



Leg 21 from Boissano to Toirano

Total length	12,2 km
Hiking time	4h 15'
Cumulative elevation gain	900 m
Uphill percentage	48%
Downhill percentage	48%
Percentage of hike on natural earth	90%
Percentage of hike on asphalt	7%
Percentage of hike on paved surface	3%
Percentage of hike on other surface	



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General description:

The itinerary stretches towards the backcountry, running in a kind of loop that connects Boissano to Toirano, only three kilometres apart from each other, separated by the Varatella Stream. This route, close to the coastline, is characterised by the beauty of nature and the contrasts between the coastal views and the wilder and more severe landscapes of the Ligurian hinterland.

Description of the itinerary

The leg 21 of the Sentiero Liguria connects the two villages of Boissano and Toirano, which are just a few kilometres apart from each other. Nevertheless this is the itinerary that enters most deeply into the backcountry among the ones pertaining to the Province of Savona.

Compared to the previous one, the leg is quite short (12 km), but it's enriched by breath-taking views, enchanting panoramas and interesting naturalistic aspects.

The itinerary starts in Boissano and, passing through characteristic alleys, it rapidly encounters the trail marked with a "red X", that leads to the small and pretty Church of S. Pietrino, located in a highly panoramic place. From here it is possible to shortcut the route, passing on the meadows to join the downhill trail to Toirano.

From the Church of S. Pietrino, the Sentiero Liguria continues on the right, following a section of the "Terre Alte" trail, marked with a yellow-red stripe. The trail climbs gently up on the panoramic ridge. In this area it is quite easy to spot birds of prey, like buzzards (*Buteo buteo*) and kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*). If you move quietly you can even encounter deer (*Dama dama*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) and wild boars (*Sus scrofa*). After a short walk through the forest, the Sentiero Liguria reaches a clearing with a sign pole, where it abandons the "Terre Alte" trail, continuing left up the meadows, where it is possible to spot grazing horses. The trail, still marked with the "red X", enters the forest again, passing under the top of Monte Ravinet (1057 m a.s.l.). In this section the forest is characterized mainly by beech trees (*Fagus sylvatica*).

After passing under the top of Monte Ravinet, the trail reaches an old stone construction: Cà du Fò (the house of the beech tree). Passed the remains the route abandons the trail marked with the "red X" (which continues towards Monte Carmo and the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri), to head down through the forest, on the trail marked with "two red dots", until Fontana di Castagna (875 m).

Near the information panel of the Church of S. Pietro ai Monti, the route abandons also the trail marked with the "red dots" to continue on a trail marked with "two horizontal red lines", until S. Pietro ai Monti.

This pleasant trail enters a beautiful mixed forest and follows the pipes of the aqueduct, offering beautiful views. At the Church of S. Pietro ai Monti (895 m) you can make a stop at the rest area to enjoy the enchanting panorama.

Continue on the trail that descends southwards in front of the Church. Pay attention in the first part that is quite steep and uncomfortable, until a height of circa 650 m from where on the slope becomes more gentle and the trail enters the vegetation again.

At a clearing you will reencounter the "Terre Alte" trail that descends to the Toirano grottos. This steep trail is for experienced hikers only, who have to be careful in walking the trail down. The Sentiero Liguria continues left and runs flat in the direction of the San Pietrino Church, following the "Terre Alte" trail. At the next crossroads passed the Church, abandon the trail marked with "two red horizontal lines" and "Terre Alte", and take the trail towards Darì (Toirano), marked with "two red vertical lines". This trail runs downhill to the right through the Mediterranean scrubland, until the first terraces farmed with olive groves. You will soon enter the hamlet intersecting the main road connecting Toirano to Boissano.

After crossing the road, you can reach Toirano by walking down Via della Costa. If you would like to visit the famous Grottos of Toirano, continue a few hundred metres along the road towards the hamlet.