FOURTEENTH STAGE - EUROPEAN TRAIL CORRIDOR E/1.

RELEVANCE IRPINIA TREKKING AVELLINO.

CONNECTION TWELFTH STAGE.

PIETRASTORNINA ( 513 mslm ) - TOPPO MANCINO ( 919 mslm ) - RIFUGIO FIE TOPPO DEL MONACO ( 1160 mslm ).

The first historical record of the Borgo dates back to the Lombard period, when a castle was built on the rocky spire from which the name would derive. From the apex of the 150-meter-high rocky structure, it overlooks part of the Sabato River valley, the castle of Altavilla, that of Grottolella and that of Montesarchio. Worth visiting are the Church of the 'Annunziata dating from the 18th century with a bell tower on one side and the Church of the Rosary with an 18th-century portal. The Borgo is located at the foot of Mount Vallatrone in the Partenio Regional Park.

The route starts from the Pietrastornina Town Hall and turns right on Via Roma for about a hundred meters to Piazza San Rocco, where it turns sharply left passing under an arch and entering the Historic Center. Continue through the alleys of the Borgo on Via Damiano until you come to a fork where you turn right onto a paved road. It climbs up past cultivated fields and over a small bridge until it intersects the variant.

Turn right here and follow it for about six hundred meters, then turn left onto a dirt road that goes through chestnut groves. At a crossroads you keep right and at the next turn left starting to climb. The dirt road becomes a mule track with an often slippery surface. The course is very articulated and alternates between sections with gentle slopes and more challenging ones.

It continues through cultivated chestnut groves to reach a saddle just below Toppo Mancino. Continue turning right steeply uphill for a short distance to a plateau planted with chestnuts where you proceed on the left alongside barbed wire. You disregard a gate and continue straight ahead always flanking the fence. You turn left following the barbed wire and come to a downhill dirt road with a sometimes slippery clay surface

After a short while you intersect the mountain road at a bend and follow it, keeping to the right, for 250 m, then turn right, uphill, onto a path through a chestnut coppice. You pass alongside a pylon and, after a while , turn sharply right to cross an escarpment. A challenging section begins, which you overcome with narrow hairpin bends until you reach the side of the second pylon , where you meet the road again at a bend.

After a few meters you turn right onto a dirt road and proceed slightly uphill. You travel about two hundred meters and, in a tight bend, turn sharply left and begin the last steep section among the beech trees. You initially follow a ridge, then keep left and pass a small sinkhole.

Proceed west and you will encounter a second sinkhole and, soon after, a third. Here you turn right and encounter a fourth sinkhole. You pass a small gully and resume the ridge line. You cross to the other side and pass another small gully. After a short while, next to a large holly tree, turn left and after passing a few hairpin bends, you reach the forecourt of Rifugio FIE Toppo del Monaco at 1160 m a.s.l., the arrival point of the twelfth stage and the starting point of the fifteenth.

DIST.km 7,500 - DUR. h 2,30 - DISL.uphill mt 838 and downhill mt 191 - DIFF. E.

In the opposite direction DISL in ascent mt 191 and in descent mt 838 - DUR h 2

Highest point 1160 mt.

 WATER PRESENCE ON THE ROUTE : NO.