

27 - Cascatoio Ring - km 12- elevation gain 550+ 550-.

With the car, we drive along the state road 68 that leads from Cecina to Volterra; having reached km. 6, we find a fork on the left indicating Sorbugnano and Casolare Val di Mare.

Along the short dirt stretch that leads from the paved road to Casolare Val di Mare, we can find space to park along the small road.

In front of the gate of the residence we take a left, following the sign for Le Pellicce. The small road first follows the bottom of the valley, along the course of the Botro Val di Mare; after a few hundred meters the path leaves the banks of the botro and climbs decisively to the left, until it reaches the farmhouse Le Pellicce.

You pass in front of the agriturismo and then continue to the right, still following the small road. Shortly after, on the edge of the woods, we find a fork where we will take the small path that bends to the right (only after a few meters we will find the arrow indicating for the Cascatoio).

After a short while we come to a small clearing where one of the Garden Reserve's educational bulletin boards is located: here we will take the path that, downhill, leads shortly to the Cascatoio. If it has rained enough in the previous period, on the rock wall in front of us it will be possible to admire a small waterfall that pours water into the Bagnolo stream below.

A wooden footbridge allows us to cross the stream: on the other bank, looking down to our right, we will be able to see a small spring that, while not very hot, is noticeably warmer than the water in the stream; it most likely comes from a very distant thermal area.

To continue in our loop, we go up to the notice board and then take the small path to our left that leads us first to ford the upper course of the Bagnolo and then, through a wooded area with a few brief glimpses of the sea, we will reach a more open little road, onto which we will enter by taking a right, after having overcome a small downhill slope.

In a short time the small road leads us to an intersection with Via del Motaio, which we will take to the right, and then turn almost immediately left to follow the fence that was once used for restocking the Maremma wild boar.

We always continue to follow the fence, with an up and down path, not always well marked, but the fence will allow us to keep the right direction.

After a last uphill stretch, we reach the dirt road that connects State Route 66 with the provincial road of Commerce.

Here we find tables and benches that can accommodate a snack stop.

We now take the dirt road that climbs steadily through the woods until we come out in an open, cultivated area. From here there is a remarkable view of the sea and the plain in front.

After passing the La Quiete farm, we will climb a little more, then turn right at the sign for Le Debbiare.

We then continue eastward in the direction of Riparbella (at one point we will see the village right in front of us), following a farm road that winds in the first section back through the woods and then between agritourisms and farms.

Once past the Il Badalo farmhouse, we will find a fork that we will take to the right, finally bringing us back into view of the Val di Cecina and the sea.

At the bottom of the descent we will find Casolare Val di mare and the cars again.