SEVENTH STAGE - EUROPEAN TRAIL CORRIDOR E/1.

PERTINENCE IRPINIA TREKKING AVELLINO.

CUSANO MUTRI ( 475 mslm ) - CIVITELLA LICINIO ( 376 mslm ) - SAN LORENZELLO ( 250 mslm ) .

The Stage starts from the main square of Cusano, then turns right, downhill, to join the S P Cusano/Cerreto Sannita. From here you follow the provincial road to a traffic circle where you keep right, turning onto the municipal road that leads to Civitella. After a while turn left onto a dirt road and cross a small wooden bridge continuing alongside the provincial road.

You pass two more small wooden bridges over the Titerno and follow the river on the orographic left. After a while you pass near the riverbed on small rounded stones proceeding a little to the right and a little to the left of the watercourse. You reach another small wooden bridge and then turn left and proceed on a dirt road until it intersects the provincial road again. You turn right and pass an old sawmill to continue on the road for about another 300 meters.

Thus, you meet a large traffic circle where there is a riding school on the left, straight on towards Cerreto and on the right towards Civitella Licinio ( small village of Cusano ). You pass over a bridge over the Titerno and begin to climb on the old section of the provincial road, which has now become a municipal section. You continue for about 1 km and come to a fork in the road. Here you turn left and proceed for another 300 meters on asphalt but on a pedestrian/cycle path that retraces the ancient mule track of Sannita origin, of strategic importance for all the inhabitants of the Valley, until August 1876, when the new road to Cerreto Sannita (today's provincial road) was opened.

So we start from the lcalita' Pesco Appeso and, after crossing a wooden footbridge over the Titerno, continue on the orographic left of the river and on the side of Monte Cigno. Immediately after the bridge you can visit the Fairies' Cave, dug into the limestone rock to probe the possibility of the creation of a dam. You retrace your steps and continue on a well-maintained path through a dense forest of Oaks, Turkey oaks, coppice chestnuts, Downy oaks, Maples and Hornbeams. Further on we meet a fence that makes us descend toward the river to admire, on the other bank, the Mill Bridge, which, until the 1950s, allowed valley dwellers to reach the Mill with their products.

One climbs up the stretch of fence and resumes the path and, after passing a wooded area, encounters an old snowmill. You begin to descend on the Titerno to skirt the fascinating Forre di Lavelle, where, over the centuries, the waters of the river have carved deep furrows in the rocks between which they flow, alternating small jumps with the creation of pools. Thus we reach a small wooden bridge that allows us to cross to the other bank , just before the road bridge of the old provincial road. Here the river widens, resuming its natural course. After a few hairpin bends you climb the old provincial road, now disused and closed to traffic due to the opening of a tunnel just before the bridge.

You turn right to re-enter the path reserved for pedestrians. You thus return to the starting point at Pesco Appeso and continue on the paved road to the crossroads leading to the village, where you turn left, uphill. We travel about 1 km to reach the village of Civitella Licinio, where in the small square we can refresh ourselves at the spring and have a coffee.

We continue, turning immediately beside the fountain to enter the small alleys to the Church of Santa Maria la Neve. Here we turn right onto a small asphalt road that begins to climb. At a junction turn left and after a while, at another fork, keep left again. You pass on dirt road that climbs gently and then increases the slope a lot, passing again on asphalt between large rocks. You meet another junction and proceed straight ahead, still with a good slope. You pass some cottages and enter a chestnut grove, at the end of which you meet a fence ( boundary for cows ).

The dirt road culminates on a small plateau with a waterhole ( the Prece Cautala, 710 mslm ). Thus begins the descent to San Lorenzello on a brecciata that proceeds almost straight. After about 500 m, the mule track develops with several hairpin bends to Costa la Terra, a small plateau served by a paved road ( 570 mslm ). You follow the road for a while and then turn left onto a path that cuts several curves and then meets it again ( 390 mslm ), to follow it for a while.

You meet a pine forest and then turn left among gorse to join a dirt road where you turn left and then right. You cross an inter-modal road and go down some concrete steps with benches. Eventually you turn right onto Via Muro Filippo and Via Avanti Santi, and then turn left onto Corso Pasquale Sasso and cross the entire Historic Center to the Municipal Headquarters of S. Lorenzello.

San Lorenzello is a Borgo of 2202 inhabitants located at 250 mslm at the foot of Mount Erbano (1385 mslm), and is crossed by the Titerno River. According to various theories it was founded by some refugees who escaped the Saracen destruction of Telesia in the 9th century who gathered at the foot of Mount Erbano where they built walls and two defensive towers. It came under Norman control and in 1483 became a possession of the Carafa family until 1806.

It suffered the plague of 1656, an earthquake in 1688, a xarestia in 1764, another earthquake in 1805 and cholera in 1837. Since 1861 it has been part of the Province of Benevento. For more than three centuries it has developed the art of ceramics. Along the Via Regia and alongside the Church of San Sebastiano and the Titerno River is the Dinosaur Park, built in life-size papier-mâché.

DIST. Km 16 - DIFF. E - DISL. uphill mt 453 and downhill mt 678 - DUR. h 6.

In the opposite direction DISL in ascent mt 678 and in descent mt 453. Maximum altitude mt 729.

PRESENCE WATER ON THE PATH YES.