



High Variant 13A Passo Bocchetta – Orero Righi - Genova Bigo

Total length	33,9 km
Hiking time	10 h 00'
Cumulative elevation gain	1064 m
Uphill percentage	31 %
Downhill percentage	69 %
Percentage of hike on natural earth	89 %
Percentage of hike on asphalt	9 %
Percentage of hike on paved surface	1%
Percentage of hike on other surface	1%

Profilo altimetrico



General description:

The leg 13 of the Sentiero Liguria, from Acquasanta to the Old Port (Porto Antico), can also be walked by following the High Variant, which is more strenuous, but also more interesting from a naturalistic and historic-cultural point of view. This long variant can be divided into two single legs (V13-A e V13-B). The first leg (V13 – A) starts from the pass Passo della Bocchetta, where it intersects the important European Trail E1 to North Cape on one hand and to Capo Passero in Sicily on the other hand. The itinerary follows the “Alta Via dei Monti Liguri” trail (AVML) eastwards, through grassy clearings and forests, to Passo dei Giovi, Santuario della Vittoria and Crocetta d’Orero. Near Mount Carossino the route abandons the Alta Via to descend to the hamlets of Pino and Trensasco, before reaching the old centre of Genova by following the scenic ridge above the Bisagno Valley and the Polcevera Valley. This section allows to pass along the old fortifications and walls that were built for the defence of Genova.



Description of the itinerary

The first section of the variant 13-A of the Sentiero Liguria, tracks the leg 24 of the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri (AVML). The route follows a 6 km long, wide dirt road, which reaches the Giovi Pass with a total height loss of about 450 metres.

From the Bocchetta Pass, take the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri eastwards and reach the scenic picnic area. The wide road followed by the itinerary is marked with white and red stripes and the inscription "AV" and with km stakes indicating the distance from Ventimiglia. On the ridge, near an information panel, you will encounter the trail leading to Pietralavezzara; ignore this trail and continue on the dirt road eastwards, enjoying the view on the Polcevera Valley. Flank Mount Calvo and descend on the right on the wide road, until the km 218 stake of the AVML.

We are at the border with the Region Piemonte and a boundary stone indicates the spring of the Lemme stream to the right; the water in this first basin of the Padana Plane already flows in the territory of the Piedmont Regional Park of Capanne di Marcarolo. You are at an altitude of 791 metres above sea level, on Pian di Reste, from where you abandon the E1 trail, that you were tracking since Mount Pennello.

Continue downhill through the forest, with a scenic view to the West, on the Polcevera Valley, the meadows of Piani di Praglia, Mount Pennello and Mount Figogna with the famous Sanctuary of Madonna della Guardia. Once on the slopes of Mount Bric Montaldo (595 m) you will encounter the connection trail that leads to Busalla. Ignore this trail and continue on the dirt road marked with the white and red stripes.

The dirt road descends through the chestnut trees (km 222 AVML), before becoming paved (in loc. Case de Geo). Take Via E. Rapallo in North-East direction, passing between the country houses, until you cross the Provincial Road SP35 Dei Giovi near the Pass.

This section is pleasant and requires less effort, as the watershed maintains a moderate elevation, with gentle slopes. You will walk through beautiful chestnut groves and grassy hollows with amazing views.

Once on the important Giovi Pass (472 m), walk in North direction for a few hundred metres and take the road to the East to the Sanctuary of Vittoria. You will soon intersect the Provincial Road 47 and the little Cappelletta del Perdono.

Continue uphill until reaching the km 226 of the AVML itinerary, where you abandon the main road taking a smaller road on the left, until a hillock at a height of 613 metres. Flank the hillock on the right side and take the small road down through the first houses of Vittoria, where you will see the pole indicating the km 227.

Passed the Hostel you will see the scenic square of the Sanctuary of Vittoria (591 m).

Descend the beautiful alley until the last houses of the hamlet of Vittoria and take the trail leading you uphill through a forest with a dominance of downy oaks and chestnut trees. You will soon reach Pian delle Barche, near the Costa Fontanina Pass, on the north-western slopes of Mount Capanna, where you will encounter the connection trail to Casella on the right (marked with "three yellow dots"); ignore it and continue westwards on the Alta Via.

This gentle hills mark the passage between the hard and resistant sandstones of Mount Antola and the more supple Flysch of the Polcevera Valley. Once on the slope facing the Polcevera valley, continue through the meadows on the hilltops, until the km 228 pole of the AVML.

Continue down through the forest, until a crossroads at a height of 580 metres; turn left on the trail running in eastward direction. This trail descends steeply through the forest (km 229) until the Crocetta di Orero Pass (468 m), where, at the small roundabout, the leg 25 of the AVML ends.

Crocetta d'Orero is the lowest pass of the main watershed of the Apennine. Once this pass was famous crossroads (from where the name Crocetta) of the "Routes of Salt", connecting Genova to the Padana Valley, by continuing towards Crocefieschi, Vobbia and Salata.



Take the road on the East side of the pass, leading up through some houses. After a few metres take the trail to the left, that shortcuts the road. Once at the Cappelletta della Madonna della Guardia di Orero, the trail becomes a dirt road that climbs up among meadows, spontaneous bushes and downy oaks, until the km 231 of the AVML.

You will now walk through clearings and meadows, with a gorgeous view on the entire Valley of Sant'Olcese, while the Genova – Casella railway runs parallel to the itinerary, flanking the foothills. Take the trail that climbs up along the ridge made by sandstones of Mount Antola with their stratification, passing through a forest of chestnut trees and downy oaks, some of astonishing dimension.

