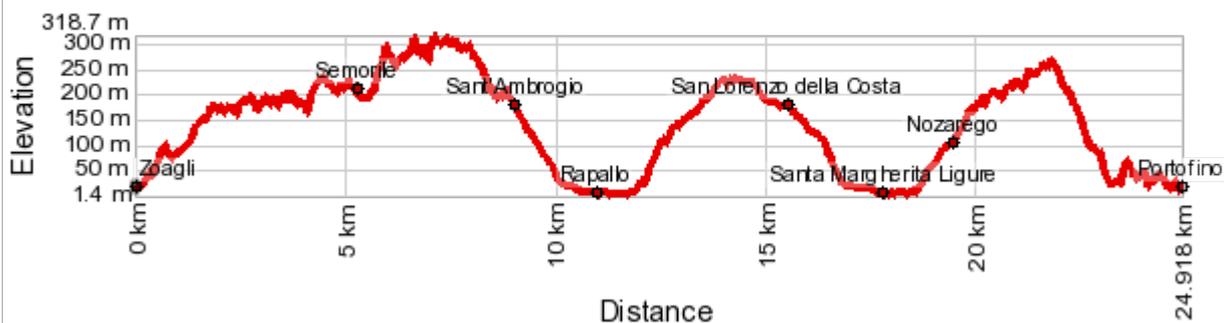




Leg 9 from Zoagli to Portofino

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Total length | 25,3 km |
| Hiking time | 8h |
| Cumulative elevation gain | 915 m |
| Uphill percentage | 49 % |
| Downhill percentage | 44 % |
| Percentage of hike on natural earth | 18 % |
| Percentage of hike on asphalt | 57 % |
| Percentage of hike on paved surface | 25 % |
| Percentage of hike on other surface | |

Profilo altimetrico



General description:

The leg is characterised by a series of ups and downs, surrounding the beautiful Tigullio Gulf, with the unique silhouette of the Promontory of Portofino along with you.

From Zoagli the Sentiero Liguria goes on passing through panoramic hamlets surrounded by olive groves, before descending to Rapallo. From Rapallo it heads up to San Lorenzo della Costa before descending again to Santa Margherita Ligure. The itinerary continues on the trails of the Nature Park of Portofino to the famous homonymous village.



Description of the itinerary

This leg starts from the centre of Zoagli. Walk up to the railway station, cross the Via Aurelia and take the staircase up to Via Solari e Queirolo. Turn right and follow this road for a few hundred metres until the fork, where you will take the road that heads up on the left (Via San Pietro). Take the stairs on the left and walk up to the beautiful Church of San Pietro di Rovereto. At the fork just before the Church, take the small road that descends on the left and pass the school. In Parazzuolo you will come out on Via dei Tessitori. Follow this road westwards for 50 metres, before turning right on Strada Vicinale Cassottana, a pedestrian road that soon becomes a trail. Follow this trail until Oliveto.

Follow Via dei Frantoi; you will meet the road ascending from Zoagli, walk it up to the right, crossing Cerisola, and continue towards the lower fraction of Semorile.

Just before the Church of Semorile, turn left on a mule track that descends towards Zoagli, but after a while turn right on a trail that leads to the Chapple of Santa Maria Maddalena.

Passing through the forest you will cross some creeks, a beautiful abandoned chestnut grove and the characteristic uninhabited hamlet of Sexi.

When you reach the crossroads nearby a votive Chapple, continue straight westwards on a trail that descends steeply, ending up on a concrete road, that you will have to follow a few hundred metres.

Near a turn to the left, bare right on the pedestrian road Via Ca del Frate, and follow this until a small Church, from where you will have to descend on the road that leads to the beautiful lookout in front of the Church of Sant'Ambrogio. Pass between the two beautiful big holm oaks (*Quercus ilex*) and descend the stairs in front of the Church. Continue along Salita Sant'Ambrogio, walking down between houses and beautiful views over Rapallo and the Promontory of Portofino.

At the bottom of the stairs of Salita Sant'Ambrogio you have reached the outskirts of Rapallo. Pass a small bridge on the Carcara stream and follow Via Pietrafraccia on the left.

Cross the Via Aurelia and enter the urban Park of Villa Tigullio, following the main lane, Viale Giovanni Maggio. Out of the fences of the Park continue along some seaside resorts, until the Castle of the sixteenth-century. Pass in front of the Castle, walk out the promenade (lungomare Vittorio Veneto), with its olive trees and palm trees, and take the pedestrian bridge over the Boate Stream, nearby the statue of Columbus. At the other side of the bridge, turn right along the stream, on Via Dante Alighieri, until the bridge Lorenzo Ricci. Turn left, pass in front of the beautiful Villa Queirolo (headquarter of the Cultural Academy of Rapallo); cross the road and walk the Via Aurelia Ponente up towards Genova. After circa 50 metres, next to a patrol station, turn right in Via Privata Gattorno and, after 100 metres, walk up the stairs on the right, to shortcut some hairpin turns.

Once back on the road, continue up between many buildings, example of the disordered urbanization Rapallo underwent after World War II. After a few turns take a steep staircase on the right, named Via Costaguta Romana, that you will abandon passed the yellow house, taking the stairs that climb up on the left between farmed terraces and dry walls. Cross a small road and continue along a trail on the right between terraces and olive groves. After circa 50 metres, turn right on a steep staircase climbing up across a small mixed forest.



Arrived at a small group of houses, continue on the quiet road that runs slightly up to the West, with interesting views over the Tigullio Gulf and the Valley of the Boate stream in Rapallo. A bit further on you will abandon the road taking a path on the right, named Via Per San Lorenzo, that soon becomes a small quiet road. The itinerary continues westwards, first slightly up and then up and down. Passed Villa La Torre and the San Gioacchino estate, you will soon reach the first houses of San Lorenzo della Costa. Passed a playground and the small school, you will find the short staircase that allows you to descend to the Via Aurelia. From here, a short detour of 150 metres will allow you to reach the beautiful Church of the hamlet, with its precious tryptic of Sant'Andrea by Flemish painters. Cross the busy Via Aurelia and take Via Romana, that you will follow down completely for 2 km, almost all facing the East. Passing through beautiful villas, pleasant terraces, olive groves, wide views over the coast and the green forests on the eastern slope of the Promontory of Portofino, you will reach Santa Margherita Ligure, arriving nearby the Church of San Siro. Follow Corso Giacomo Matteotti eastwards to reach the centre of Santa Margherita Ligure in a few minutes.

Continue towards the coast until Piazza Vittorio Veneto (where you can find the Tourist Information Office in front of the bus stop) and follow the promenade until the port, where, after crossing the road, you will have to take Via Montebello (marked with a "red cross"), just behind the patrol station. On top you will find the small Chapel of Madonna della Neve. Continue 200 metres along the road and take the beautiful trail that heads up on the left. After a flat section, overlooking the Monastery of San Girolamo della Cervara, with its marvellous Italian garden, you will arrive at a fork nearby the Chapel delle Gave. Continue on the paved trail marked with the "red cross", that leads up on the right, and follow it until the Mulino del Gassetta. Today this old mill is an information point of the Park of Portofino and a nice little restaurant.

100 metres passed the mill, descend the stairs on the left along the Valley of the Mills, where once there were 35 active mills, until the small hamlet of Paraggi.

At the end of the parking lot, bare right and take the walking path to Portofino, which starts with a short staircase. The path first passes above the small inlet of Niasca (from where you can make a small detour - 15 minutes - to the Eremo di Niasca), and finally leads to the famous village of Portofino, where this long but beautiful leg ends.