

2 - Anello delle Golazze Aperte – km 14 – dislivello 680+ 680-

If you have the possibility and the desire for a walk that requires more time and a good packed lunch, this route is for us.

Unlike in route 1, this time by car, always coming from the cemetery of Bibbona, at the crossroads we will take the road to the right and we will follow it until, after having gone through a few uphill curves, we will reach a sort of monument, called *l'Aratone* (local distortion for *Aratrone*).

This monument, consisting of a double share plow, recalls a period of agricultural technology that took place between the use of oxen and horses to push the plow and the first motor tractors. It was in fact a device moved by a steam engine that remained at the edge of the field, while the plow ran through the ground, moving the earth with the rear ploughshare; when he reached the bottom of the furrow, he followed the parallel one in reverse, this time using the front ploughshare.

Proceeding by car on the left of the monument, to park in an open space immediately outside one of the gates that leads into the Reserve.

Left the cars, enter from the pedestrian crossing and find another clearing where the *Casetta di Campo di Sasso* is located, a small forest bivouac surrounded by a picnic area.

We immediately take path #9 to the right, one of the many forest trails that run through the reserve and which, going downhill, will lead us to cross the *Botro Campo di Sasso*.

Before the ford you can take a short detour to the right to admire the remains of an ancient mill, clearly visible along the course of the little river (for the functioning of the retrecine mills, see **route 9 Valle del Rotone**).

After the concrete ford, the road goes uphill and takes us to *Fonte al Fico*, recognizable by the sign, but not by the source (*fonte*) which is no longer present.

To our left starts the path #14 which, in continuous ascent (sometimes a bit steep) leads us to the *Immaginetta* bivouac (365 m asl), where we will find another picnic area where it will be possible to make a small stop for a mid-morning snack.

Both along path #14 and in the other sections that we will travel in the woods, we will pass by circular clearings that denote the ancient presence of charcoal pits.

After the stop, we move to the right of the open space in front of the bivouac, taking path #16, another forest track which, after an abandoned quarry, becomes a path again and leads us to a stone boundary that delimits the border between Bibbona, Castagneto C.cci and Monteverdi M.mo. We are in Tre Confini (400 m asl).

At the memorial stone we choose the path on the left which continues to climb entering the woods.

Soon limestone rock formations begin to appear under our feet, indicating that our goal is near. The *Passo delle Golazze Aperte* (476 m asl) appears on our left with a sudden breathtaking view which, spanning the coast from the Argentario to Livorno, allows on clear days the view of the islands of the *Arcipelago Toscano* and, on the line of the horizon, of the Corsican mountains.

At our feet is the village-castle of Bolgheri with the line of cypress avenues that reaches it from San Guido. On the left, on top of a hill, Castiglioncello di Bolgheri, the ancient residence of the Marquises della Gherardesca.

Faced with this masterpiece, it is perhaps prosaic to think of having lunch, but you will have to eat and there is no better place than this.

When it is time to leave, we continue the path in the same direction (i.e. towards the north); in 10 minutes of descent we arrive at the border between *Macchia di Magona* and the *Riserva di Caselli*, marked by a chain and signs.

Our route now continues to the left, again on the forest track, following the signpost #10, in an alternation of slight ups and downs which, passing in front of *Rifugio di Poggio Carbonaione* (now

closed because it is used for forestry needs - 460 m asl.) finally leads us to *Poggio al Fango* (370 meters above sea level).

Then, arrived at Poggio al Fango, we will take path #7 in its left branch (7 is a ring) until we cross path #8, which we will take by turning right and we will walk to the end to reach the small house of *Campo di Sasso* and our car park.