NINTH STAGE - EUROPEAN TRAIL CORRIDOR E/1

PERTINENCE IRPINIA TREKKING

SOLOPACA ( 180 mslm ) - TUMULO DELLA CROCE ( 1179 mslm ) - AGRITURISMO/RIFUGIO " LA FONTANA DEL FAGGIO " ( 850 mslm - Cautano - BN).

The route starts from the Municipal Headquarters of Solopaca ( 180 mslm ) and goes toward Corso Cusani, to reach the Church S.S. Corpo di Cristo. From here you take a narrow road that intersects the S P for Vitulano and continue straight on an inter-purpose road that after a short while becomes a brecciata. As you continue you miss a detour to the right and proceed straight ahead, then turn right , onto a wider dirt road. You meet a crossroads and keep left.

Continue up a dirt road keeping to the right a gully until you enter a path, on the left. Follow it for about 1,300 m and, at an elevation of 645 m above sea level, enter another dirt road . You meet a wide sharp bend that you follow to the left and, continuing, you leave out a detour to the right to reach a large rock where a wooden cross is fixed ( 790 mslm), from where you can look out over the entire Telesina Valley, with its vineyard-grown hills and Solopaca right below us.

From the brecciata, descending a little, we continue the ascent, turning right and taking a path. From here on, you will alternate between sections on dirt tracks, which have been opened for woodcutting, and sections on a fairly difficult path.You will come to a mule track and then enter a path again that leads onto another mule track. Continuing you turn right and follow a dirt road, until you reach a group of rocks that you go around by passing underneath following a path .

Go up narrow hairpin bends with a good gradient always on a path.and about 50 m from the summit keep right and continue straight up to the Tumulo della Croce ( 1179 mslm ). This is another open point from where you can sweep your gaze to the Matese range. You begin to descend, following the Stations of the Cross, to reach a small plateau.

From here begins a dirt road equipped with a fence that in about thirty minutes reaches a Riparo. Continue slightly downhill and you will come to a large picnic area, past which you turn right to reach a Fountain with drinking trough ( always active ). Turn back for about 100 m and you come to the La Trinita' Fountain ( dry in the summer period ) and turn onto a paved road that you follow.

After a while you leave the road and turn right, keeping right at the end of a valley and entering a path. You go around the structure of Mount Camposauro ( on which it is not 'possible to get to the summit as it is fenced off for a series of private telephone antennas ), and you reach the highest point of the Stage at an altitude of 1297mt , from which you turn left and begin to descend keeping to the left the Camposauro antennas. In this section there is no real trail, but rather fairly obvious traces of passing herds.

Coming out of the vegetation you come to a viewpoint ( Costa Rosari ),from where you can sweep over the Prata Plain. Continuing to descend we come under an Enel pylon ( if we wanted to climb Mount Camposauro we would have to follow the other pylons uphill ), from where a service dirt road starts and we follow it to the right, keeping the power line over our heads.

The dirt road ends and narrow hairpin bends begin, leading to another dirt road below, equipped with wooden handrails, which we follow keeping to the right. After about 500 m you come to a small wooden shelter and keep to the left a small valley. Continuing you intersect a paved road and turn right, go around a bend and after a while, turning left you reach the beautiful structure in living stone of the Farmhouse " La Fontana del Faggio ", located at 850 mslm, in the municipality of Cautano ( BN )

Here you can find lodging and lunch. ( cell. 3284559890 ).

DIST. km 15,500 - DIFF. EE - DISL. uphill mt 1246 - downhill mt 576 - DUR. h 7.

In the opposite direction DISL in ascent mt 576 and in descent mt 1246. Maximum altitude mt 1297.

PRESENCE OF WATER ON THE ROUTE : halfway through the stage.