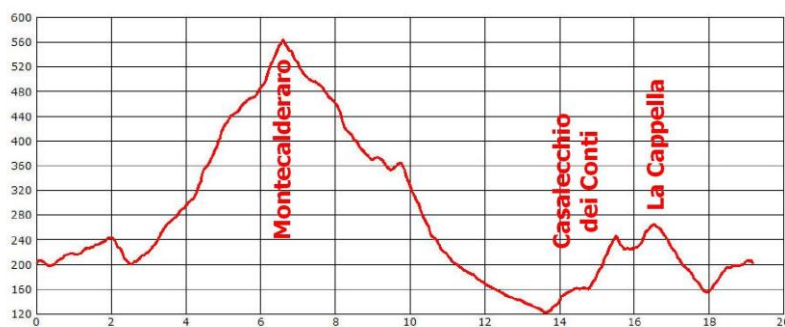
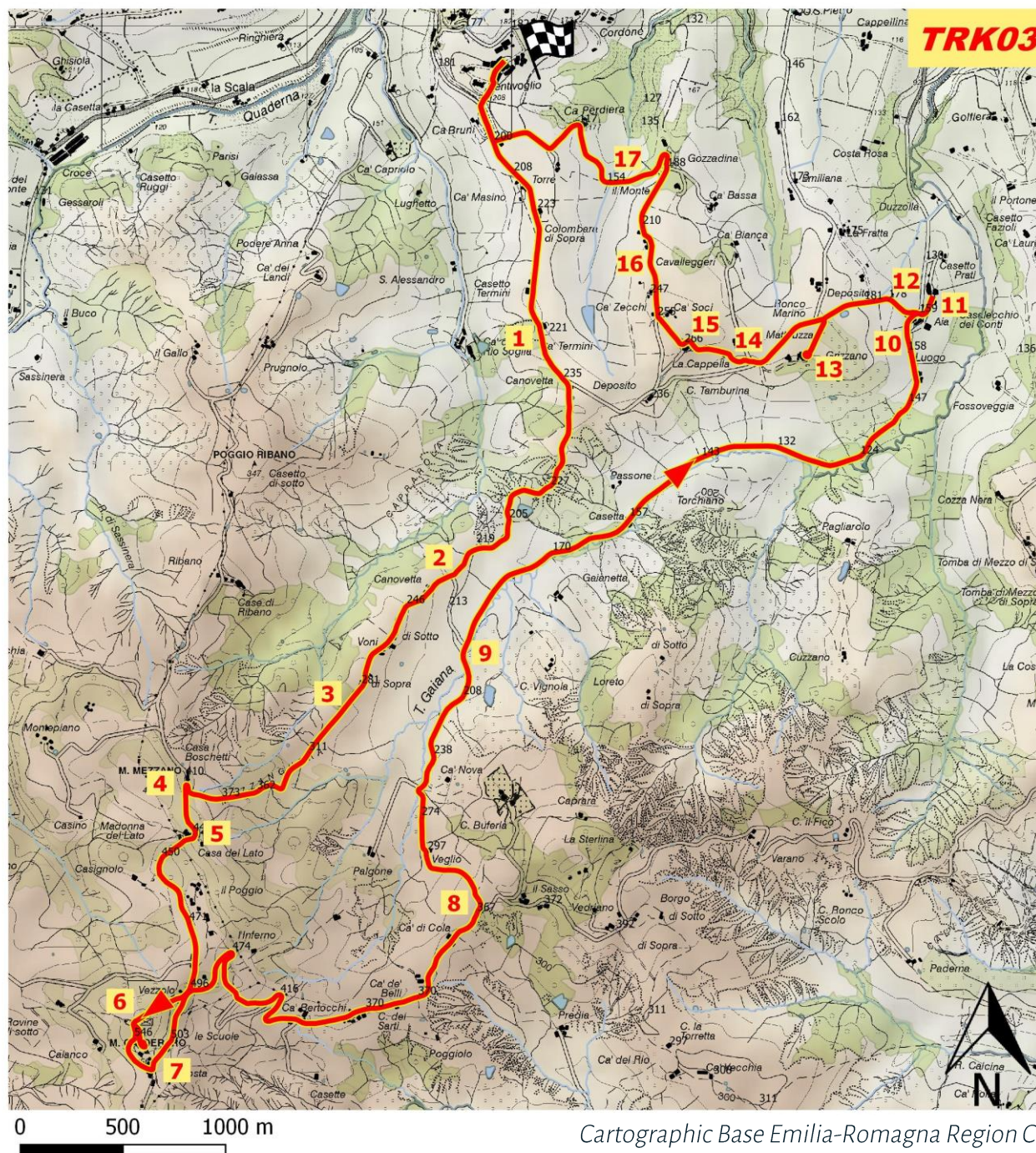



