

PATH 005 – MONTEFORTINO

HISTORIC NOTES.

There are different historically interesting reasons connected with this path.

First of all, some German emplacements of the Gothic Line are indicated in the proximity of the Passage for Montelabreve.

Moreover, in the first west peak of the Passage, you can see the remains of Montelabreve fortress, known in 1406 because it was attacked after Ottaviano Ubaldini had been hidden there with his gang (he was guilty for being rebel in the territories under the jurisdiction of Città di Castello).

Secondly, from Mount Bello you can follow a deviation (about 30 minutes round-trip) towards the oratory of Colubraia, while a small fortress – wanted by Henry the 7th of Luxembourg – arises on the ridge in Montefortino (fortress which is quoted from 1223). After this, it was fief of the counts Montedoglios and then it passed to the counts Della Faggiolas in the 14th century. Now it is difficult to see the few remains because of the vegetation.

In the end, the street between Ca' Coracci and the Passage for Montelabreve is the ancient way that – from the Valley of Presale – went up to the castle of Montelabreve; it was used by some salt and tobacco smugglers, because they carried these products illegally from Romagna to Valtiberina to avoid paying taxes.

The path takes its name from the castle of Montefortino (built by order of Henry the 7th of Luxembourg) and it is a ring one, which can begin either from Ca' Coracci, or better from the Passage for Montelabreve.

From the Passage, climb down to the concrete steep street taking to Piscina Nera dwelling (an historic house inhabited till half of the sixties in the Twentieth century), beyond which the descent continues on the ancient way. So, arrive to the stream, and it's better to ford it instead of using the old and battered bridge to cross it.

Shortly, leave the paved street in Ca' Coracci; here, turn left for 600 m, then turn right on the forest street clambering towards Stiavola.

After 400 m, the street is closed by a gate of a private property, but before – in the proximity of a holy chapel – the indications make you turn right so going beyond the scarp, in order to find yourself on the mule track beyond a gate in a pasture.

So, go up towards Stiavola. When you enter there, turn right towards the church; next to it, go up again on the previous mule track. This was the oldest path going up from the Valley of Presale to the castle of Montefortino.

After, the mule track enters a forest way useful for tractors, even if the small dry walls, which marked the boundary of the original path, are endured in some points. The slope continues with some steep stretches of road till a wide dirt one. On the left small peak the remains of the castle are hidden in the vegetation, towards which the short deviation will be indicated as soon as possible.

So, turn right by following the indications of the path CAI 5a crossing the east side of Mount Sovara, the drainage basin from which the river Foglia originates. After approximately 1,3 mls, when you arrive to a crossroads of forest streets, turn right on the way going up. Now you are on the path CAI 5 – follow it till the very beginning. Before, keep on going up till Mount Bello (at an altitude of 1073 m), then – if you turn right, the path follows the panoramic ridge till Sasso Aguzzo, and finally climbing down towards the Passage for Montelabreve.

BE CAREFUL – some stretches of road over Stiavola are frequently muddy in case of rain.

TOTAL LENGTH – 12,5 km

TOTAL UPHILL GAP – 660 m

WHITE AND RED INDICATIONS + ARROWS TO INDICATE THE WAY

DIFFICULTY - EE