. At the stop sign we turn left and start walking uphill: the asphalt road turns into a mule track that reaches **Sasso di Dascio (292 m, 4.7 km)** and continues on to a fork, where we keep right towards **Case Borzi**. After a clearing, the road turns into a trail and leads to the **Valene bridge** in the **Acqua Bianca creek's valley (317 m, 5.6 km)**. We walk across the bridge and climb up to the ruins of ancient houses and reach a fork where our path bends to the right and levels out, winding among old farmsteads and thick vegetation, then descends to the **Acqua Marcia creek**. We reach a plateau, then we climb up to **dosso del Brentaletto** and the beginning of the downhill path, which leads to a stretch that runs up against a fairly exposed rocky ridge. Then we reach the **Scalone (275 m, 8.3 km)** (a large set of stairs), where we turn right towards the **church of S. Fedelino (200 m, 0.9 km** from the main path). We head back on the path that runs above the Mera river and climb up to the **Alp of Teolo (277 m, 8.4 km)**, then continue on the path and cross both groove **Della Francesca** and the **Porta valley**. The trail moves away from the river and takes us towards the **church of S. Giovanni all'Archetto (207 m, 11 km)**, first it runs parallel and then crosses the Roggiolo canal and finally turns left on a dirt road that leads to the village of **Vigazzuolo (229 m 12 km)**. We leave its houses behind and reach the bridge on the **Casenda creek**, where our path bends left and passes by the farm buildings of Stalla. We head right and, after a crotto (a small natural cave), we take the road that leads to **Fontanedo**; outside the village, we follow the road to the centre of **Samolaco**.