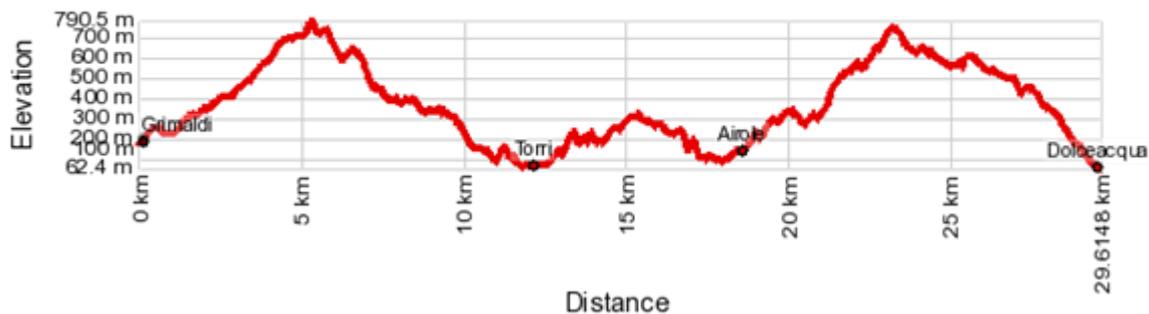




Leg 27 2nd Variant from Grimaldi to Dolceacqua (via Airole)

Total length	29.61km
Hiking time	8h30min
Cumulative elevation gain	1924 m
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%
Total length	0%

profilo altimetrico



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General description:

The itinerary starts in Grimaldi, where the coastal leg Ventimiglia-Grimaldi of the Sentiero Liguria ends. The Mediterranean climate and vegetation and the gorgeous views over the coast give way to the typical mountain landscapes of western Liguria. This long leg, that partially follows the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri, with top heights of 800 m above sea level, is characterised by the many different natural environments and landscapes that it crosses. The route passes through the hamlets of Torri and Airole, where you can find shelter and refreshment. After 30 kilometres the leg ends in Dolceacqua.



Description of the itinerary:

The itinerary starts near the border with France, close to the previous customs in Ponte San Luigi. The rocks in this area are very interesting, as well as the waterfall near the border. The Sentiero Liguria follows Corso Mentone for a while and reaches Grimaldi inferiore. On your right hand side you can enjoy the gorgeous view on the steep cliffs of the Balzi Rossi. The vegetation shows a prevalence of palm trees and agaves. After a few hundred meters through farmed terraces invaded by cactuses, you will walk up to Grimaldi Superiore, following Via della Pace, Via Woronoff and an old mule track and different alleys passing between private gardens. Continue towards the hamlet of Ciotti and, at the fork on a dirt road in a place called Sette Cammini, continue up on the trail to the Cardellino Pass. Bare right on a well-marked trail half away the costal slope, towards Villatella. The trail descends steep to the little Church of Monte Cimone, where after circa 2 km it joins the road to Villatella (395 m a.s.l.).

From the low part of the hamlet, take the alley that runs parallel to Via S. Anfosso Ten, which leads you down to a stream. Turn eastwards towards the sunny hamlets of Serro – San Pancrazio, 1,5 km ahead. Continue northwards on a balcony trail over the Bevera Stream, until the little hamlet of Torri.

After crossing the bridge over the Bevera Stream, continue up on a panoramic and sunny trail that flanks the slope, immersed in the Mediterranean scents, until Collabassa (309 m), a suburb of Airole. The view over the Roya Valley, the meanders of the Bevera Stream and the Alps to the North is gorgeous. Airole is crossed by picturesque dark alleys, knotting one into the other from the main square. One of those alleys leads to the old castle, dating back to the XV century.

The itinerary continues from the main square. Walk up Via Garibaldi, pass along an old fountain and continue through the terraced olive groves. The trail reaches a road that you will have to follow for some metres before turning left. The trail climbs steeply towards the northern slope of Serra della Gatta.

The climb offers large and spectacular views over the oriental side of Monte Grammondo and the northern Alpine peaks. Once on the pass Sella del Fasceo (640 m), cross the road and continue straight on the trail towards Dolceacqua. Along the route you will see the remains of an old furnace for the production of lime. The shapes of the Abellio and Abellotto mountains and the glittering sea surface far away, will accompany you. This trail was once well known for the trade of salt and rice. Passed the Abellio and Abellotto mountains, take the mule track on your right, following the indication Dolceacqua.

Continue circa 2 km northwards on a paved path characterised by the remains of many military constructions, as: caserns, sentry posts, tanks and drinking troughs.

The Alta Via dei Monti Liguri continues along a panoramic ridge (496 m) on the hills separating the Nervia Vally, eastwards, from the Roya Valley, westwards. The trail passes on a bunker of World War Two, whose Firehole faces the French border, while the, still accessible, entrance faces the East. The trail joins the Alta Via dei Monti Liguri again, before encountering a road. If you are looking for a place to stay, you can go the "Agriturismo Rifugio Alta Via", circa 1 km ahead on the SP69 road. You are near the centre of Dolceacqua; the trail, with a partially concrete pavement, crosses a road that descends the valley. You can admire the castle, the bridge and the medieval centre of Dolceacqua, famous for the Rosses wine. Get closer to the centre, passing through farmed terraces, with olive trees and grape. You will reach the square of Dolceacqua after walking out the alleys and crossing Via Vigliani and Via della Liberazione.