

# Dante pass

Text by Filippo Brancoli, Photos by Filippo Brancoli and APT archives

## Località di partenza:

Regione Toscana, Provincia di Pisa, San Giuliano Terme

## Tipo di itinerario:

a piedi

## Fondo stradale:

Misto

## Difficoltà a piedi:

Turistica

## Dislivello in salita (m):

310 m

## Dislivello in discesa (m):

310 m

## Tempo (hh:mm):

2:00

## Periodo consigliato:

All seasons

## Cartografia:

tourist map and path map -Monti pisani e colline livornesi- 1:25,000 ed. Multigraphic

## Segnavia:

red and white, paths nos. 014 and 00

## Uffici informazioni:

For further informations on Costa Toscana:  
[www.toscanacosta.it](http://www.toscanacosta.it)

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## Accesso al percorso e note:

Departure and arrival place: San Giuliano Terme, at the end of the Via Niccolini, near state highway no.12 between Pisa and Lucca. The itinerary starts just under the amphitheatre.

Coming from the centre of San Giuliano, at the end of via Piccolini, we keep to the left and enter the area under the amphitheatre. We cross the lovely park also containing modern sculptures, and at the exit turn right towards the state highway which we do not reach. We pass a ruined building and continue across an old stone bridge whose parapet we can see with signs indicating the direction. After just a short climb we arrive at a restaurant and a group of houses that we pass before taking a dirt track. We arrive immediately at a bend to the right which we take, and keep on in the same direction at the next detour near a gate. Now we go straight on along a rocky section. The next junction is just before a solitary pine tree that stands out on the slopes of the



The complex of the Pisan Mountains forms a natural and protective barrier just a few kilometres north of Pisa. It is one of the most ancient mountain formations in Italy, dating back to the Pliocene period, when most of the peninsula was still covered by water. The wealth of these woods has always attracted many populations (Apuan, Etruscan, Ligurian, Roman) and even in the Middle Ages enjoyed great fame for its numerous religious settlements. It is still possible today to find much evidence of the past amongst the generous nature of these mountains.

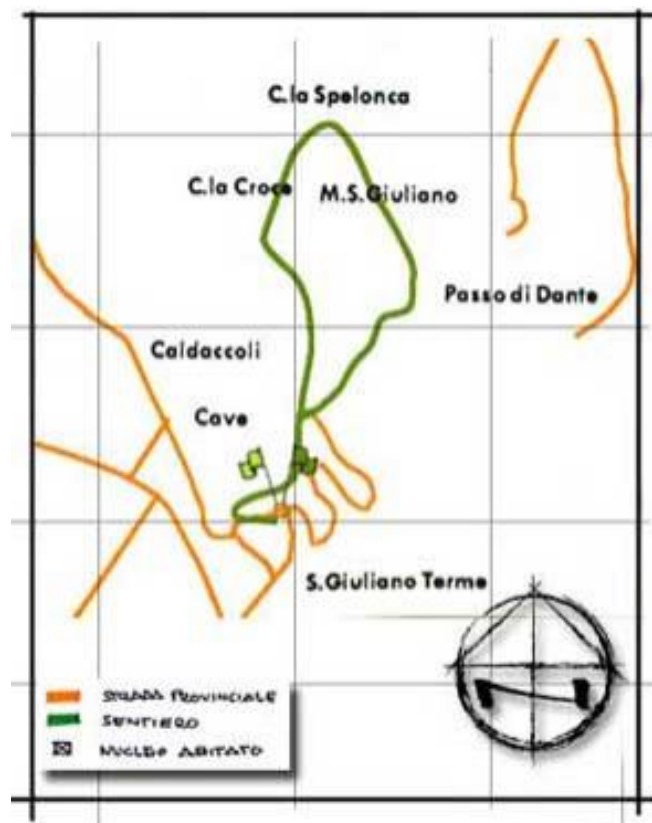


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hill. When we arrive at this point we go north and continue climbing for another twenty minutes before we reach the

famous Dante Pass, mentioned by the poet in the 33rd canto of the "Inferno" in his description of the infinite quarrels that animated the opposing municipalities of Pisa and Lucca. The place enjoys an extensive view, sweeping from the countryside of San Giuliano below as far as the town of Pisa and the Tyrrhenian coast and, on more limpid days, the islands of the Tuscan Archipelago. If we look towards the sea, to our left we can see the slopes of a mountain that climb steeply to its peak. Following the signpost along the way we commence our climb up the hill. This is Mount San Giuliano. The climb isn't very long but it is quite steep. Accompanied during our climb by various notices (since this is a protected area), we reach the summit of the mountain and descend from the opposite side. The climb and descent take half an hour at the most. When we reach the opposite slope we take a path that goes down into an extensive rocky area. From here we head towards the heart of the green San Giuliano valley which we reach after two hairpin bends and passing in front of the entrance to a house. We continue until we pass a wooden gate that leads us to the area, where on the way up, we found a restaurant and some houses. From here we can return to our departure point following the route we took on our way up, in the opposite direction.



This itinerary is part of a collection that the magazine "Trekking", together with the APT (Provincial Tourist Authority) of the Tuscan Coast, has dedicated to the most beautiful trekking routes in this area. A series of itineraries that will help you discover lovely places and will introduce you to a district that has great environmental and cultural appeal.