



## High Variant 13b from Passo della Bocchetta to Acquasanta

Total length	24 km
Hiking time	8 h 30'
Cumulative elevation gain	733 m
Uphill percentage	36 %
Downhill percentage	64 %
Percentage of hike on natural earth	98 %
Percentage of hike on asphalt	2 %
Percentage of hike on paved surface	
Percentage of hike on other surface	

Profilo altimetrico



### General description:

The high variant of leg 13 of the Sentiero Liguria, from Genova to Acquasanta, can be divided into two single legs (V13-A e V13-B). The variant V13 – B starts at the Bocchetta Pass and follows the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri westwards until Piani di Praglia and Mount Pennello. Here the itinerary abandons the Alta Via and descends to the spa resort of Acquasanta, where it joins the main route of the Sentiero Liguria.



### Description of the itinerary

From the Bocchetta Pass, following the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri westwards, take the dirt road that climbs steep up to Mount Leco. In this section the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri (AVML) coincides or runs very close to the border with the Region Piemonte and the Regional Nature Park of Capanne di Marcarolo. The road passes alternately through sunny clearings and shady forests until an evident tower used for communications. Just before the tower, turn left on a trail which passes along some light coloured rocks, the so called metagabbros of Mount Leco. Once on Colla del Leco (935 m a.s.l.), descend southwards along the grassy ridge, with beautiful views over the villages of Pietralavezzara, Isoverde and Campomorone and their deep valleys. The slopes on the right hand, in the territory of the Region Piemonte, are less steep and where traditionally used as meadows. After passing Mount Taccone on the north side, climb up to the Mezzano Pass, also called Reopasso (1091 m), by crossing a highly suggestive rocky ridge. From the Pass, descend along a beautiful trail through grasslands and rare black pines, still following the AVML. The view stretches over the villages of Cravasco and Isoverde to the West, and on the Gorzente lakes (Lago Bruno) near the ridge. At the Km 211 of the Alta Via, near Bric di Guana (963 m), you will see the imposing top of Mount Figogna, with the Sanctuary Santuario della Guardia and , further away, the unique shape of Fort Diamante. A short well-marked detour allows to reach the “Nature Observatory for the Alpine Club”, where you can shelter in case of bad weather. Here you can find many interesting items, among which an orientation plate to identify the many different mountain tops that you can spot to the East, a Naturalistic path with panels to identify trees and bushes, a model of a cableway built in 1920s for maintenance of the lakes and conducts of the De Ferrari - Galliera aqueduct.

From the main route of the AVML continue through the grasslands, first, and on a trail with steps, after, until the water spring “Fontana dei segaggin”. Descend to Passo di Prato Leone (779 m) where you will cross the dirt road to the lakes. At km 209 of the AVML take the dirt road in South direction, which climbs up in the beginning, to descend through black pines afterwards. After one kilometre at Giogo di Paravanico (780 m; km 208 AVML), abandon the dirt road and climb up through grassland with rare pine trees, passing along a few old, well maintained, snow storing holes.

Walk up to Prato del Gatto (841 m) passing by one of the boundary stones of the “Polcevera Plate”, a monolith that was already documented in the year 117 BC. Descend towards Costa dei Piani di Praglia shortcutting the dirt road and passing through a chestnut grove. The trail becomes a dirt road that flanks a horse fencing (km 207 AVML), before reaching a widening of the Provincial Road of Praglia (SP 4 of Genova). Here you can see two information panels of the Naturalistic Path of the Gorzente Lake, by the Alpine Club of Bolzaneto and of the “Accessible trail of Vallecaldà” in the municipality of Ceranesi. Follow the Provincial Road for a while in South direction until Colla di Praglia (880 m).

Near the information panel of the Alta Via, and the km 206 stake, abandon the road and take the secondary road that descends to the left. Continue southwards until Colla del Canile (860 m), from where you can enjoy a beautiful view over the villages of Paravanico and Campomorone, the Polcevera Valley and the Santuario della Guardia. Near a bar, at km 205 AVML, ignore the trail marked with an “empty red square”. Continue following the red and white stripes of the Alta Via, that in this section tracks the European trail E1. Until the top of Mount Pennello the trail looks more a pleasant wide and flat dirt road, that follows the watershed.

After a short climb along the steep rocky western slope of Mount Sejeu, you reach a wide grass clearing (km 204 AVML) still nowadays used as summer meadow. In spring the pink colour of the Bertoloni’s pansy stands astonishing out on the green serpentine rocks. Near Mount Proratado, take the dirt road on the right, ignoring the fork to the left with the indication Mont Figogna.



Here the mountains, like the typical Bric dell'Orologio, alternate with grass clearings and small hollows horsing wetlands (km 202 AVML); this natural sites host interesting small amphibians and plants. After passing Mount Foscallo on the Southeast slope, continue on the flat trail until Colle Gandolfi (936 m) Here you abandon the AVML track, and climb up to the top of Mount Pennello, on the trail marked with "E1" and "two red stripes". A short but evident track cuts the dirt road and leads to the flat grassy top of Mount Pennello (996 m), where you will see two little shelters and an interesting wind rose that allows you to identify the main mountains all around you.

Descend along the trail in South direction until the dirt road. Abandon the dirt road when you encounter the methane pipeline (952 m), continuing downhill on the trail marked with "three red dots", crossing a wide grassland, until an old stone construction: a so called *casella*.

At the right hand you will see the rocky ridge of Monte Fontana Buona, at the left hand you have a grassy hollow and a picnic area, where you can make a stop before descending to Acquasanta. Descend along the trail towards Southwest, following the rocky ridge, with beautiful views over Genova, the easter Riviera and the imposing shape of Punta Martin to the West. The trail descends steep along a slope of Mount Cuccio (809 m), from where you can admire the wild southern slope of Punta Martin, where the Baiardetta Creek eroded deep canyons.

Once in Colle Baiarda (701 m) continue in Southwest direction following the "three red dots" mark. Walking through the meadows, you will soon reach the Chapel of Baiarda, on top of Punta Pietra Lunga (705 m), a natural scenic balcony from where you can admire the western suburbs of Genova, the alpine tops on the back, and the blue Ligurian Sea in front of you.

Continue the descent to Colla di Acquasanta, following the mark with a "red and white stripe with a black letter F in the middle".

From the centre of the valley of the Condotti creek, the trail tracks the one marked with an "empty red square". At a height of 535 m, just before encountering again the methane pipeline, at a sign pole, turn right following the mark with the "red and white stripe and the letter F" and abandoning the empty red square. Descend among pine and heather trees and cross the Condotti Creek to continue on the left bank for a few hundred metres. Cross the creek again and follow the steep trail down among the Mediterranean shrubs that grow in this barren valley above Acquasanta. You will reach a service building for the aqueduct, from where the trail becomes a dirt road that runs almost flat for about 500 metres, until Colla di Acquasanta – Pra (326 m); here the itinerary joins the leg 13 of the main route of the Sentiero Liguria.

To descend to Acquasanta, take the steep road on the West, which leads you to the railway station of the line Genova – Acqui in 10 minutes. 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 mil Sbaraggia, now hosting an interesting museum on papermaking art craft.