

## Route description

**First stage, departure** (30 min). Starting from a church of **Sant'Eusebio**, take the unpaved road towards Cornareto. After the first rise, the route continues north, along the crest of the hill dividing the valley of Rio Bardella from that of Rio Nevissano. The path soon divides several times, but keep taking the uphill path, to stay on the higher ground and admire the view on both sides on the valleys. On the peak of a slight hillock the church of **Santa Maria di Cornareto** can be seen to the left. It can be reached with a short diversion from the path: the landscape opens up over 360 degrees and the little church still shows signs of its age, as seen by the Romanesque apse.

**Second stage** (1h 30 min). Return to the original path and continue towards the north, slightly downhill then briefly up again: on this new peak stands a church of San Michele, with its baroque façade looking out towards that of Cornareto. You can't help being struck by the softness of the area, among the grapevines of Freisa, Barbera, Malvasia and Bonarda; clear days provide a backdrop of the Alpine chain, all the way from Monviso in the south to Monte Rosa. This is about the half-way stage on the route and it continues towards the north Pass the stretch on the asphalted road leading to the local district of Bardella and continue along the crest to approach Cascina Bergana. Along the way the path forks into two, at a point where there is a votive pillar: both directions lead to Vezzolano, the one to the left going to Borgata Pogliano, then to Vezzolano, along a road that is almost flat. The one to the right is a little shorter, but also rather less easy. On reaching the Abbey of **Vezzolano**, or, more correctly, the Rectory of Vezzolano, a tour of the church and cloisters cannot be overlooked, because this is one of the most important Romanesque-Gothic monuments in the whole of northern Italy. Toilets are available outside the religious complex, while after walking up a few metres there is a car park with a bar, which also offers restaurant services.

**Third stage** (1h 45 min). From the car park, follow the asphalted road leading to Albugnano. After just a few minutes, a junction is reached with signposts for Cascina Serra and Cascina Valle. Take the asphalted road to the right, towards the bottom of the valley and the Rio Nevissano: at this point keep to the left. Follow an unpaved road to the local district of Frazione Nevissano (or Mistrassi); from there on the road is once again asphalted and, further on, it reaches the chapel of San Defendente. At the first fork take the left, still on the asphalt road, which now has slight gradients but very little traffic. At the junction with the provincial road no. 33, which connects Albugnano and Castelnovo don Bosco, follow a short stretch downhill, leading back to the church of **Sant'Eusebio**. Following a short stretch of the provincial road, on the other hand, leads into the town of Castelnovo don Bosco.



**Information points and contacts:**  
Albugnano (AT), Abbey of Vezzolano

tel. +39 3331365812  
infopoint@turismoincollina.it

[www.turismoincollina.it](http://www.turismoincollina.it)  
[www.vezzolano.it](http://www.vezzolano.it)

Facebook: turismo InCollina  
Instagram: reteromanicadicollina



**The Romanesque Hills Route** promotes knowledge and use of the romanese heritage of the local areas between the river Po and Monferrato.

With the collaboration of:



With the support of:

Municipalities and Parishes of Albugnano, Andezeno, Aramengo, Berzano di San Pietro, Brusasco, Buttigliera d'Asti, Casalborgone, Castagneto Po, Castell'Alfero, Castelnovo don Bosco, Cavagnolo, Cerreto d'Asti, Cocconato, Cortazzono, Lauriano, Marentino, Mombello di Torino, Montafia, Montechiaro d'Asti, Montiglio Monferrato, Portacomaro, San Sebastiano da Po, Tigliole, Tonengo.

