



A rock face between woods and wonderful streams

PUBLICATIONS



Riserve Naturali della provincia di Arezzo - Guida
 Provincia di Arezzo, Edizioni Compagnia delle Foreste, 2016
 Riserve Naturali della provincia di Arezzo - Guidemaps
 Provincia di Arezzo, Edizioni Compagnia delle Foreste, 2016
 Carta dei sentieri 1:25.000 "Alpe della Luna"
 Edizioni iGA di Raffaele Monti, 2015
 Grande Escursione Appenninica (Vol. 1, Bocca Trabaria - Pracchia)
 di Mirco Setti, Gruppo Editoriale l'Espresso - 2011
 Grande Escursione Appenninica
 Carto-guida con cartine aggiornate in scala 1:20.000
 di Gianfranco Bracci, Edizioni Tamari Montagna - Padova, 2011
 Le Riserve Naturali della Valtiberina toscana e del Sasso
 di Simone (DVD), Provincia di Arezzo, 2008
 Aree protette della Valtiberina toscana - Sentieri natura
 Provincia di Arezzo e Comunità Montana Valtiberina Toscana, 2007
 Carta dei sentieri - Edizioni S.E.L.C.A., 2004
 Valtiberina Toscana - Edizioni Compagnia delle Foreste, 2004

TOURIST INFORMATION



Visitor Centre with exhibition "Natura e Uomini"
 Via Alpe della Luna, 4 - 52032 Badia Tedalda (AR)
 Ph. 0575/714014 - mail: info@protezionedellaluna.it
 Tourist Office of Valtiberina Toscana
 Via Matteotti, 8 - 52037 Sansepolcro (AR)
 Ph. 0575/740536 - mail: info@valtiberina.toscana.it
 Unione Montana dei Comuni della Valtiberina Toscana
 Ufficio Demanio Forestale
 Via Pian Di Guido, 2 - 52036 Pieve Santo Stefano (AR)
 Ph. 0575/99097 - mail: demanio@valtiberina.toscana.it
 Regione Toscana - Direzione Ambiente ed Energia
 Settore Tutela della Natura e del Mare
 Via A. Testa, 2 - 52100 Arezzo
 mail: areseprotezione@regione.toscana.it
 Restaurant and information point "L'Aringa appesa"
 Loc. Germagnano, fraz. Montagna - 52037 Sansepolcro (AR)
 Ph. 0575/750000 - 3342314012 - mail: info@extravaganti.it

ACCOMODATION



Inside or near the Reserve

	facilities	bed number	toilets	restaurant	Kitchenette
Holiday farm La Fattoria di Germagnano	○	23	○	○	
On the final stage of the award process Loc. Germagnano, fraz. Montagna - 52037 Sansepolcro (AR)					
Refuge La Spinella	●	48/50	●	●	●
Wilderness hut La Spinella		2			
Open all year round, run refuge with possibility of self-management Loc. La Spinella - 52037 Sansepolcro (AR) Ph. 0575/750000 - 3342314012 mail: info@extravaganti.it					
Refuge Pian della Capanna	●	18	●	●	●
Wilderness hut Pian della Capanna		1 room			★ fireplace
Open all year round Loc. Pian della Capanna, via dell'Alpe 19 - 52036 Pieve Santo Stefano (AR) Ph. 0575/750000 - 3342314012 mail: info@extravaganti.it					
Refuge Monterano	●	6	●	●	●
Open all year round Loc. Monterano - 52032 Badia Tedalda (AR). Ph. 0575/714014 mail: info@protezionedellaluna.it web: www.protezionedellaluna.it					
Wilderness hut Paolo Massi		2			
Open all year round Loc. Monte dei Frati - 52036 Pieve S. Stefano (AR) Ph. 0575/740554 (Fri, h. 18-19) mail: caj.sanspolcro@libero.it					
Hostel Piscina Nera	●	32	●	●	●
Open all year round Loc. Piscina Nera - 52032 Badia Tedalda (AR). Ph. 0575/714014 mail: info@protezionedellaluna.it web: www.protezionedellaluna.it					
Refuge Risco	●	6	●	●	●
Open all year round Loc. Risco - 52032 Badia Tedalda (AR). Ph. 0575/714014 mail: info@protezionedellaluna.it web: www.protezionedellaluna.it					
Refuge Serra Battistoli	●	10	●	●	★ fireplace
Open all year round Loc. Serrabattoli (C/o Parco faunistico di Ranco Spinosa) 52038 Sestro (AR). Ph. 0575/99097 mail: demanio@valtiberina.toscana.it					
Accoglienza francescana Montecassale	●	24	●	●	●
Open from Easter to middle October, then on prior reservation Fraz. Basilica, 60/B - Loc. Montecassale - 52037 Sansepolcro (AR) Ph. 0575/740178 - 3396856139 mail: francesco@gmail.com web: www.accoglienzafrancescana.com					
Camper area		more than 20 places			
Open all year round - Via A. Volta, 13 Sansepolcro (AR) Tel. 0575/7321					
Camper area		12 places			
Open all year round - Via dei Molini, Sansepolcro (AR) Tel. 0575/7321					

