



## Leg 26 from Imperia to Taggia

Total length	27.23Km
Hiking time	7h
Cumulative elevation gain	928 m
Uphill percentage	16%
Downhill percentage	18%
Percentage of hike on natural earth	7%
Percentage of hike on asphalt	71.5%
Percentage of hike on paved surface	21.6%
Percentage of hike on other surface	0%



### General description:

The total length of this leg exceeds 27 Km. Leaving the colours and scents of Porto Maurizio behind you, the route leads you rapidly up into the hinterland, running on sparsely travelled alleys, passing through a well farmed terraced countryside. The route passes through the village of Cantalupo, descends towards the nice village of Caramagna and goes on to the itinerary of the "Via della Costa". Passed the impressive medieval bridge of Clavi, the route continues through the interesting historical villages of Torrazza, Lirgueglietta, Pompeiana and Castellaro. Finally, crossed the imposing medieval bridge with 16 arches, you will enter the historic centre of Taggia, nearby the Convent of the Capuchin friars.



### **Description of the itinerary:**

The itinerary starts in the old centre of Imperia Porto Maurizio, which you will cross starting from Via Francesco Petrarca, walking up via San Leonardo and descending the characteristic alleys (via Carducci and via Mazzini) to reach the North side of the village. At the crossroads with Via della Libertà turn left following the small road that leads up (via Superiore Armana).

You will soon abandon the residential area to continue through the olive groves. At the second crossroads, take Via Vicinale Costa Murata. You will pass the highway and continue through a beautiful farmed landscape reach in olive groves. The route follows the Strada Comunale dei Massabovi and Via San Benedetto before crossing the Strada Montegrazie, which you'll have to follow turning left. Take via Bruno Domenico, via Ricci and via Colle to finally reach the hamlet of Cantalupo. Cross the old centre and descend towards Caramagna Ligure following the Strada Ciosa, crossing Via Palmoriere and Strada Montegrazie. Cross the Caramagna Stream and continue through the countryside until the Provincial road to Dolcedo. In case of bad weather you can bypass the stream southwards following directly Via Dolcedo. Cross the road and continue along the beautiful paved mule track that leads you up along a gentle slope until Strada Colla. Follow this secondary road and Strada Coppi Rossi in direction Taggia. Once on the ridge, descend Strada Coppi Rossi for 50 metre before turning right on the ancient walking path to the tiny Church of S. Martino and the monumental medieval bridge of Clavi.

Take Via Fontana, cross the Provincial road, and continue towards the medieval Church of S. Giorgio, nearby Torrazza. This Church is one of the few monuments of Roman origin in the whole province of Imperia that is very well preserved.

Leaving the hamlet of Torrazza, with its Saracen tower, follow the trail under the portico, with the indication Civezza; after passing through partially abandoned olive groves, you will reach the Chapel of N.S. delle Grazie.

Continue right along the Provincial road that skims the typically on the ridge developed village. Follow the alleys and, back on the main road, take the steep concrete descend in the first sharp turn to the right following the indication Strada delle Ciasse, until the San Lorenzo stream in Frantoio Dolca. Cross the iron bridge on the stream and continue upwards until the provincial road to Pietrabruna. Cross the road and head up on the concrete path on the other side. At the first turn, take the dirt road until a group of houses. Turn right on a small road to Lingueglietta, a hamlet of Cipressa. The hamlet has a reach history as can be imagined by the remains of the castle of the Laigueglia family and the unique fortified Church of S. Pietro.

The itinerary turns right before entering the hamlet, passing in front of a beautiful aedicule and the old cemetery, before heading up on a dirt road passing through the olive groves. Where you see a big iron cabin you will find a paved path that allows you to shortcut your ascend to the ridge. Once on the ridge,



continue to the right and straight on. At the fork (with a pine tree in the middle), bare left, slightly up on a paved path.

Once on top (at a height of 481 m, M. Negro ridge) descend to the right, following the main trail until the road. Passed the little Church of S. Bernardo, upon Pompeiana, continue along the trail on the right until the road to Castellaro.

The medieval hamlet is well maintained and has a warm atmosphere. The Sanctuary of Lampedusa (beautiful example of baroque style, rich in ex-voto), circa 1 km to the mountainside is worth a visit too, offering as well a gorgeous view over the valley. Take the staircase of Via Lampedusa to descend towards Taggia, and follow the steep “carruggi” (alleys), turning into a mule track first and a concrete path after. Pass under the highway and continue down on Via Regione Ponte, until the stream and the magnificent medieval bridge of Taggia, with 16 arches, ending in Via Tenente O. Anfossi.

Cross the squares IV Novembre, Reghezza and S. Trinità, walk up Salita Campo Marzio and follow the alleys, first left and then right, until the Convent of the Capuchin friars.