

The Pomonte valley and the shepherds' paths

Text and photos by Filippo Brancoli

Località di partenza:

Regione Toscana, Provincia di Livorno, Marina
Di Campo, Frazione Fetovaia

Tipo di itinerario:

a piedi

Fondo stradale:

Misto

Difficoltà a piedi:

Escursionistica

Dislivello in salita (m):

647 m

Dislivello in discesa (m):

647 m

Tempo (hh:mm):

6:00

Periodo consigliato:

Spring

Cartografia:

Sentieri nell'Elba di sud ovest, published by the
Associazione albergatori Costa del sole.

Multigraphic, Carta turistica e dei sentieri, Isola
d'Elba, 1:25000

Segnavia:

occasional, paths 9, 31, 8 and 35

Uffici informazioni:

For further informations un Costa Toscana:

www.toscanacosta.it Tuscan Archipelago

Tourist Agency, Calata Italia 26 - 57037

Portoferraio - Isle of Elba

Tel. 0565 914671

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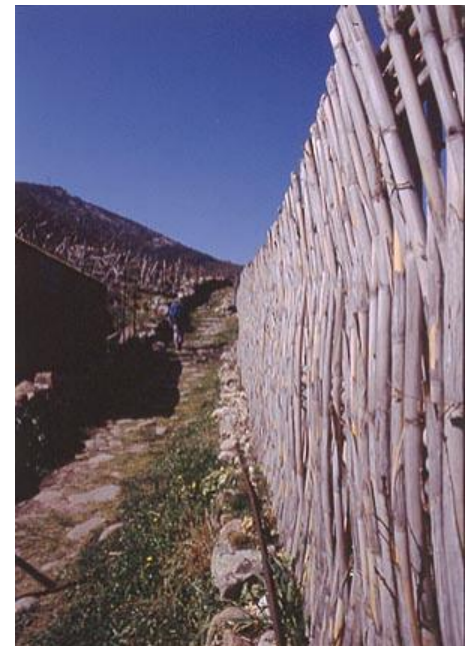
www.arcipelago.turismo.toscana.it

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Accesso al percorso e note:

The path starts from the road that descends
from the provincial highway to Fetovaia beach,
near the Hotel Galli

A path starts from the road that descends from the provincial
highway to Fetovaia beach, near the Hotel Galli, passing at the
beginning through houses but in just a few metres it becomes an
earth track and continues parallel with the provincial highway that
links the villages along the west coast of the island. We meet the
road along the coast and we pass below it, still proceeding
parallel. We come out again on the provincial highway and after



What we are proposing is a long itinerary that is
also a journey into the heart of the history of
the Isle of Elba. The first part, starting from the
splendid beach of Fetovaia, passes through
the fertile Pomonte valley with its typical
terraces, where the hazards of Saracen raids
still re-echo, while the second part takes us
through Villanovan settlements and old
shepherds' goat-huts overlooking the sea.



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300 metres the path brings us to a bend. We descend and reach Pomonte beach.

We follow via degli Oleandri and climb up again as far as the church which we keep on our left. We are about to enter one of the wildest and most fascinating areas of Elba and walk up the valley that develops on the western slopes of Mount Capanne, visible above us. This is one of the most beautiful valleys in the whole island, rich in crops growing on terraces that have been given new vigour in recent years after being left uncultivated for years.

We pass the village and walk as far as a bridge where the actual valley starts. Both on the right and left we can see vines and, walking up the path with some sections in granite and others in earth, we start the slow climb. We are walking along the mule track that runs through the valley of the Moors, which takes its name from the frequent Saracen raids that infested the area; the village of Pomonte, as many others on Elba, was originally built on the hills to avoid this type of attack. While we climb, on the north slope of the peak we see colle di San Bartolommeo (it's not a mistake, it really is called that!) with its ancient church. In spite of its current appearance, the place was once densely populated and the path was the normal road that joined Pomonte to Valle Buia and to San Piero in Campo.

Along the way we climb in the company of Barione torrent and we keep to the right when we meet the turn-offs. The vegetation becomes thicker due to the constant presence of water and we walk in the shade of chestnuts, holm-oaks and numerous species of ferns before starting the steep climb that leads us to the south slope of the valley, with a path that is sometimes paved in granite. Thus we reach the top near a goat hut; this is where the shepherds live, a wild and magnificent area, from where we can see the sea in every direction.

We go on, from the first goat hut until we reach col della Grottaccia, an important crossroads. We turn right to reach the area of Le Mure, an ancient Villanovan settlement on which the most recent goat huts have been built, with a historical continuity that keeps these places alive.

We continue descending passing the ridge before us to the west and from here we go down further towards the Pomonte valley. After just a few metres we leave the path to turn left, heading for the cork valley where we find numerous prehistoric tombs, again in the company of the precious goat-huts. From here the road descends steeply, bringing us to the centre of Fetovaia, where we can have a refreshing swim from its splendid beach that we saw during the last part of our walk.

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.

