





## **CUTIGLIANO • PRATALE • LIZZANO P.SE**

Leave **Cutigliano** in the direction of the **Church of San Bartolomeo** (625 m.). From the church square, go past the traffic light and then along Via Pietro Pacioni. Continue along the San Vito promenade and after about 1 km., take up the dirt lane going downhill with the sign for **Pratale**-**Lizzano**. It is an ancient trail that - thanks to the municipal administrations, the cooperation of various associations and the work of many volunteers has been recently repaired as it represents the only pedestrian alternative to the state road connecting the municipalities of Cutigliano and San Marcello Pistoiese. The route unwinds on rather flat ground, almost entirely in shade and so very pleasant. In addition, it offers lovely panoramic glimpses of the valley where the **Lima River** runs. The descent ends at the "Mulino di *Podilago"* (*Podilago Old Mill*), an ancient stone building that has been restored: it is found near the stone bridge over the Volata River of which only the lateral supports are still visible. Cross over the current iron bridge and then go along a brief uphill stretch on gravel until coming out of the wood and arriving at a farm in an open area dominated by the Colle di S. Vito. A little further on, there is a fountain on the paved road, and after you arrive in the little hamlet of **Pratale**. (570 m.) In the small square, turn left and pass in front of the small **church of S. Maria Maddalena**; continue uphill to then bear right after a few dozen meters along an old, grassy trail that, running beside a large meadow and some garden with fruit trees, connects with the paved road in Via della Cella. From here, proceed forward as far as the "Casa Vacanze della Diocesi di Pistoia" and turn left on to **Via La Sala** where some of the 40 murals scattered among the houses of **Lizzano Pistoiese** can be admired. We then reach the evocative square of the **church of S. Maria** (690 m.)

## **CUTIGLIANO**

Cutigliano, the picturesque village in the High Apennines of Pistoia is situated on a spur close to Monte Cuccola. It can be reached from Pistoia by taking the Strada Ximeniana. The village, whose buildings and monuments still today retain the aristocratic aspect given them by ancient historical events, is a prestigious summer and winter vacation spot. It recently was given the Orange Flag by the Touring Club of Italy and is a fundamental stopping point of the Living Museum of the Pistoian Mountains. The still prevalently medieval urban layout is an invitation to stroll about the city. From Piazza Catilina, whose name recalls the defeat of the Roman condottiero, the traditional stroll along Via Roma invites a stop in the small square in front of the Palazzo dei Capitani della Montagna for a short conversation in the shade of the 15th-century loggia. The imprint of the same historical period is also easily seen in the Church of the Madonna della Piazza that is found a few steps away from the small square of the town hall. The stroll continues immediately outside the village as far as the Pallaia Bridge and the Church of San Bartolomeo. From it is also very pleasant to continue along the dirt road that leads easily to the panoramic square of San Vito. The way, evocative and shady during the hottest periods, is about 2 kilometers long and is suitable to all types of visitors and permits capture immediately all the fascination of these mountains.





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