

## CASTELLINA MARITTIMA

11 - Anello dei Sassi Bianchi – 8 km – 350 m difference in height (hunting area)

We will leave the cars in Castellina Marittima, in the part of the town from which we exit in the direction of Santa Luce and we will walk along a small road that climbs to the right and soon becomes a path.

After a short uphill stretch, we will arrive at Piero's quarry, where traces of the excavation of the limestone for the production of lime with the remains of the kiln are still visible.

Leaving the clearing of the quarry, we continue the marked path to our left which, always uphill, leads us to the panoramic clearing called Sassi Bianchi due to the presence of outcropping limestone.

The superb panorama, in addition to a wide view of the sea and Santa Luce lake, on clear days allows you to see Pisa, its plain and the Pisan Mountains.

The climb continues, always having on our right the vision of Monte Vitalba with its wind farm, until we reach Poggio Pianacce (660 m asl), whose peak is right on the right of the path and where we can have our snack, still with a panorama of wide and remarkable beauty.

From here continue slightly downhill, leaving the path on the left which, through Poggio Vitalba, leads to Chianni and then to Casciana Terme.

Shortly after starting the descent, the ground under our feet changes color, revealing the characteristic red of Diaspri (siliceous rocks); we continue to descend and, at a crossroads, turn right towards the Madia plateau (from which other paths branch off and which we will find again in the Malconsiglio route) and from here to Gabbriglioli, where the view of the sea opens up again and where the formation of the soil is now characterized by the gray-green color of ophiolites (basalt and serpentine).

In front of us stands the Nocola hillock, with its characteristic sugar loaf shape.

Turning to the right we will descend to close the ring with path no. 5 which, with some bumpy stretches, takes us back to Castellina from the ancient Via Volterrana.

After crossing the town we will find ourselves at the starting point.

In spring there will be spectacular wild iris blooms.