GUIDEMAPS



Nature, information, tour itineraries and path map

PROTECTED AREAS IN THE PROVINCE OF AREZZO



Nature Reserve Alpe della Luna



Realized by the Province of Arezzo with the contribution of the Region of Tuscany

VISITOR CENTRE

Natura e Uomini
Via Alpe della Luna, 4 - 52032 Badia Tedalda (AR)

CREDITS

Foto: Marco Carozzi, Vincenzo Geronzi, A.T. Pro Loco di Badia Tedalda
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 Cartography: DREAm Italia / Points of interest localization: Luca Vanni
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 Coordination: Mauro Fozzi
 Translations: Valerina Geronzi

HOW TO GET THERE

From North: go along the SR 258 toward Badia Tedalda.
 From West: go along the SR 258 toward the Viamaggio Pass.
 From South: go toward Sansepolcro (SR 73 or freeway E 43), then go on to Montagna and Germagnano or go along the SR 258 toward Aboca, the Viamaggio Pass or Badia Tedalda.

Etruria mobility - www.eturiamobility.it - Toll-free number 800.115605

Presale waterfall

The Presalino stream gushes into the Presale stream, producing a picturesque waterfall.



"Luna" sheet of water

A nice sheet of water in the wood.



Italian stream frog



Italian species which is endemic to the "Alpe della Luna".

Bear's garlic



In spring and summer it is in full bloom under the beech-woods.

REFUGE Pian della Capanna



Ripa della Luna



The Ripa della Luna originated as a result of the succession of detachments of rock and gives a good view of the Marnoso-Arenacea banks.

Wolf

The main Apennines predator, constantly present in the "Alpe della Luna".



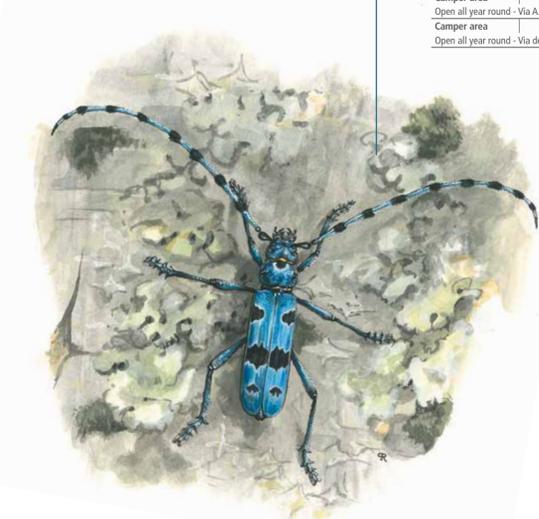
Woodlark



The woodlarks, members of the lark family, perform melodious duets in spring.

Rosalia longicorn

A rare and big beetle whose preferred habitat is the bark of old beech trees.



