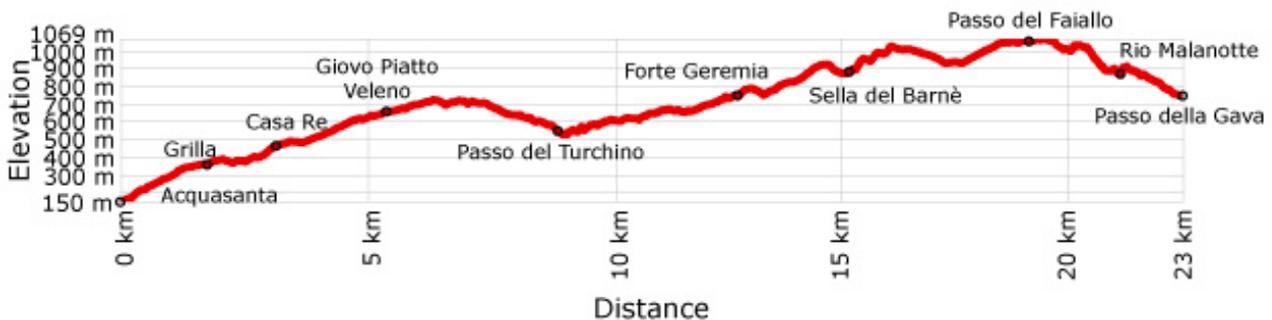




High Variant 14 Acquasanta – Turchino – Passo della Gava

Total length	22,9 km
Hiking time	8h 45'
Cumulative elevation gain	1550 m
Uphill percentage	59 %
Downhill percentage	31 %
Percentage of hike on natural earth	94 %
Percentage of hike on asphalt	5 %
Percentage of hike on paved surface	1%
Percentage of hike on other surface	

Profilo altimetrico



General description:

The High Variant of leg 14 starts in Acquasanta and reaches the Gava Pass where it joins the main leg 14 until Arenzano. The High Variant tracks a segment of the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri, passing through areas of great naturalistic interest of the Beigua Geopark and offering gorgeous views on the wild and rough valleys of the Genoese hinterland and on the western suburbs of the main city.

Once on the Veleno Pass, you follow the Alta Via to reach the Turchino Pass and Fort Geremia, old strategic stronghold, now transformed in accommodation centre for hikers.

Continue along the AVML route, until the Faiallo Pass, from where you will descend to the Gava Pass through meadows and steep slopes.



Description of the itinerary

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 Piccardo, now open for visits and educational activities.

From the square of the Sanctuary, descend towards the thermal spa, cross the bridge on the Baiarda creek and take the road on the right, with the same name. This first section of the High Variant of leg 14 of the Sentiero Liguria tracks the route marked with an "empty red triangle" (in the beginning you will see even a "two empty red circles" mark). From the road you will soon take a steep alley, with concrete pavement, climbing up through the houses. Passed the houses, the alley becomes a trail that enters the forest. Turn left next to a little statue of the Holy Mary and flank the fence of a field. You will soon encounter a road (Via Corzetti) that leads uphill by intersecting many times a methane pipeline, marked with yellow-orange poles. Shortcut the road by following the trail until it's possible and then continue on the road.

Take the trail on the right, marked with "an empty red triangle", ignoring the road that continues straight on, marked with the "two empty red circles", which leads to the Turchino Pass.

The trail passes through meadows, crosses some creeks, and enters a forest, with a dominance of chestnut and birch trees. In the place called La Grilla the forest gives place to some clearings and you will pass near a picnic area and an old snow hole. The trail becomes wider and starts a new ascent. Turn left, the slope becomes steeper and the narrower trail enters the forest again.

At an old abandoned country house (Casa Gevi), turn right on the flat dirt road through the grassland, until Case del Re (483 m a.s.l.). Turn left and walk up the asphalt road in front of the ruin. Take Via Giutte, in North direction, until Centa (513 m).

Here you abandon the road and take the dirt road to the right until a clearing where you can see some timber works. Continue on the trail through the forest with a prevalence of chestnut and hazelnut trees and downy oaks. You will reach a grassy hollow near Case Veleno, from where you can enjoy a beautiful view over the Gulf of Genova and its port.

This plain is called Giovo Piatto, also known as Veleno Pass (660 m). From here the Sentiero Liguria tracks the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri (AVML) until the Faiallo Pass.

The Alta Via is marked with white and red stripes and km poles; here you will see the km 198 pole. Continue westwards on the trail that climbs up through meadows first and the forest after, before turning into a dirt road. Once you reach the watershed, continue on the ridge until Pra de l'Ermu (718 m). Pass the Bric du Vautin (741 m) and the Bric du Turchin (670 m).