Excursion Of The Gothic Line



Useful Informations

Distance 19,2 Km
Drop 700 m

-  Start
-  March Way
-  Interest Point

Duration of the route approximately h 6,00.

Excursion Of The Gothic Line

Description of the route with sites of interest

1. **Canovetta** *The main peaks, Monte Calderaro, Monte Cerere and Monte Grande can be easily recognised; during the Second World War they constituted the so-called Salient of the Gothic Line, the upper limit conquered by the Allies in autumn 1944.*
Leave the gate of Via Ca' Masino 611 and turn left. Proceed a few hundred metres, go beyond the Ca' Termini building on the left and walk to a recent olive tree grove, located on the right hand side. In the proximity of Canovetta, take the unpaved road that starts on the right side and walk along the ruins of the building, to reach the panoramic point.
2. **Gaiana Stream** *The path, which is wide and smooth when the ground is dry, runs along the ridge which separates the valley of the Gaiana stream from that of Rio Soglia. The environment is dry, the vegetation is characterized by shrubs, which, according to the season, give colour to the ridges of the calanchi, a grey land with typical white limestone inclusions. The typical plants include the Broom (yellow flowers), the Dog-rose (white flowers and red berries), the Sulla, with fuchsia blooming, the Crocus flowers and many others.*
The trail continues downhill until crossing an unpaved road in correspondence of 2 big oaks.
3. **Secular Oaks**
The path continues uphill, beyond an open fence and skirting some buildings, featuring some magnificent specimens of secular oaks, lining the way.
4. **Via Montecalderaro** *Enjoy a magnificent panoramic view of the surrounding calanchi. Keep following the main route and continue upwards.*
Leave the tree-lined stretch, the trail makes a sharp turn to the right on a clayey soil (be careful after the rain) until getting to the cultivated fields, near a house and via Montecalderaro.
5. **Church of the Madonna del Lato (Madonna of the Side)** *(The Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin of Lato di Montecalderaro). Back in February 1623, a young shepherdess named Zenobia, praying in front of the image of the Virgin placed on a tree, at the side of the road, heard a voice that invited her to go home, where she would find a lot of bread in the 'madia' (wooden cupboard with high sides, used to knead bread dough). The news of the miracle spread quickly and in 1631 a sanctuary was built, to thank the Virgin for sparing the population from the of the plague. The sanctuary was firstly enlarged in 1800, then the final, definitive enlargement took place in 1863. The Latin cross church features a nave with three lateral chapels on each side).*
Take the asphalt road to the left, you will reach the nearby church of the Madonna del Lato.
6. **Gothic Line** *The Gothic Line was the front line dividing Italy into two parts, during World War II. For six months, from autumn 1944 to spring 1945, the territory of Castel San Pietro Terme (Bologna) was involved with some peculiarities: the areas of Montecalderaro and Monte Grande, just a few kilometres away from the Via Emilia, represented the most northern points won by the Allied forces and served as a "connection" between the areas of influence of the 5th American Army to the west and the Eighth British Army to the east. The six months of the war front left a deep mark in the territory and the consciences of the people who lived here. There were many civilian victims, with their homes destroyed; evidence of the war (munitions, weapons and pieces of equipment) may in fact still be found just a few centimetres underground.*

In the last years, the local administration has decided to preserve the value of these places and create a "War Memorial Route" to remember the events of history and to promote the territory as a symbol of historical heritage and collective identity.