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# Romanesque walk

Castelnovo don Bosco, Albugnano

1

Abbey of Vezzolano, Albugnano



Municipality of Albugnano



Municipality of Castelnovo don Bosco



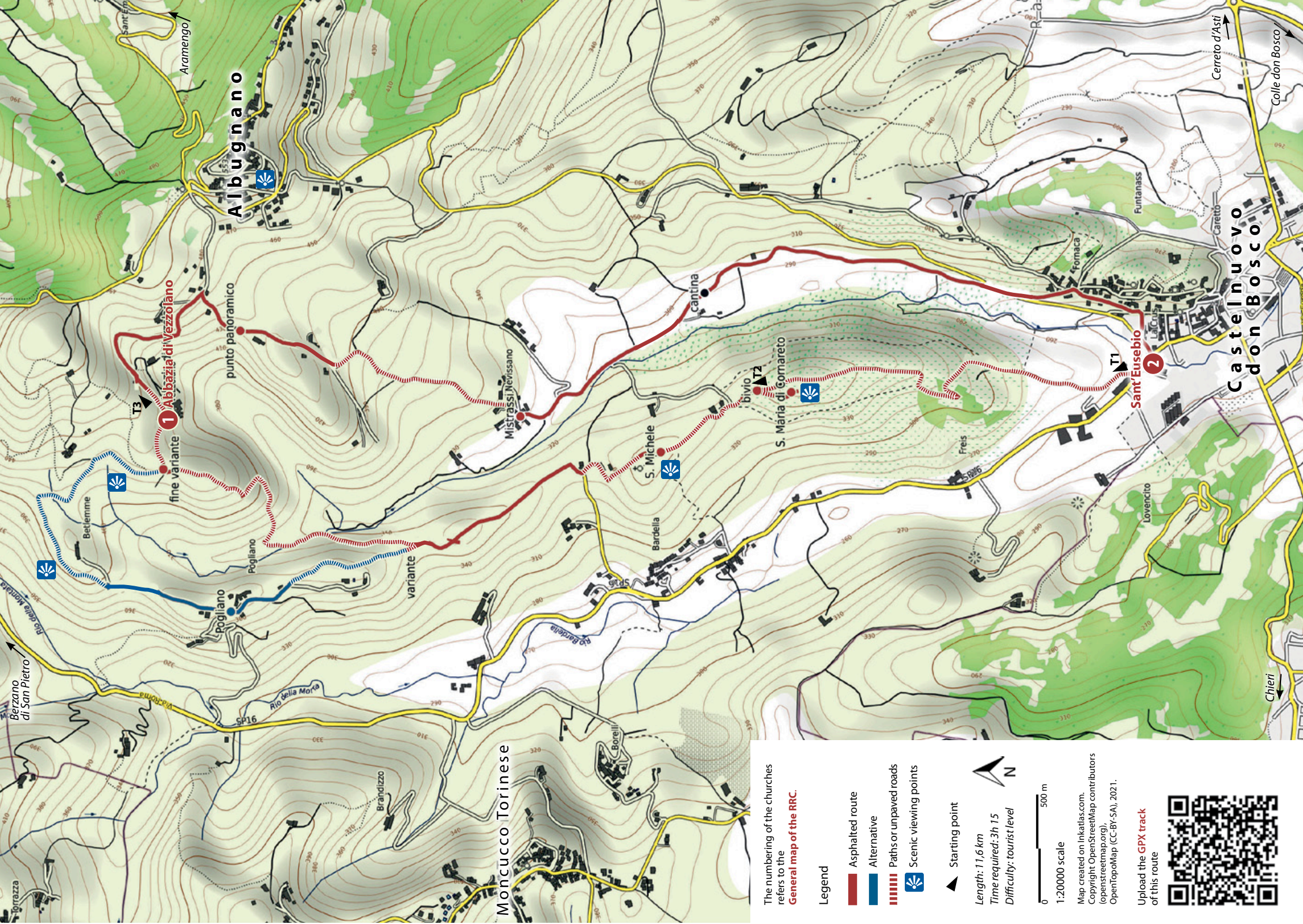
Church of Sant'Eusebio, Castelnovo don Bosco



Abbeys and churches between the River Po and Monferrato







The numbering of the churches refers to the **General map of the RRC**.

- Legend**
- Asphalted route
  - Alternative
  - Paths or unpaved roads
  - Scenic viewing points

▲ Starting point

Length: 11,6 km  
Time required: 3h 15  
Difficulty: tourist level

0 500 m

1:20000 scale

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Upload the **GPX track** of this route

