



Leg 18 from Vado to Noli

Total length	10,300 km
Hiking time	3h 15'
Cumulative elevation gain	413 m
Uphill percentage	37%
Downhill percentage	38%
Percentage of hike on natural earth	59,9%
Percentage of hike on asphalt	38,1%
Percentage of hike on paved surface	2%
Percentage of hike on other surface	





General description:

From the port of Vado the Sentiero Liguria follows a pleasant panoramic itinerary that climbs uphill along the Napoleonic fortifications, leading quickly above the hamlet of Bergeggi. After passing through a beautiful cork oak grove, the trail reaches Monte S. Elena with its famous fort and the panoramic overlook. From here the trail runs halfway the slope, with gorgeous views over the coast, before descending to Spotorno. Following the coastline along the old Via Aurelia, the route ends up in the beautiful old centre of Noli, a village of roman origin, once a famous maritime republic.

Description of the itinerary

This leg of the Sentiero Liguria starts behind the cruise ship terminal of Savona-Vado. The trailhead can be found on the left side of Via Rossini (the trail is marked with a “red triangle”) and leads uphill, after passing a bar intended to avoid unauthorized vehicles.

Once on top, with Savona and its port behind you, you will see fort S. Giacomo (originally named after S. Lorenzo), which dates back to 1757 and was used by the French troops of Napoleon during the Battles of the Alps and the First Italian Campaign.

After climbing a first staircase, the trail continues through broom shrubs until the ruins of Fort S. Sebastiano.

From here the trail continues until Fort S. Sebastiano. Passing along the walls of this military building you will reach a crossroads.

The Sentiero Liguria follows the trail marked also with a “red triangle”, which leads gently up along a botanic itinerary, before entering a beautiful cork oak grove.

Some of the cork oaks in this grove are quite big, despite the rest of Liguria where, nowadays, this trees became rare.

Continuing along the ridge, once out of the cork oak grove, you will reach fort S. Elena. This fort is remembered for the explosion of the armoury that occurred on October 25th 1921, due to fires set on the mountain, which caused the death of 25 people, among militaries and citizens of Bergeggi.

Nowadays the area of the fort is a beautiful lookout mountain, and an ideal take-off for paragliding.

Descend along the dirt road which passes through a chestnut grove, before turning right on a narrower ascending trail marked Sentiero Liguria.

The botanic trail climbs up almost to the top of Mount S. Elena, also called Mount Castellaro (347 m a.s.l.). Abandon the botanic trail and start following the “red triangle” mark, descending for a while along a road until a war memorial stone.



From here on you continue flat on a wide dirt road, following the “three red dots” mark, until an old quarry, now covered with blackberry bushes. After a short descent you intersect the trail connecting Bergeggi to Mount Mao (440 m), on the mountain pass Gola di S. Elena (249 m). Follow the “three red dots” downhill. The trail runs halfway the slope until Spotorno with gorgeous views over the coast.

The best way to cross Spotorno is by following the coastal road until the roundabout to the highway, almost at the end of the built-up area. A little bit further you will see the road to Villa Ada.

Near Villa Ada you will find the trail to Noli, which flanks the Via Aurelia.

This trail is marked with a “yellow dot and line” mark and a circled number four.

The route is now easy and passes just above the Via Aurelia, very close to the coast.

Nearby Noli you will see the Chapple of N.S. Addolorata and the Bishop’s Palace. The leg end in the beautiful old centre of Noli.