



Cammino Tesori del Reno

The Official Guide:
on Foot and by MTB
in the Bolognese Apennines

*"It is the journey, not the destination,
that matters"*

“Lush green forests, historic and modern monuments, ancient villages and mysterious castles, warm and welcoming people, enchanting waterfalls, mystical churches, centuries-old abbeys, genuine and authentic mountain cuisine, breathtaking views: unique features of a world waiting to be discovered, treasures strung together like pearls by the silver thread of the river winding uncertainly through these mountains: this is the Cammino Tesori del Reno.”

Walking our loop trail (approximately 85–90 km) is a unique and unforgettable experience that we recommend completing on foot in 6 daily stages, with a total elevation gain of 3,484 metres and more than 20 places to visit.

The trails wind through the forests around Vergato, Grizzana Morandi and Castel d’Aiano, in the Apennine mountains between Bologna and Modena:

- **Bologna**, with its medieval soul and rich cultural heritage, is the capital of Italian cuisine. It is home to iconic brands such as Ducati and Lamborghini and lies 40 km from Vergato, the starting and finishing point of the Cammino.
- **Modena**, the city of balsamic vinegar, Parmigiano Reggiano, Ferrari and Maserati, is 60 km away.

KEY FEATURES

Simple and accessible logistics:

- **Car-free and sustainable:** The Cammino is easy to reach thanks to an excellent transport network: Bologna Airport, rail services and public buses. You can reach the Cammino without using a car, respecting the environment and the natural quality of the area.
- **Routes and trail markers:** Up-to-date routes: you can purchase the printed map (www.appenninoslow.it) or download the latest detailed geolocated GPX tracks (www.camminotesoridelreno.it); more than 600 trail markers along the route provide continuous confirmation that you are following the correct path.

Services for walkers:

- **Luggage transfer:** A convenient stage-to-stage luggage transfer service is available, allowing you to fully enjoy the beauty of the landscape while travelling light.
- **Water points and services:** Along the route and in the villages you pass through, you will find water refill points and essential services for your needs (pharmacies, ATMs and shops).
- **Accommodation for every preference:** A widespread and varied network to suit every budget: B&Bs, agriturismo, hotels, guesthouses and hostels, all sharing the warm hospitality of their hosts.

Hospitality, the soul of the Cammino:

- What makes the Cammino Tesori del Reno unforgettable is the extraordinary warmth of the mountain communities. Throughout the hospitality network, you will be welcomed with genuine smiles, stories of local life and a sincere delight in meeting a new “traveller”.

The Flavours of the Bolognese Apennines (authentic, traditional cuisine):

- Dishes: Tortellini, lasagne, homemade pasta, tigelle, borlenghi, cured meats and desserts.
- Products of the forests and mountains: Porcini mushrooms, truffles, wild berries and chestnuts.

A Treasure Chest:

- The name of the Cammino captures the most precious part of its concept: the work of time (waterfalls, caves, streams, landscapes, vegetation and mountains) combined with the work of humankind (castles, tower houses, churches, abbeys, parish churches, monuments, works of art and ancient flavours): more than twenty wonders to discover at a leisurely pace.

All the treasures along the route: Vergato Town Hall, the Museum and Ontani's Faun Fountain, Morandi's House and the Campiaro Barns, the Church and Oratory of Montovolo, Luigi Faggioli's Sculptures, the village of La Scola, the Castle of **Rocchetta Mattei** (the undisputed main attraction of the entire Cammino), Alvar Aalto's Church, the Soprasasso Caves, the Labante Caves and

Waterfalls, the sites of fierce battles along the Gothic Line, Monte della Spè, Torre Jussi, the Abbey of Santa Lucia, Monte Rocca, the Tower Houses, the Monte Pigna natural engineering laboratory, the Ancient Parish Church of Roffeno, Tolè—the village of widespread art—the many Gothic Line museums, the little Church of Madonna della Neve, and the peonies and landscapes of Monte Pero.

The Comacine Masters and the symbol of the Cammino:

- The Comacine Masters were a mysterious medieval guild of builders, masons and sculptors who, in the Early Middle Ages, laid the foundations of the Lombard Romanesque style, enriching this area with stone relief decorations featuring zoomorphic figures (dragons, lions), phytomorphic motifs (intertwined plants) and stylised human figures.

The **six-petalled Flower of Life (or Comacine Rose)** carved by the Masters on tower houses and on ancient historic and religious buildings on both banks of the Reno River has become the symbol of the Cammino. The image represents the deepest meaning of the Sacred; connecting the outermost points of the flower creates a hexagon, evoking the Star of David and expressing the union of heaven and earth, the spiritual and material worlds.

The **auspicious value of the Flower of Life** can be seen in the fact that it was carved onto animal yokes and kitchen utensils, as well as impressed onto terracotta or refractory-stone discs (the famous *tigelle*) used to cook crescentine, thereby protecting food from negative influences as well.

“Vivid images to carry with us on the sensitive, indelible film of our deepest inner selves.”

