



Leg 14 from Arenzano to Acquasanta

Total length	19,7 km
Hiking time	8h 30'
Cumulative elevation gain	1270 m
Uphill percentage	55 %
Downhill percentage	45 %
Percentage of hike on natural earth	81 %
Percentage of hike on asphalt	15 %
Percentage of hike on paved surface	4%
Percentage of hike on other surface	

Profilo altimetrico



General description:

This leg of the Sentiero Liguria starts in the beautiful coastal village of Arenzano to reach Acquasanta, a spa resort in the western neighbourhood of Genova. The long route (circa 20 km), follows old mule tracks and scenic trails, with a total elevation gain of 1000 metre, passing through the widest Protected Area of the Region Liguria, by entering the territory of the Beigua Geopark, UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2005, through the picturesque hamlet of Crevari and Voltri, most western suburb of Genova,



Description of the itinerary

From the railway station of Arenzano, take the pedestrian underpass to Via Carlin, on the north side of the station, and turn left to follow the “two red dots” mark. After about hundred metres, on top of the ascent, turn right on Via Inipreti, that soon becomes pedestrian, climbing up in-between little country houses and vegetable gardens. Pass under the highway and cross Via Marconi to take a steep staircase that leads to the real trailhead, just passed Case Gasca.

Continue following the “two red dots” mark. The trail climbs up to Località Curlo, passing through the plants and the scents of the Mediterranean scrubland, dominated by aromatic plants, like thyme, and rockroses. Head up to the ridge, through heather and pine trees; in about 30 minutes you will reach the picnic area in Località Curlo (300 m a.s.l.). This is a well-loved location by birdwatchers, as it is an ideal lookout post for the observation of the thousands migrating birds arriving from Africa every year.

Leaving the picnic area behind you, continue up along the trail marked with “2 red dots”, until the pass Passo della Gava. The climb is highly panoramic and passes through the plants of the Mediterranean scrubland and rare pine trees, which survived to parasites and fire. The trail cuts many times the dirt road to the pass Passo della Gava. Once in Località Vacca, at an information panel indicating the access to the State-owned Forest of Lerone, a short detour to the left allows to reach the Ornithological Centre for Research and Environmental Education of the Beigua Geopark (for info www.parcobeigua.it).

The itinerary continues up on greenish-yellow serpentine rocks; this steep and barren section gives the idea of the typical landscape of the Beigua Geopark, the territory of which you are accessing. Climbing up to the Gava Pass, on the ridge, you will see some grass lands that were used for grazing and haymaking. Those two human activities originated important grass habitats, hosting important plant and animal species. In the grass lands along the rounded ridge different birds (like the tawny pipit, the corn bunting, the northern wheatear, the ortolan bunting) are nesting.

The trail continues uphill to Prato Liseu with gorgeous views on the Gulf of Arenzano. Once on the pass, Passo della Gavetta, the trail flattens and passes through the rare pine tree forest that characterises the high border of the State-owned Forest of Lerone.

Almost on top of the pass, Passo della Gava, you will see a hut (very well maintained by volunteers of the Alpine troops and of other volunteer associations of Arenzano). This area of the Beigua Geopark is well known by geologists and scientists all over the world for the presence of ruby-red garnets.

Also Passo della Gava (752 m) is an important lookout post for birdwatching and is a true crossroads for the trails leading to Voltri, Passo del Faiallo and the Stura Valley. Continue eastwards on a trail marked with a “red X”, which climbs up to Mount Tardia. This very old trail is partially paved and leads to the highest part of the itinerary, Passo Tardia (885 m), on steep slopes and hard and fissured rocks, with a scarce vegetation. In this section you can see the difference between the two slopes: on one side the steep valley of the Gava Creek, with the hamlet of Sambuco at the bottom, on the other side the maritime slope descending to Arenzano and Voltri. The small stone building you will encounter is the last remaining of the six little custom houses (called “gabelle”) that were in use on the territory of Voltri before the annexation to the municipality of Genova.

Descending towards Mount Pennone, near a grassy plane, you will see an old stone wall. This was used by the wayfarers to take a rest and set down the heavy loads they were carrying along this important way of communication between the coast and the hinterland. Continue downhill along slopes of Mount Pennone, on the serpentine rocks that are responsible for the barren landscape. Before reaching Campenave you will pass through a mixed chestnut forest. You will now abandon the trail, that was tracking the Old “Via Superiore dell’Olba” Trail, and continue on paved alleys (“creuze”) and quite roads until the picturesque hamlet of Crevari, surmounted by the bell tower of the Church of S. Eugenio.



Continue along the steep mule track (via a Piazzagrande) to via Canepa, with the old public wash house. Descend the staircases and alleys that shortcut the road (Via Antica Romana di Voltri) still following the “red X” mark and reach the bus stop in Via Pietro Paolo Rubens, where you can catch a bus to the centre of Genova.

Once in Voltri you follow the beautiful new promenade.

In Voltri, the last western suburb of the municipality of Genova, it's worth visiting the Duchessa di Galliera Park and eat the famous typical focaccia. From here you can reach Acquasanta by lineabus n° 101, that will bring you to the end of this leg of the Sentiero Liguria in 15 minutes.

To continue on foot towards Acquasanta, at the end of the promenade, walk up along the Leira Stream, by following via Lemerle, crossing Via Buff and continuing on the pedestrian alley Via Serrea. After passing under the highway, continue uphill between small country houses and greenhouses until you reach the trailhead of a small trail that climbs up through a mixed forest reach of butcher's brooms.

Follow the secondary roads between forests and farmed terraces, and turn right on Via Superiore Andrea Podestà and Via Colletti di Voltri leaving the residential area behind you. In this section you will find only the marks of the Sentiero Liguria. The climb becomes steeper as you approach the natural area called “Piani”.

The hill ridge, at a height of 300 metres, is gentle and characterised by grass fields, some heather shrubs and rare pine trees. Follow the dirt road northwards until Colla di Acquasanta, where it turns into an asphalt road and where the route intersects the “High Variant” (13V) and the leg n° 13 Genova -Acquasanta of the Sentiero Liguria and different trails leading to Punta Martin and Mount Pennello.

Take the steep descent on the west side to reach in 10 minutes the small railway station of Acquasanta, along the railway Genova – Acqui. In front of the station, take the paved track that shortcuts the road and leads, in a few minutes, to the centre of Acquasanta, near a fountain on the side of the imposing Sanctuary (155 m). Acquasanta is an old settlement of high cultural and historical interest, at the boundary between the municipalities of Genova and Mele. The hamlet is characterised by the beautiful Sanctuary of the Madonna dell'Acquasanta, a renowned thermal spa and the old paper mill Sbaraggia, now hosting an interesting museum on papermaking art craft.