



Leg 27 2nd Variant from Dolceacqua (Via Airole) to Grimaldi

Total length	29.61km
Hiking time	8h30min
Cumulative elevation gain	2053 km
Uphill percentage	47.29%
Downhill percentage	52.61%
Percentage of hike on natural earth	99.65%
Percentage of hike on asphalt	0.35%
Percentage of hike on paved surface	0%



General description:

From the centre of Dolceacqua, the itinerary follows the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri westwards. A first long ascend will allow you to reach an altitude of 800 metres, bringing you into a typical mountain landscape. Once in the Nervia and Roya valleys, this characteristic environment turns into a river landscape, before changing again into a typical Mediterranean environment in the last part. This leg of the Sentiero Liguria passes through the hamlets Airole and Torri, where the hiker can find a friendly hospitality for a short or long stop.



Description of the itinerary:

The itinerary starts in Via della Liberazione in the centre of Dolceacqua, near Via Dante Alighieri. Cross the old centre, by walking westwards and proceed on Via Vigliani. After a few dozen metres, the paved alleys turn into a mule track that climbs up the hill for more than 1 km. Passed by the little church of San Bernardo (sec. XV), turn left and continue through terraces farmed with olive trees and grape.

Walking up you will cross the Strada degli Olandesi road. Turn left and walk the road circa 20 metres up to find the trail (with a concrete pavement) on your right hand side.

At the next fork, after circa 1 km, cross the Provincial Road 69 and continue on a small trail that joins the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri, before continuing towards Abellio. The Alta Via runs on the panoramic ridge (496 m a.s.l.) of the hills separating the Nervia Valley, on the East side, from the Roya Valley on the West side. The trail passes on a bunker and allows to pass by many constructions dating back to World War Two. Passed the Abelliotto and Abellio mounts, take the mule track on the left with the indication Airole. On the Fasceo Pass (640 m) you will have to cross the road in order to continue straight on, following the trail that descends to Airole. At the next road, go on a few meters turning right, before continuing on the trail on the left. You will pass through some terraces farmed with olive trees and along an old fountain, before entering Airole by descending Via Garibaldi that ends up on the main square.

With the church behind you, take via Cavour towards the small train station. Descend the provincial road Collabassa and take the panoramic trail (Sentiero Balcone) with the indication Collabassa and Torri. The paved trail climbs up steeply offering a gorgeous view over the natural hollow of Airole and the surrounding mountains (Monte Abellio, 1016 m). The Roya River, with its crystal clear water, flows down the slopes, after raising out of the rocks in France and before ending up into the sea at Ventimiglia (Wetlands are very rare in the Region Liguria, and the Roya River is a Site of Community Importance). Once on the Pagliurà Pass you will see a sign pole indicating a trail that allows you to descend to Collabassa in 20 minutes.

The valley floor is dug by the Bevera Stream, that flows through rocks and green hills. After a few hundred metres between the olive groves, you will reach Collabassa. Walk up Via Colla and pass through the high part of the hamlet.

Take Via Giamboi and continue on the mule track that leads up with beautiful views. It is worth making a stop nearby the water tank. Continue up until Torri, where you can find a restaurant, a bar, a food shop and the bus stop of the line bus to Ventimiglia.

Follow Via Rivaira and, just before the bridge over the Bevera Stream, turn left on Via Case Lupi. This road becomes a path that follows the right bank of the Bevera. In less than 20 minutes you'll be in Serro Inferiore. For the last 200 metres to Serro Superiore you will have to follow the road. Take the panoramic trail (Sentiero Balcone) on the left towards Villatella. Walk up the ridge until Villatella and its small square, with a fountain. Turn left and continue a few hundred metres on the road towards Passo della Colla. From this Pass, follow the mule track up to Grimaldi. Once on Monte Fuga, from where you can see the coast, descend to Mortola Superiore and Grimaldi. This section of the itinerary follows the ridge, ensuring gorgeous views over the over the valleys of the backcountry on one side and the coast from Ventimiglia to



Camporosso Mare, Vallecrosia and Bordighera. The trail becomes a dirt road first and then a mule track. An information panel in front of a ruin tells that this routes were followed by the Hebrews escaping the Italian racial discrimination during World War Two. With a short detour, of a few hundred metres, you can enjoy the beautiful panorama over the coast from the square in front of the Church of Mortola Superiore. On the back of the square you can take a break in the bar and restaurant (open on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday). Descend through the fascinating abandoned hamlet of Ciotti, turn around the hill and cross the bridge on the highway. This section of the itinerary offers beautiful views over the French coast (Menton, Cap Martin, Monaco). Once in Grimaldi Superiore, turn right on Via Woronoff and, after circa 20 metres, descend the staircase next to a privet garden. Pass under a staircase and an alley and continue on Via della Pace first and on a mule track after, passing through farmed terraces invaded by cactuses. The vegetation changes rapidly, from pine trees to palm trees and agaves, in a few hundred meters. Once in Grimaldi Inferiore, turn right on Corso Mentone. On your left hand side you can enjoy the gorgeous view on the steep cliffs of the Balzi Rossi. From here you will soon reach the border with France at the former customs in Ponte San Luigi. The rocks in this area are very interesting, as well as the waterfall near the border.