



High Variant 13a from the Genova Porto Antico to Passo della Bocchetta

Total length	33,9 km
Hiking time	10 h 30'
Cumulative elevation gain	1829 m
Uphill percentage	69 %
Downhill percentage	31 %
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 the Old Port (Porto Antico) to Acquasanta, 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 in the old centre of Genova, climbs up to Righi and follows 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. After passing the hamlets of Tensasco and Pino, the route intersects the “Alta Via dei Monti Liguri” trail (AVML) near Mount Carossino. The two routes coincide and lead, through grassy clearings and forests, to the mountain passes Passo dei Giovi and Passo della Bocchetta, where they intersect the important European Trail E1 to North Cape on one hand and to Capo Passero in Sicily on the other hand.



Description of the itinerary

The itinerary starts from the scenic lift BIGO, near the Acquario di Genova in the heart of the Old Port, from where you walk to the back of Palazzo San Giorgio and follow the characteristic arches of Via Sottoripa eastwards.

Walk up Via San Lorenzo, pass the Cathedral of San Lorenzo and reach Piazza Matteotti, with the entrance of the Ducal Palace.

Reach Piazza De Ferrari on the upper side of the palace and take Via 25 Aprile on the left until Piazza delle Fontane Marose. Follow the beautiful Via Garibaldi, with the imposing noble palaces, now declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

Once in Piazza della Meridiana, take Via Cairoli to reach Largo Zecca, with the old funicular connecting Genova with Righi (286 m a.s.l.) for over 100 years. The highly panoramic funicular (www.AMTGenova.it) allows to reach the mountain ridge in a few minutes. 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. From the square in front of the arrival station of the funicular, walk up the trail on the left that flanks the imposing walls (marked with a "red X") and passing by an astronomic observation site. At the intersection with the road, walk on the asphalt for a while before taking the dirt road to the right and pass on the east side of Forte Sperone, the biggest one of the old fortifications. Cross the road leading steep up to fort and continue until the fork with the indication "Ostaia de Baracche". Ignore the trail to Trensasco on the right, marked with the "red X" and take the trail on the right that leads up to the "Osteria" (restaurant) marked with an "empty red diamond". Pass the restaurant and turn left up towards Forte Puin. The grass fields you are walking through are well known for the huge amount of butterflies flying around in spring and summer.

Continue northwards along the dirt road running on the ridge, marked with an "empty red circle". The view on the Bisagno Valley and the Promontory of Portofino to the east and on Genova and the coast to Savona on the west is gorgeous. Ignore the detour to fort Fratello Minore and bare right above the Bisagno Valley, on a beautiful flat trail through the forests.

The trail climbs up to Colla del Diamante (555 m). A steep paved trail leads to Forte Diamante.

The Sentiero Liguria continues straight through the grass fields on a trail marked with "three red dots" until a pass, from where it descends to Valico di Trensasco (391 m) and it intersects the road near a bar/restaurant. Cross the road and descend towards the Bisagno Vally. After a few hundred metres, take a secondary road on the left, following again the "red X" until the intersection with the Alta Via. After about 1 km of gentle descent through pine and chestnut tree forests, you reach Crociera di Pino (358 m), also named Colla di Torrazza, where there is a small station of the railway Genova-Casella. Continue on a dirt road that follows the old pipes of the aqueduct of Val Noci. Remain on the right orographic side of the Bisagno Stream, halfway the slope. On the left hand side you will see a pillar and, a few metres further, a fork. Take the left trail and continue on a dirt road for 2 km, with view over the middle section of Bisagno Valley (Molassana and Geirato). At a bend of the road to the left, abandon the dirt road to take a trail that leads you up to the left, well-marked with a "red X". Once on the ridge, where the sandstone seems to form steps, you can enjoy a wide view over the high Geirato Valley and the hamlet of Creto.

