TENTH STAGE - EUROPEAN TRAIL CORRIDOR E/1.

PERTINENCE IRPINIA TREKKING AVELLINO.

AGRITURISMO/RIFUGIO " LA FONTANA del FAGGIO " ( 850 mslm - CAUTANO ) - PIANA DI PRATA ( 742 mslm ) - CAMPO DI CEPINO 1104 mslm ) - QUATTROVIE ( 1100 mslm ) - MONTE TABURNO ( 1394 mslm ) - BONEA ( 360 mslm ) - MONTESARCHIO ( 423 mslm ).

The route starts from the Agriturismo " La Fontana del Faggio " ( open all year round and closed on Monday/Tuesday and Wednesday ) in the locality 'Rosati in the municipality of Cautano (BN), and, keeping to the left, on a paved road, begins to descend. You enter a dirt road and, at a crossroads, continue straight ahead. You pass by two small live-stone houses and then, at a junction, turn U-turn to the right. You always follow the dirt road for about 30' not taking into account small detours that lead into fields and, still downhill, you come near a small quarry just overlooking the paved road. You keep to the right and climb a little until you reach the Abbey Fountain at Piana di Prata, adjacent to the road.

You turn left and enter a dirt road and, after passing a stream, continue in a depression for about 1,500 mt. You face a nice climb passing several hairpin bends to reach a grassy section that brings us to the end of the climb and the intersection with the asphalt road of Campo di Cepino ( 1104 mslm ). Here you continue keeping to the left, leave out a dirt road to the left and continue for about 800 m always on a paved road. You reach the parking lot of Piano di Campoli and go down some steps leaving the road and turning left.

You cross the whole Piano and, keeping to the right, begin to climb, in a beech forest, until you come to intersect the road again, after passing a Pic Nic area.

Continue on the road for two curves and then veer left onto a brecciata ( 1090 mslm ). We find ourselves right on the Taburno/Camposauro axis. Go downhill, still among the beech trees, leave out a path that goes right uphill and cross a small stream that is almost always dry in summer. You keep to the left, still going downhill, and come to a trough with a spring source. From here you follow the dirt road for a while and keeping to the right begin to climb on a dusty path ( 980 mslm ). You pass a few narrow hairpin bends and then turn left starting a stretch on a false plain, keeping on the left a scree slope ( this stretch is not suitable for those who suffer from vertigo ).

Continue down a small zigzag section leaving out a trail going to the left and keeping to the right. The trail after a while comes out on a dirt road (960 mslm), covered almost always by a thick grassy layer. You begin a gentle climb always surrounded by dense beech trees. In a sharp bend you can admire the whole Benevento valley and Mount Pentime and Taburno. Continuing on, you disregard a detour to the right, uphill, and continue slightly to the left. Next, slightly downhill, you meet another sharp bend on the left. We proceed and reach a junction, where we pass a small landslide area and turn right. Continuing we find a gate with two retaining walls and turn right ignoring another dirt road going to the left. We go up a little and leave the dirt road going straight ahead to turn left and cross a small creek bed. Immediately after, turn right and climb a good grade among the beech trees until you reach a picnic area.

You intersect the paved road and follow it for a while keeping to the left. A little further on there is an old hotel structure under renovation and you turn right starting to climb on a path among the beech trees that takes us to Quattrovie (1100 mslm ), on the right you go towards Campo di Cepino, on the left you go up towards Mount Taburno (1394 mslm ), straight on you continue towards the Sentiero del Re ( The Bourbons had their hunting ground right on this side of Mount Taburno ).

If you want to climb Taburno, you follow the well-marked and popular path and reach the summit in about twenty minutes. From the summit you overlook the entire Caudina Valley and can admire the entire ridge line of the Partenio mountain range with the Avella Mountains (1598 mslm ), Ciesco Bianco, Croci di Puntone and Ciesco Alto. After a break, you retrace your steps and start again from Quattrovie.

Svalicando, still on a path among the beech trees, begins a gentle descent. To avoid a landslide you follow the ridge line for a while until you reach a small hump, from where the most challenging part begins. At 940 mslm you pass over the upper part of a very deep gully and, further on, over a second gully. You pass a bench and, later, two more benches, then cross another gully. You pass between rocks keeping down a wide gully and the shrine " Madonna del Taburno ".

At an elevation of 750 mslm the path ends and a dirt road with dry stone walls begins with a zigzagging course. Turn right onto a gravel road and at a detour (which leads left to a C.M. Refuge) go straight ahead. After a while you take a small shortcut that passes between an oak grove, equipped with a balustrade and steps. Eventually you turn left and pass through a pine forest, then leave out the dirt road that leads to Bucciano and keep to the left. You pass a dry stone wall, go past a large rock and a junction with a path coming from the right and continue straight ahead. Go up a little to pass a third valley (480 mslm) and a saddle from where you can see the dirt road coming from Bucciano.

You pass between some rocks and over a fourth valley. Continue the descent among an oak grove and climb up to pass a sixth valley, still on a trail that then joins a dirt road. You meet a cemented section that passes a tin-roofed shed ( on the left ). After a while you switch back to a dirt road, then meet a cemented section again. You leave in succession a detour to the left and two to the right . You reach the outskirts of Bonea (360 mslm) and enter Via Belvedere, Via Roma and Via Carre ( municipal headquarters ). After about 500 meters we pass into the Municipality of Montesarchio and go along Via Carrara, Via Torre, Via Borghetelle, Via Borghetelle, Via Taburno, Via Affermi 1 which takes us into the Historic Center, Via S. Spirito, Piazzetta S. Spirito,where there is a drinking fountain, Via Minniti and Piazza Unberto I°, where the Stage ends.

Montesarchio, with its 13,459 inhabitants, is the most populous town in Sannio after Benevento. It is located in the Caudina Valley at the foot of Taburno at 423 mslm.

The historic center is located on the "Tower" hill, where the Tower and Castle stand, in addition to the original residential nucleus.

The name may be linked to one of the twelve labors of Hercules, who is said to have killed a lion in a Taburno cave. In the Middle Ages it was called Mons Arculi or Mons Herculis and later Montesarculo. It was dominated by the Lombards who built the Borgo leaning against the Tower and Castle. The Normans increased the settlement by exploiting the sides of the hill towards the valley. It became a fief of the Della Leonessa, the Carafa, and the Davalos until 1806.

The Tower was used by the Bourbons as a maximum security prison, while the Castle, with its lion's mouths, has always had defensive purposes. Worth visiting are the Abbey of St. Nicholas ( 12th/13th cent. ), the Church and Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie ( 15th cent. ) and the Church of the Purità, St. Pius and St. Leo, known as the private chapel of the Davalos, which still preserves the passageway that led to the noble palace.

DIST. Km 2200 - DIFF. E - DISL. uphill mt 924 and downhill mt 1351 - DUR.h 7.

In the opposite direction DISL in ascent mt 1351 and in descent mt 924. Dur. h 7.30. Maximum altitude mt 1394.

WATER PRESENCE : YES