

The cork tree path

Text and photos by Filippo Brancoli

Località di partenza:

Regione Toscana, Provincia di Lucca,
Massarosa, Frazione Massaciuccoli

Tipo di itinerario:

a piedi

Fondo stradale:

Fuori strada

Difficoltà a piedi:

Turistica

Dislivello in salita (m):

200 m

Dislivello in discesa (m):

200 m

Tempo (hh:mm):

2:00

Cartografia:

all seasons

Segnavia:

white-red signposts, path no. 2

Uffici informazioni:

For further informations on Costa Toscana:
www.toscanacosta.it

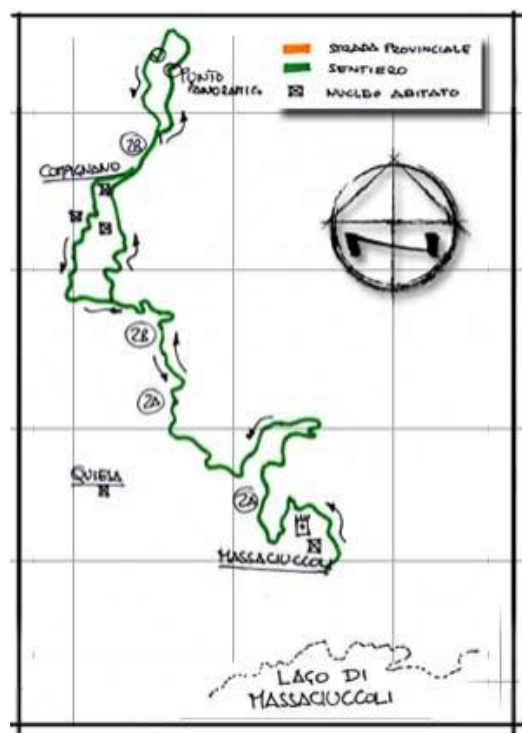
Versilia Tourist Agency - information Office - V.le
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When we reach the village of Massaciuccoli we can leave the car near the LIPU Oasis, where we can visit a small animal museum in the park and look at the birds that live around the lake from huts that can be reached across wooden bridges. Leaving the lake behind us, we climb up towards the hills behind it, taking a lane on the right and following route no. 2, passing alongside the first archaeological site, probably the remains of the store rooms of an ancient Roman villa. We cross over the provincial highway, keeping to the right and take an attractive path that climbs up the side of the hill in the shadow of ancient olive trees. After walking for about 10 minutes we arrive at the ruins of Villa dei Venulei where we can still recognise part of its structure. In particular, in the bottom part of the building we can see the rooms used as a spa, with its still visible water pipes. The Villa is dominated by the Pieve di San Lorenzo, popular in the Middle Ages with pilgrims travelling along the Francigena Way. From the terrace opposite the church square there is a magnificent

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The Cork Tree Path is an easy itinerary that is suitable for everyone. It offers beautiful views of Versilia and Lake Massaciuccoli and gives the trekker the chance to see what is left of the ruins of the splendid Villa dei Venulei.



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view of Lake Massaciuccoli, a large part of Versilia and the plain that extends to the south as far as Pisa, where we can clearly see the tower, the cathedral and the baptistery. We walk alongside the parish church and turn right along a road that leads us to the remains of Villa Minutoli Tegrimi, a mansion built on the ruins of an ancient watch tower. The villa was the centre of the great Massa (a village with a Villa at the centre), belonging to the nobleman, Cuccolo. This is where the name Massaciuccoli comes from. At this point we can go back the same way as we came or, for the fittest of us, we could continue along the second part of the path that climbs up towards Compignano for another hour's walk.

This itinerary is part of a collection that the magazine "Trekking", together with the APT (Provincial Tourist Authority) of the Tuscan Coast, has dedicated to the most beautiful trekking routes in this area. A series of itineraries that will help you discover lovely places and will introduce you to a district that has great environmental and cultural appeal.



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