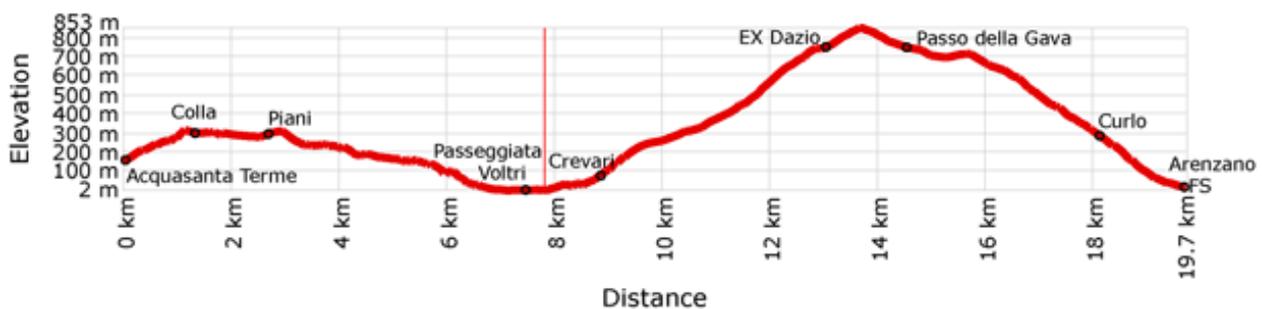




Leg 14 from Acquasanta to Arenzano

Total length	19,7 km
Hiking time	8h
Cumulative elevation gain	1050 m
Uphill percentage	45 %
Downhill percentage	55 %
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 Acquasanta to reach the beautiful coastal village of Arenzano. The long route (circa 20 km), follows old mule tracks and scenic trails, with a total elevation gain of 1000 metre, passing through Voltri, most western suburb of Genova, the picturesque hamlet of Crevari and the widest Protected Area of the Region Liguria, by entering the territory of the Beigua Geopark, UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2005.



Description of the itinerary

This leg of the Sentiero Liguria starts from the eastern side of the square in front of the Sanctuary, near a fountain, where you will see a paved track marked with a red and white flag and a black letter F. The track shortcuts the road and leads in 15 minutes to the small railway station of Acquasanta on the line Genova - Acqui Terme. Bare right and, crossed the bridge, turn left. The route follows a steep road that in about 20 minutes climbs up to Colla di Acquasanta (326 m a.s.l.), from where 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 start.

At the end of the asphalt road, take the dirt road running southwards on a grassy hill ridge. Continue on this gentle ridge, characterised by grass fields, some heather shrubs and rare pine trees, until the so called “Piani” area, from where your descent to the suburb of Voltri starts. The road is steep and leads you quickly to the residential area of Voltri, following Via Colletti di Voltri and Via Superiore Andrea Podestà. Turn right before the first buildings and continue on secondary roads, through forests and farmed terraces first, and along small country houses and greenhouses after. In the last part you will walk through a beautiful mixed wood rich in butcher’s broom.

N.B. Alternatively you can use public transportation to reach Voltri. The line bus n° 101 connects Acquasanta to Voltri in 15 minutes, allowing you to spare the first 7 km.

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.

Leave Voltri by following the beautiful new promenade and start climbing up towards Crevari, by following the staircases and mule tracks that shortcut the main road. Starting in Via Pietro Paolo Rubens (bus stop for line busses to Genova), take the staircase on the west side that climbs up to Via Antica Romana di Voltri, following the “red X” mark until Passo della Gava.

Walk up via Canepa, with the old public wash house, and the steep mule track (via Piazzagrande) to the picturesque hamlet of Crevari, surmounted by the bell tower of the Church of S. Eugenio

Follow the asphalt road until Campenave, where you will find the head of the trail that tracks the Old “Via Superiore dell’Olba” Trail. Continue through mixed woods, on an alternatively steep and gentle slope. Once out of the forest, the trail climbs up the eastern slope of Mount Pennone on the serpentine rocks that are responsible for the barren landscape. Once on the pass, from where you can admire the valley of the Cantarena Creek, on the grassy plane, you will notice 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.

The trail becomes highly scenic with gorgeous views on the valley and the coast near Arenzano. You are walking on a very important and strategic old path, connecting Genova to the backcountry of the Orba Valley. 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.

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. When you reach the pass, al Passo Tardia (885 m), you are on the highest part of the itinerary, from where you can admire the different landscape of the steep valley of the Gava Creek, with the hamlet of Sambuco at the bottom. You are in the core of the Beigua Geopark. Descending 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.

On the Gava Pass you can make a stop at the 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 garnet.

Abandon the “red X” mark of the trail climbing up to Mount Reixa, and descend towards the sea by following the road for about 200 metres. At the first bend, follow the beautiful dirt road marked with “two red dots”. The first part is flat and passes through the rare pine tree forest that characterises the high border of the State-owned Forest of Lerone, before reaching the pass, Passo della Gavetta. Continue downhill to Prato Liseu, gorgeous views on the Gulf of Arenzano.

The highly panoramic descent 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 Arenzano. Once in Località Vacca, 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).

Continue downhill until you reach the picnic area in Località Curlo. 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.

Take the trail on the south side of the picnic, still marked with “two red dots” and descend to the residential area of Arenzano.