Continue on the wide dirt road until the rocky ridge, from where the view stretches to the northern valleys of Masone. The descent becomes more gentle and at km 195 of the AVML at a bar, you will intersect the asphalt road of the Giutte. Just before the intersection, take the trail on the right to the Turchino Pass (588 m), where the trail ends near the old tunnel.

Cross the road near the tunnel (North side) and take the road in front of you. Pass above the new tunnel of the Provincial Road of Turchino and, after a few metres, take the dirt road on the right. This old road with military features leads gently up to Giovo di Masone, where it intersects the asphalt road. Follow this for about 300 metres northwards until Cappelletta di Masone (642 m).

At km 192 AVML take the trail on the left and continue eastwards until Sella della Cannellona, where the trail runs parallel with the road. A short detour allows you to visit the Sacratio dei Martiri del Turchino, monument built in memory of those who died here during the World War Two slaughter.

Continue up through a chestnut grove, until you intersect the military road to Forte Geremia on the left. This nineteenth century stronghold is now transformed in accommodation centre for hikers. Back on



the Alta Via, continue on the dirt road until the intersection with the road of Faiallo. Follow this road in West direction, for about 100 metres. The road coincides with the watershed; this Pass is called Sambughetta. To the North you will see a trail marked with “2 empty yellow diamonds” which descends to Masone. The Sentiero Liguria, instead, continues along the AVML and climbs up on the North side of the Provincial Road, offering beautiful views over the Cerusa Valley.

After passing Mount Giallo halfway the slope, the trail descends again to the Provincial Road of Faiallo, to reach the Sella del Barnè (894 m). After crossing the grassy pass, the trail climbs steep up to Bric del Dente. On the southern slopes of Bric del Dente the trail flattens. In spring its meadows host gracious flowerings of Daphne, symbol of the Beigua Geopark. In this area you can easily notice the difference between the steep, rough and barren southern slopes, deeply engraved by the creeks and streams, and the gentle northern slopes, covered by forests.

Continue halfway the slope, in West direction, on the AVML itinerary, with amazing views over the Cerusa Valley. A trail on the right leads to the top of Bric del Dente (marked with “two red crosses”). Here the different colour of the Ligurian trail marks appears evident: “red signs” mark all the trails on the southern slopes, between the coast and the Alta Via; “yellow signs” mark all the trails along the northern (Paduan) slopes, between the valleys and the watershed.

After the fork, the trail passes on the northern slope, through beech and hazelnut trees and small clearings. When you encounter the Faiallo Road again, cross it, shortcut a bend and follow it further downhill. The AVML follows the road westwards for about 600 metres, before climbing up again through the beech trees on to the North. You will soon reach the next km pole of the Alta Via, indicating the distance in kilometres along the itinerary from Ventimiglia: you are now at 187 km. Flank a picnic area and cross the Provincial Road again, before continue uphill through a beech forest. On top of the ascent you will reach the Faiallo Pass, where you will cross the road connecting Genova to Urbe and you will find an information panel about the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri (AVML) trail, that you will abandon from here on. The Sentiero Liguria continues downhill towards the coast of Arenzano, passing by the Gava Pass. The Hut, the restaurant and the picnic area are only 150 metres away from here. This area of the Beigua Geopark is well known by the scientific community all over the world for the presence of a rare kind of mineral: garnets, violet-reddish minerals that emerge in extremely small amount between the Gava and the Faiallo Pass.

Start your descent to the Gava Pass by following the trail marked with “two red dots”. Looking eastwards you will appreciate the geologic features of the rugged area you already walked. In spring it's not uncommon to spot some purple in between the green ophiolite rocks. Closing up you will see the beautiful flowering of the frugal Bertoloni's pansy. Passing through steep meadows on rocky slopes, you will intersect a trail marked with an empty red square, coming from Fabbriche. Turn right and descend the slopes of Mount Malanotte. Cross the Malanotte Creek, with its little falls, and continue downhill until the Gava Pass.

Looking at the rocks and the paved sections of the trail you can get the meaning of the signs in the stones; in different points you will see the polishing effect of the “lizze”, particular sleds with wooden runners, used for centuries for timber transportation. The nowadays meadows must have been forests for timber production once. In spring this meadows, which in summer are still used to put bovines to pasture, are enriched with beautiful and colourful flowerings. At the fork you will see the trail to the hut Rifugio Giwell (managed by volunteers who can give you the keys on demand).

You will soon reach the Gava Pass, important crossroads for hikers, where this High Variant joins the main itinerary of the Sentiero Liguria towards Arenzano.