



Leg 21 from Toirano to Boissano

Total length	12,2 km
Hiking time	4h 15'
Cumulative elevation gain	967 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 Toirano to Boissano, 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

From Toirano the Sentiero Liguria follows Via della Costa until the main road connecting Dari to Boissano.

Cross the road and take the trail marked with “two vertical red lines”, which climbs up through farmed terraces with the characteristic dry stone walls. After a while the landscape becomes more severe and the olive trees leave room for the typical vegetation of the Mediterranean scrubland, characterised by relatively low shrubs and bushes (rock rose, mastic, small holm oaks).

The trail bottom is rocky until the intersection with the “Terre Alte” trail.

The trail to the right allows you to make a short detour to the Church of S. Pietrino, from where it is possible to descend to Boissano. The Sentiero Liguria continues more gentle on the left.

Once at a clearance you will see a trail fork: one trail descends very steeply to the Grottos of Toirano, while our trail leads up through a mixed wood to the Church of S. Pietro ai Monti. The first part of this section is gentle but in the second part the trail becomes strenuous, climbing up with a series of hairpins until the top (895 m a.s.l.).

From the Church you can enjoy a beautiful view over the coastline as well as over the Maritime Alps.

Continue along the trail marked with “two horizontal red lines” which starts in front of the Church. This pleasant trail follows the pipes of the aqueduct and enters a beautiful mixed forest, cool and shady even during the hot summer months.

Once in “Fontana di Castagna” (875 m), where you will see an old drinking trough and ancient chestnut trees, you abandon the trail marked with the “two red horizontal lines”, to take the trail marked with the “two red dots”, which runs uphill through the forest until “Cà du Fò” (the house of the beech tree).

The trail comes to a fork: continuing on the left you can climb up the top of Monte Carmo, but the Sentiero Liguria proceeds down on the right, following the “red X” mark.

The route passes just under the top of Monte Ravinet (1057 m) and crosses a beautiful beech tree grove.

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*).

The trail passes alternatively through forests and clearings, ideal for wildlife observation.

At a clearing you will intersect the “Terre Alte” trail, coming from the Church of S. Pietrino.

Following the “red X” mark and the “Terre Alte” trail, marked with a red and yellow line, you will descend to the panoramic Church of S. Pietrino.

The place is worth a stop to appreciate the beautiful view over the coast.

Continuing downhill, still following the “red X” mark, you will soon reach Boissano.