

Route description

Circuit 1, Castagneto Po - San Genesio (60 min).

From Piazza Rovere in Castagneto, take Via Alessandria to turn left into Via Asti and continue into Via Chiovino until you reach the fork of the provincial road to Casalborgone with Strada Coste (località Nespolina).

From the fork in the road go down to the left, beside a purifier, on the track that leads into the woods.

Walk past Villa Rossi for a couple of hundred metres, to reach the front of the church dedicated to **San Genesio (21)**.

This church was built in 1019 by the Benedictines as a priory for the ancient Abbey of Fruttuaria and is definitely the oldest building in the local area.

Right under the church forecourt, there is the famous fountain of sulfur water, which attracted a lot of visitors in past times.

From the south side of the forecourt, alongside the play park, a dirt track starts; initially it is on the level, but then it rises slightly and then descends again until it crosses the stream from the San Genesio valley.

Leave this track, which continues on the level, to climb up on the right into the woods, following the path, which widens out after a couple of hundred metres into a road; after a few turns this runs into Strada Coste, a little uphill from the farmhouse Cascina Barone.

Then turn right and, about three hundred metres on, you come back to località Nespolina, with its typical 'pietra della posa' (an ancient stopping point for funerals); from there it is a short distance back to Piazza Rovere, the starting point.

Circuit 2, Castagneto Po - Nature Reserve Bosco del Vaj (120 min).

From the parish church of Castagneto, take the road on the right, Via Cuneo, downhill past the Elementary School as far as the fork for the road to Bosco del Vaj.

After a few ups and downs the road passes the farmhouse Cascina Rivera; then it continues with ups and downs for about a kilometre, before reaching the entrance to the **Nature Reserve Bosco del Vaj**.

The path rises slightly into the woods; this side of the Reserve boasts splendid examples of tall trees (beech, sessile oaks and chestnuts). To the north, the village of Castagneto Po can be glimpsed through the trees, standing on the ridge opposite.

Ignore side paths to the left (the second of which leads, just past a wooden bench, to an awesome landslide known in dialect as the "roca 'd caval") and stick to the main path until you reach the district of "I Roc".

From here, where there is a drinking water fountain, take the left path no. 107 (Footpaths of the Hills of Turin) leading to the Bric del Vaj ('Bric' means small hill or peak), the highest point (583 metres asl). Here there is a large stone cross and an indication panel of the Alpine panorama. Continue as far as the road no. SP99 in the district of Mezzavilla and from there back to the centre of Castagneto Po.



Association
of social promotion

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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, Castelnuovo don Bosco, Cavagnolo, Cerreto d'Asti, Cocconato, Cortazzone, Lauriano, Marentino, Mombello di Torino, Montafia, Montechiaro d'Asti, Montiglio Monferrato, Portacomaro, San Sebastiano da Po, Tigliole, Tonengo.

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Romanesque walk

Castagneto Po

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Municipality of
Castagneto Po



Church of San Genesio



Nature Reserve Bosco del Vaj



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
- Paths or unpaved roads
- Scenic viewing points
- Starting point

Length: 9 km

Time required: 3h

Difficulty: hiker level

0 500 m

Scale: 1:20000

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Upload the **GPX track**
of this route

