

Between the Maremma and the Tuffs - 1st part

TREKking
ITINERARI E VIAGGI NELLA NATURA

Località di partenza:

Regione Toscana, Provincia di Grosseto

Tipo di itinerario:

in bici

Fondo stradale:

Misto

Difficoltà a piedi:

Escursionistica

Dislivello in salita (m):

450

Dislivello in discesa (m):

390

Lunghezza (km):

62,1

After the inevitable visit to Cala Violina and Cala Martina we finally leave the sea, plunging into the authentic Maremma. The visit to the Etruscan settlements of Vetulonia and Roselle is the dominating theme of the tenth day. The scenery of the Maremma and the hills are the main feature of the eleventh leg, in a succession of deserted roads through the hills. An authentic, rural, spartan Tuscany, light years away from the places popular with mass tourism, with which we come into sporadic contact at Terme di Saturnia, crowded with bathers.

However, it is sufficient to go beyond the walls of the old town to find the authentic dimension of our journey and to discover the ancient roots of the village. And just when we think we have seen everything, the last leg surprises us by literally immersing us in history: the land of tuff, with its deep canyons and original Etruscan "vie cave" (paths dug out from the tuff), offer a concentration of images. A meeting of the bizarre aspects of nature, the human ingenuity and the mysteries of an ancient civilisation.

Sovana, with its Archaeological Park and charming village, is the jewel of this day, but we mustn't forget to visit the historical centres of Pitigliano and Sorano, where our long journey ends.

From Portigliano, at the turn-off for Scarlino, we head towards Punta Ala, as far as Pian d'Alma (Km 5.1), where we turn left at the church. After about 3 Km the road starts, entering the woods. At the turn-off at a bridge (Km 9.3) we keep to the right and at the next junction we turn left. The road climbs as far as Tirli, where we turn left to cross the village and then turn left towards Grosseto. At the end of the descent (Km 21.6) we turn left towards Vetulonia, and when we get near the Etruscan village we turn right (Km 29.6) towards Braccagni. We ignore the next turn-off for Braccagni and go straight on. At the next



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turn-off (Km 41.3) we turn left for Roselle, and left again onto the Aurelia. We pass a flyover and turn right. When we reach Roselle we turn right and after the bridge (Km 49.3) left for Istia-Scansano. The road continues through the Maremma plain, as far as a turn-off (Km 54) where we turn left for Saturnia, skirting the village of Istia and continuing along the main road towards Arcille. At the next turn-off (Km 58.2) we turn left again for Arcille, where the leg finishes at the junction for Baccinello.