PRACTICAL INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDED PERIOD

We recommend walking the Cammino **from March to November**:

- **In spring:** spectacular blossoms, ideal weather and nature awakening anew.
- **In summer:** cool, shady forests and trails immersed in lush, enveloping greenery.
- **In autumn:** foliage in warm, intense colours and the unique flavours of the land.

TECHNICAL ROUTE DETAILS

1. WALKING ROUTE (6 Stages)

A new trail that allows this fascinating corner of the Apennines to reveal itself to those who deeply love the natural environment while also appreciating the traces left by humankind over time: chestnut and oak forests inhabited by rich and varied wildlife and flora, confirming Italy as the country with the greatest biodiversity in Europe.

- **Total Distance:** 84.1 km
- **Total Ascent:** 3484 m | **Total Descent:** 3484 m
- **Max. Altitude:** 934 m a.s.l.
- **Total Stages:** 6 | **Points of Interest:** 24

RESOURCES AND MAPS

-  **Maps and GPX Tracks (on foot):** Download GPX tracks, Locus Maps and Avenza Maps at <https://www.camminotesoridelreno.it/a-piedi/>
-  **Waypoints and Accommodation:** Download points of interest and accommodation facilities in GPX format at <https://www.camminotesoridelreno.it/a-piedi/>
-  **Printed Map and Pilgrim Credential:** Purchase the official guide at www.appenninoslow.it

Walking Stage Details:

1. Stage 1 (Artists): Vergato - Grizzana Morandi

The opening stage of our Cammino starts at the Town Hall, crosses the bridge over the Reno River and, after a short stretch along the provincial road towards Grizzana Morandi, climbs towards the landscapes cherished by Giorgio Morandi.

2. Stage 2 (Churches, castles and villages): Grizzana Morandi - Riola

Leaving the village of Grizzana Morandi behind, follow the flat, paved route marked CAI no. 100 south-west towards Rocchetta Mattei and Alvar Aalto's Church.

3. Stage 3 (Caves and waterfalls): Riola - Castel d'Aiano

The stage starts in Riola and ends in Castel d'Aiano after crossing two ridges, making it the section with the greatest elevation gain of the entire loop.

4. Stage 4 (Gothic Line): Castel d'Aiano - Rocca di Roffeno

Stage 4 starts again from Castel d'Aiano and ends at Rocca di Roffeno, mainly following the ridges that were the scene of fierce battles during the Second World War.

5. Stage 5 (Parish churches and open-air art): Rocca di Roffeno - Cereglio

This stage once again takes you through pleasant, healthy surroundings, but the highlight of the day is the emotion of finding yourself surrounded by art and historic villages.

6. Stage 6 (Wild nature and panoramic views): Cereglio - Vergato

The sixth stage completes our loop route, bringing us back from where we started in Vergato, the central hub of the Middle Reno valley.

2. MTB AND E-BIKE ROUTE (3 Stages)

Welcome to the section dedicated to those who want to experience the Cammino Tesori del Reno by mountain bike or e-bike. This beautiful loop offers ideal routes for exploring the area on two wheels, with panoramic climbs, forest descents and historic villages.

- **Total Distance:** 84.5 km
- **Total Ascent:** 3351 m | Total Descent: 3352 m
- **Max. Altitude:** 895 m a.s.l.
- **Total Stages:** 3 | Points of Interest: 23
- **Warning:** E-bike strongly recommended – NO Gravel bikes
- **IMBA Scale (MTB Difficulty):**
 - **Technical:** Challenging (rough terrain with medium-sized obstacles, including on steep gradients)
 - **Physical:** Challenging (moderate to steep gradients, with short sections exceeding 12%).

RESOURCES AND MAPS

-  **Maps and GPX Tracks (by MTB):** Download GPX tracks, Locus Maps and Avenza Maps at <https://www.camminotesoridelreno.it/in-mountain-bike/>
-  **Waypoints and Accommodation:** Download points of interest and accommodation facilities in GPX format at <https://www.camminotesoridelreno.it/in-mountain-bike/>
-  **Printed Map and Pilgrim Credential:** Purchase the official guide at www.appenninoslow.it

MTB Stage Details:

- 1. Stage 1 (Art, churches, castles and villages): Vergato - Riola**
Stage starts at Vergato Town Hall, crosses the Reno River and follows the SP 24 towards Grizzana Morandi and Riola.
- 2. Stage 2 (Caves, waterfalls and the Gothic Line): Riola - Rocca di Roffeno**
Starting with a long uphill section, this stage begins in Riola and ends at Rocca di Roffeno.
- 3. Stage 3 (Parish churches, art and wild nature): Rocca di Roffeno - Vergato**
This stage lets you ride along the ridge, immersed in unspoilt nature and the panoramic landscapes of Monte Pero.

“WALKING IS MEDICINE WITHOUT SIDE EFFECTS THAT HEALS BODY AND MIND”

READY TO GO?