

TRA MONTESCUDAIO E GUARDISTALLO

15 - Anello del Rio dei Trogoli – 11 km – 480 m difference in height (hunting area)

More than a real ring, this path has the shape of a pan.

As soon as the ascent on the provincial road of the Three Municipalities begins in the direction of Montescudaio, on the right there is a curve, on the side of which, near an ancient fountain almost entirely covered by greenery, we can leave the cars (no more than two, otherwise I recommend using the parking lot of the *Osteria Il Casone*).

From here starts a marked path that winds its way through the valley, along the course of the Rio torrent.

We will find several paths that go to the left, but we will continue always keeping the right on the flat path.

At a certain point we will be able to see the ruins of a mill building on our left.

There are probably still the ruins of the millpond and, further on, the other two mills, but everything is now hidden by the vegetation.

After a slight curve to the right, you will see the arches of an aqueduct (presumably from the 19th century) that cross the Rio and which, in the midst of the vegetation, give us a truly extraordinary view.

We must now turn right, crossing the Rio immediately upstream of the aqueduct, using a wooden walkway.

Once on the other side, we will follow the path that initially goes back along the Rio, then immediately turn left and enter the woods, just before the confluence with the Rio dei Trogoli. We therefore always follow the path, ignoring the deviations on the left and, in short, we will find ourselves skirting the Rio dei Trogoli.

Other walkways (these more reliable) will allow us to cross the watercourse several times, skirting it a little on one side and a little on the other side, to then remain decidedly on the bank that for us is on the right, but which would be the orographic left.

As you proceed, the Rio becomes more and more amazing for the pools and potholes (troughs) dug in the continental sediments of the upper Pleistocene and the numerous waterfalls that feed them, giving a truly enchanting sight.

At a certain point the water no longer flows on the surface, and we will continue along the path until we come out, after a very short stretch of steep climb, among the cultivated fields, not without having passed the remains of a fence (watch out for the barbed wire!).

Immediately before the fields we turn left and, as soon as a path opens to our right, we cross a small stretch of scrub, to then emerge in an olive grove.

We cross it until we reach the opposite limit and, from here, we follow the path that skirts it to the right, a path that soon climbs up and, with a couple of hairpin bends, allows us to go up the north side of the valley. Almost at the top of the slope we will find a house that is usually closed, in front of which we can stop for a snack.

After about 100 m. you arrive at the ridge, crossed by via delle Cerretelle, a dirt road that we will take to the left.

We then continue more or less flat and, after passing some restored farms and outbuildings, the small road becomes a path again and takes us downhill into the woods, where, just before arriving at the confluence between the Rio dei Trogoli and the Rio, we will find, turning right, the path of the outward journey and then the handle of the pan.

