



## Leg 16 from Varazze to Albisola

<b>Total length</b>	16,300 km
<b>Hiking time</b>	4h 30'
<b>Cumulative elevation gain</b>	517 m
<b>Uphill percentage</b>	39%
<b>Downhill percentage</b>	35%
<b>Percentage of hike on natural earth</b>	42,3%
<b>Percentage of hike on asphalt</b>	56,4%
<b>Percentage of hike on paved surface</b>	1,3%
<b>Percentage of hike on other surface</b>	



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### **General description:**

From the promenade of Varazze, the route raises into the hinterland, following secondary roads, until the suburb of Cantalupo. Here the itinerary offers wide views over Varazze and its coastline before continuing towards the slopes of mount Bric delle Forche and descending, again on the road, to Gameragna. Westwards the itinerary follows the interesting botanical path of Sanda, equipped with information panels on the local flora. In its last part the route runs over the ridge separating the coast town of Celle Ligure and Albisola Superiore, upon which it pleasantly descends.

### **Description of the itinerary**

This leg of the Sentiero Liguria starts from the promenade of Varazze, on the road that leads to Cantalupo. In the first part the route climbs up on asphalt through an inhabited area, which offers some spot views over Varazze and the coast. Once in Cantalupo you abandon the road to continue on alleys first and a dirt road after (marked with a “red triangle”). The landscape is characterised mainly by Mediterranean scrubland. The trail continues slightly up until the slopes of Bric delle Forche (452 m a.s.l.). At the fork with the sign indicating the top of Mount Bric, the route continues downhill on the road towards Sanda (via Bric delle Forche). Continue down on the provincial road until a bend that intersects Via Vespa, marked with “three red dots”. Follow this road until you find a dirt road that leads you down to the hamlet of Sanda.

Once in Sanda, near the seventeenth-century Church of San Giorgio, take the dirt road to Torre Bregalla and Case Lassea.

This section of the Sentiero Liguria passes through a botanic garden with many information panels on the most characteristic species of the Mediterranean scrubland.

The trail climbs gentle to Torre Bregalla (261 m), an ancient round based watchtower, built ad defence against the Turkish and Saracen pirates. The tower originally consisted of two floors but was demolished by the German army in 1944.

From here the trail (marked with “two red dots”) descends steep through the Mediterranean scrubland, which so now and then offers interesting views over the Ligurian coast.

Once in Case Lassea the trail becomes more gentle but turns soon into a road, which leads to the Church of Sant'Isidoro and the Church of Nostra Signora della Guardia. This characteristic small religious building rises in the hamlet of Pecorile (Celle Ligure), the place that gave birth to Pope Sisto IV.

You are walking on the ridge separating Celle Ligure (on your left-hand side) from Albisola Superiore (on your right-hand side). The area is built-up but you can still see the old terraces that have been farmed for centuries.

The Sentiero Liguria continues downhill until Via degli Ulivi first and Corso Vittorio Poggi after. A staircase departing from this last road leads to the promenade of Albisola.

Once on the promenade you can continue towards Albissola Marina, from where you can catch a line bus to Savona. You can even follow the main road to Albisola Superiore, that bends towards the hinterland, leading to the railway station. By train you can easily reach Savona and the port of Vado Ligure, from where the next leg of the Sentiero Liguria starts.