Still following the AVML mark, climb up to the top of the grassy hill (803 m) from where you can admire the Val Noci Lake and the villages of Montoggio and Sant'Olcese. Descend southwards to the base of the windmill base (km 233) and then to loc. Sella, a little chapel and some picnic tables.

Enter a chestnut grove, by following a trail in westward direction. On the west side of Mount Carossino (838 m) the Sentiero Liguria abandons the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri, to descend on a grassy slope by following a trail marked with a “red X”.

Continue downhill through the forest, until a grassy hollow between the Bisagno and the Polcevera Valleys, where the trail marked with the “red X” intersects the trail from Creto, marked with a “red dot”.

Proceed downhill among ferns and meadows, until a grassy and rocky ridge, where the sandstone seems to form steps.

Flank the southern slopes of Mount Alpe, rich flowering in spring, and walk down the ridge of Mount Mezzano (637 m), westwards. To the East you can enjoy a wide view over the high Geirato Valley and the hamlet of Creto.

Continue through a downy oak grove to reach a flat area where the now wider trail follows the old pipes of the aqueduct of Val Noci. Turn left on a dirt road and follow it for two km, with interesting views on the Bisagno Valley. Continue on the right orographic side of the Bisagno Stream, halfway the slope, between pine trees, heather and ash trees. Follow the white dirt road that leads gently down to Crociera di Pino (358 m) or Colla di Torrazza, near a little station of the Genova-Casella railway.

Cross the road to reach the Polcevera side, continue slightly uphill for one km and return on the Bisagno side at the Trensasco Pass (391 m). From here, take a small road asphalt on the left.

Cross the Provincial Road SP80, near a bar/restaurant, and abandon the trail marked with a “red X” to follow the trail on the road named “direttissima del Diamante”, which climbs steeply up to a scenic grassy hollow. The Sentiero Liguria continues on the trail marked with “three red dots” that cuts some meadows with old snow holes, once so important for allowing food preservation in the city of Genova. The trail reaches Colla del Diamante (555 m), from where a steep paved military trail leads to Forte Diamante.

From Colla del Diamante the trail continues flat. After a while, on the right side, you can see some rocks, called “sandstones of Mount Antola”, where you can spot the fossil traces of “*Helminthoidea labirintica*”, a tiny worm. Continue flat following the mark with an “empty red circle”. Ignore the fork with the trail to the Fort Fratello Minore and bare left on the Bisagno side, on a beautiful trail that descends the grassy slope with some isolated downy oaks.

Proceed southwards on a military road, following the scenic ridge; the view stretches from the Bisagno Valley to Portofino in the East and from the western suburb of Genova and Savona on the West.

You will soon reach Fort Puin, one of the smallest fortifications around Genova, still well preserved, with its star-shaped defence wall and the squared tower.

Descend along the dirt road and, at a fork, abandon the “empty red circle” mark to turn left and take the trail that descends steep, marked with an “empty red diamond”.



Pass a restaurant and descend southwards on a concrete road until the south-eastern slopes of Forte Sperone, the most imposing Genoese fort.

You again on the trail marked with “red X” flanking the seventeenth-century walls. The trail turns into an asphalt road, that you will soon abandon to follow the dirt road on the left.

You are at the beginning of the ridge divides the two Valleys Val Bisagno on the east and Val Polcevera on the west. This strategic watershed has been used through the centuries to protect the city, with the building of fortifications and walls.

Proceeding downhill on a trail that flanks the imposing defence walls and an astronomic observation site, you reach the square of Righi (286 m).

Righi is now a residential area of Genova, well known for the amazing views on the port and the old centre.

Here you find the arrival station of the old funicular, connecting Genova with Righi for over 100 years. The highly panoramic funicular (www.AMTGenova.it) allows to reach the hearth of the old town of Genova in a few minutes.

As you walk out of the funicular station in Largo Zecca, cross the road and take Via Cairoli until Piazza della Meridiana, from where you can take the beautiful historical Via Garibaldi.

Via Garibaldi, once known as Strada Nuova (New Road), with the imposing noble palaces, now declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. Among the wonderful palaces you can admire Palazzo Tursi, housing the Municipality of Genova, Palazzo Rosso and Palazzo Bianco, hosting two of the most important museums of the city. At the end of Via Garibaldi, you arrive in Piazza Fontane Marose. Bare right and take Via 25 Aprile.

This road leads you straight to Piazza De Ferrari, with its modern fountain, the “Carlo Felice” opera theatre, on the left, Palazzo della Borsa and Palazzo della Regione Liguria in front and Palazzo Ducale, on the right.

Enter the arcades of Palazzo Ducale, hosting many expositions through the year, and cultural core of the city, and exit on the other side in Piazza Matteotti.

Descend Via San Lorenzo, passing by the magnificent façade of the gothic Cathedral of San Lorenzo, with its typical black and white stripes.

Turn right at the end of the road, pass under the characteristic old arcades of Sottoripa, pass Palazzo San Giorgio, once headquarter of the economic and political power of the Republic of Genova, and reach Piazza Caricamento. You are now in the hearth of the Porto Antico (Old Harbour). Walk towards the sea, in the area of the Acquario di Genova and the scenic lift BIGO, where this High Variant of the leg 13 of the Sentiero Liguria ends.