TERRITORY



Alpe della Luna is the name given to the section of the northern Apennine which acts as a watershed between the basin of the Tiber - on the Tyrrhenian side - and the basins of the rivers Marecchia and Metauro, flowing into the Adriatic. The origin of the name of this mountain chain dates far back: in the 18th century maps this ridge was already identified by the name *Alpi della Luna (Moon Alps)*, probably referring to the extensive rocky recess opening onto the slope facing Badia Tedalda. The protected area of the Nature Reserve extends in the section of the ridge lying between Monte dei Frati and Monte Maggiore and includes the valley of the stream Presalino - on the Adriatic side - and part of the valley of the Afra on the Tyrrhenian side. The environment is a succession of woods of different types depending on the altitude (ranging from 600m to over 1500m) and the type of soil, interspersed with grasslands and shrubbery typical of the mountain landscape of Valtiberina. In the Nature Reserve, there are over 80 significant plant species in terms of conservation and animal species which are rare throughout the Apennines such as the wolf, as well as lesser known Coleopterans and Amphibians. Most of the forests of the Alpe della Luna, especially on the Badia Tedalda side, were part of the so-called *Massa Trabaria*, an area dedicated to the production of beams and timber for basilicas and other buildings during Roman times.

GEOLOGY



The geology is quite different on the two hillsides of the Alpe della Luna and this is reflected in morphology and vegetation. The soil of most of the Tyrrhenian side of the Reserve is formed of hard sandstone, also used as stony material for rural buildings. The marly-arenaceous formation - with its typical layering - models most of the Adriatic side, more impervious and irregular, and appears in its full stateliness in the rocky recess of the Ripa della Luna, where the layers show their head. Other minor outcrops can be found in the rest of the southern part of the Reserve, as far as the rocky face where the stream Presalino forms an attractive waterfall. The hard sandstone and the marly-arenaceous formations lie one on top of the other right on the ridge of the Alpe della Luna, where the main Apennine tectonic folding took place during the final stages of orogeny, about 10 million years ago.

IDENTITY CARD OF THE PROTECTED AREA

Municipality: Badia Tedalda, Pieve Santo Stefano, Sansepolcro
 Area: 1.545 ha
 Established: March 18, 1998
 Management: Region of Tuscany in collaboration with the Unione Montana dei Comuni della Valtiberina Toscana

FAUNA



Undoubtedly the grasslands, shrubbery and rocky areas are the most gratifying in terms of sightings of animals. In these open settings in fact it's relatively easy to spot insects, birds and reptiles, animal groups which include a number of rare and interesting species, whose fate is tied to the conservation of pastures and mountain agriculture. One may see the short-toed eagle, the common kestrel and the honey buzzard flying overhead, while if one carefully observes the meadows and areas with sparse vegetation can catch a glimpse of the tawny pipit and the woodlark, birds which blend in with their surroundings and which are mainly terrestrial, searching for small invertebrates in the soil. In the bushy meadows there are the red-backed shrike, the common linnet, the cir bunting and the yellowhammer, which here has one of its few Tuscan nesting places. Recently here has also been sighted the garden warbler, a species which has not nested in Tuscany for many years. In the meadows and at the edges of the woods live three reptile species of the four found in the Nature Reserve: the viper, the smooth snake and the slow worm. The forest fauna is rather more limited given that it is still suffering from the intense exploitation of the woods from the time of the *Massa Trabaria* which continued up to a few decades ago for the production of coal and firewood, the main source of fuel for mountain populations. However for some decades now these forests - belonging to the Agricultural and Forestry Heritage of the Tuscany Region and managed by the *Unione Montana dei Comuni della Valtiberina Toscana* - have been converted to tall trees and managed according

to preservative criteria. Here there are numerous species of coleopterans - such as the rare *Rosalia longicorn* - and birds associated with big trees such as the green woodpecker, the great spotted woodpecker, the Eurasian nuthatch, the short-toed treecreeper and the Eurasian sparrowhawk. The open woods and the younger woods, still affected by recent fellings, are frequented by another kind of fauna: one may find Bonelli's warbler, the winter wren and even sometimes meet the roe deer and the fallow deer (the latter introduced into this area several decades ago), which love the shoots growing out of the felled stumps. The large-sized forest and the limited presence of man have allowed the wolf to keep living in the Apennines. On the ridge, where the woods are less dense, while watching the bare banks of rock one may see the rapid movements of the black redstart and the rock bunting, as well as observe the tree pipit, also present in the bushy grasslands of Monterano. Lower down, between the mighty marly-arenaceous slopes there is a natural gorge, known as *Grotta della Tabussaz*: in the past the hiding place for brigands in this area and today an important refuge for the Italian cave salamander and for some bat colonies. The clear roundstone beds of the streams Presalino and Afra are home to the tree frog and the grass snake, while the Italian stream frog lay eggs there. Even farming-pastoral activities have contributed to create new habitats for the local fauna. The springs, such as the one in Monterano, have been chosen by amphibians that lay their eggs in stagnant water, like newts. In the ponds, created for cattle, there are frogs and toads while the buildings of Montagna and Germagnano are frequented by the common redstart, a rare and colourful passerine as well as by the ever-present barn swallows.