Proceed southwards along the slopes of Mount Mezzano (637 m), rich flowering in spring, and walk up to the ridge towards the top of Mount Alpe, eastwards. On the grassy mountain pass between the Bisagno and the Polcevera valleys, the trail marked with the "red X" turns left towards the Polcevera Valley. Here you abandon the trail marked with a "red dot" which leads to Creto, and you enter a chestnut grove. On the west side of Mount Carossino (838 m) the trail marked with a "red X" joins the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri. Continue northwards downhill to Sella, where you will see a little chapel and some picnic tables. Following the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri mark (at the km 233) you will climb up to the base of the windmill and 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. Continue downhill through the forest with a prevalence of chestnut trees and downy oaks, following the ridge and the sandstones of Mount Antola with their stratification. Passing through grasslands you will spot some astonishing big downy oaks. The scenic view stretches over the entire Sant'Olcese Valley. The Genova – Casella railway runs parallel to the itinerary, flanking the foothills. Continue your descent on grass, passing along bushes and downy oaks until the Chapple of the Madonna della Guardia di Orero, just passed the km 231 of the Alta Via. From here the route continues down on the road. After a few bends take the trail on the right that shortcuts some other bends. 300 metres before Crocetta D'Orero (468 m) you will cross the road again, at a small roundabout where you will find the trailhead of the 25 of the AVML, which you will follow until the Giovi Pass. 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.

This section of the itinerary is pleasant. The watershed maintains a moderate elevation, with gentle slopes. Along the route you will see beautiful chestnut groves and grassy clearings that offer interesting views.

Follow the AVML trail (from the km 229) that climbs steep up among the western houses the Crocetta Pass. At a height of circa 580 metres you will cross a dirt road that continues uphill northwards. Keep on walking in the shade of the chestnut trees until the km 228 of the AVML. Once on the slope facing the Polcevera valley, continue through the meadows on the hilltops. This gentle hills mark the passage between the hard and resistant sandstones of Mount Antola and the more supple Flysch of the Polcevera Valley. At the Costa Fontanina Pass, on the north-western slopes of Mount Capanna, you will encounter the connection trail to Casella on the right (marked with "three red dots"); ignore it and continue westwards on the Alta Via.

You will soon reach Pian delle Barche, from where a beautiful alley leads you to the hamlet Vittoria in a few minutes. Walk up to the Sanctuary of Vittoria (591 m).

Take the road on the right of the Sanctuary and reach the km 227 of the AVML, where you abandon the road to head up on the road on the left until a hillock at a height of 613 metres. Flank the hillock on the left side take the small road down to the Provincial Road SP 47, which leads you to the important Giovi Pass (472 m), passing along the little Cappelletta del Perdono.

The last section of the variant 13-A of the Sentiero Liguria tracks the leg 24 of the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri. You walk on a wide, 6 km long, dirt road, with a total gain in height of about 450 metres, to reach the Bocchetta Pass (772 m) in a bit less than 2 hours.

Once on the Provincial Road SP35 Dei Giovi, follow this for circa 100 metres southwards, cross the road and take Via E. Rapallo up in south-west direction. The road becomes dirt (in Case de Geo) and starts climbing up through the chestnut trees (km 222 AVML). 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 wide panorama stretches over the Polcevera Valley until Piani di Praglia, Mount Pennello and Mount Figogna with the famous Sanctuary of Madonna della Guardia. Continue uphill through the forest (km 220 and 219) until Pian di Reste (791 m), where you meet the E1 trail that the Sentiero Liguria tracks almost until Acquisanta. This is an international 6000 km long trail, to North Cape (Norway) on one hand and to Capo Passero in Sicily on the other hand.

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. Flanking Mount Calvo you reach km 218 of the AVML, where you take the dirt road on the right hand side; continue westwards on this road enjoying the view on the Polcevera Valley. On the ridge near an information panel you encounter the trail leading to Pietralavezzara; continue on the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri until a picnic area, from where you can see the Bocchetta Pass, endpoint of this leg of the Sentiero Liguria.