Continue on the paved road up to the village of Montecalderaro (the most characteristic place of the Gothic Line).

7. **The church** *The plaques, the photographic panels and the memorial recall the tragic moments lived by the locals.*

Continue uphill on the right towards the cemetery and the remains of a church bombed during the war.

8. **Route of San Antonio**

Turn left and go back to the entrance of the village (you will see a trattoria on the main street).

Follow the asphalted road Via Tinari direction Castel San Pietro Terme and the signs for the Route of San Antonio; the road now descends winding (you may also take a shortcut but be careful with the bushes on the way). At the end of the hairpin turns, follow a stretch of the panoramic road to Vedriano and walk past the areas of Ca' Bertocchi, Ca' dei Sarti and Ca' di Cola. Right after the latter, turn left onto an unpaved road.

9. **Via Gaianetta** *Enjoy the panoramic views over the hills and you may also spot some roe deers!*

Follow the descent to a house on the right (CAUTION clayey slippery ground surface after the rain). Continue the descent following the main road (Via Gaianetta).

10. **Casalecchio dei conti**

Follow the unpaved road towards north east, walking along some houses and orchards. After nearly 2 kilometres, a short rise leads to Casalecchio dei Conti, at the crossroad with Via Malvezza and Via Ca' Masino.

11. **Palace**

Turn right until you reach the small church and the Palace right behind it, featuring a tower and crenellated walls (private property).

12. **Cemetery** *Some of the partisans fallen during the fightings for liberation are buried here. The panels and tombstones are a memorial to the events and the fallen. 'The 87th and 88th Regiments of the Combat Group Friuli, together with the 183rd Paratroopers Regiment 'Nembo' of the Paratroopers Brigade Folgore, won the tenacious resistance of the Green Devils, the German paratroopers of the 1st Division, opening the way for the liberation of Bologna' (17-19 April 1945).*

Go back and climb up a steep stretch of Via Ca' Masino to reach the cemetery.

13. **Casa Grizzano** *This place is the symbol of the above mentioned fightings.*

Continue up and make a short detour on the left to reach the house (Casa Grizzano), with the memorial stone and a plaque on the front wall, indicating the names of the fallen. (Private property, please observe maximum discretion and silence).

14. **Via Ca' Masino**

Rejoin Via Ca' Masino and climb up again to the point where the road widens on the right, at entrance of a villa. Take the unpaved road to the abandoned cemetery.

The Chapel *A 17th-century church. This spot offers a 360° panoramic view. To the south west, you may see Monte Calderaro with the antennas, Monte Grande and Monte Cerere (the area of the Gothic Line), and, going down, the Gaiana stream, the unpaved road and the calanchi of Vedriano, carved by the waters of Rio di Cuzzano; the west offers a glimpse of Settefonti, with the church bell tower, overlooking the ridge and the Tower House (Visitor Centre of the Regional Park of the Gessi Bolognesi). Finally, to the east, the bell tower of the Church of Liano, rising on the ridge.*

The road runs along the abandoned graveyard, turn right and descend to The Chapel.

15. **Cavalleggeri**

Take the unpaved road that descends right opposite the church (northbound) and walk the ridge between Rio Rosso and Rio Forcola, passing Ca' Zecchi, Cavalleggeri (the entrance is marked by 2 columns at the sides of the road) and the village Il Monte.

16. **The Tower** *Mansion under restoration.*

The road descends with a couple of bends to level 154 m asl, in correspondence of the passage on the Rio Rosso, recognisable by the characteristic reeds. Climb back to the main road up to the intersection at the tower, turn right and go back to Via Ca' Masino, walking along the fence of the resort. Turn right and you'll shortly arrive at the main gate.