VEGETATION



The wood is undoubtedly the largest environment in the Nature Reserve: turkey oak woods, mixed woods and European beech woods succeed each other almost uninterrupted, arranged according to the altitude, exposure and geological sub-layers. On the hillside looking onto Sansepolcro the turkey oak and the European beech woods predominate, separated at around 1,000m altitude by a belt of mixed woods with European beeches, maples, common whitebeams and monumental specimens of wild pear, holly and singleseeded hawthorn which escaped the fellings of past eras. The opposite slope is cooler, with a soil less deep, on a marly-arenaceous bedrock. The European beech thus leaves more space to the maples and even the turkey oak forms a mixed wood with the hop hornbeam and the Italian maple, typical species of a lean and shallow soil. The most varied forest is in the canyons at the foot of the *Ripa della Luna*, on grounds deriving from the agglong accumulation of landslide detritus; together with the European beech and the Turkey oak there are the common ash, the littleleaf linden, the wych elm and the common yew, which - with various species of maples (sycamore maple, Norway maple, Italian maple and hedge maple) - constitute an extremely interesting forest blend in terms of preservation (known as *Tiilo-Acerino*), also for the underground species which include the deadly nightshade, the Neapolitan monkshood, the friar's cow, the herb-Paris, the lily-of-the-valley and many others. In the Presalino valley, crossed by the excursion trails of the Reserve, the stream is bordered by a woody belt dominated by the European hornbeam with the European beech, the European filbert, the littleleaf linden, the Italian maple and an abundant herbaceous flora, among

which the mousse plant stands out. The beautiful grasslands of the Reserve, extending especially around the Spinella and Monterano refuges derive from the much larger plots of land used to grow wheat until the 1950s, subtracted from the forest area. Once the economic interest in these marginal lands diminished, crop farming was abandoned or converted into pasture and today these constitute important environments for flora and fauna. Amid the green mantle of the grasses and the leguminosae, in spring various species of orchid flower as well as the ragged-robin (*Lycinis flos cuculi*), the daisies and the wild geranium while the small bushes of the spiny restharrow (*Ononis spinosa*) dot the grasslands of the Monterano area, which will soon turn into shrubbery if they are not longer used as pastures. This has already happened in the areas abandoned longer ago and now covered with dog roses, blackthorns, singleseeded hawthorns and mainly on the marly-arenaceous soils with junipers and rush brooms. Here an unusual weed was recently found, the rare juniper dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium oxycedri*), indicated in Italy only in this Nature Reserve and in a few places near Sestino. A large percentage of the most interesting flora in the Reserve grows on the rocks. On the faces of the *Ripa della Luna* grow a small number of "Alpe della Luna" specimens (*Cirsium alpis-lunae*), unique only to these mountains. The same outcrops and barren terrain caused by erosion and over-grazing are home to a pioneering unusual vegetation able to survive in a minimum quantity of soil: the crooked dwarf buckthorn (*Rhamnus pumila*), the *Laspetium gallicum*, Bertolon's sandworts (*Arenaria bertolonii*) and four species of saxifrages (*Saxifraga bulbifera*, *S. paniculata*, *S. rotundifolia*, *S. tridactylites*), just to name a few. In some areas - where there is a greater depth of soil - there are small stragglers of grassland with the Italian sesleria (*Sesleria italica*), an endemic Apennine grass, and the fescue of the Sibillini Mountains (*Festuca centro-appenninica*), another grass endemic to Central Italy for which the Alpe della Luna is the southernmost site known up to now.

EQUIPPED DEPARTURE POINTS

Germagnano, about twenty minutes from Sansepolcro, is the departure point and obligatory stopping place not just for a visit to the southern part of the Nature Reserve but also to find out about it, since there is an information bureau in the farm restaurant. Instead the Visitor Centre in Badia Tedalda is an obligatory stopping place if you come from the north. Thanks to its exhibition spaces and multimedia equipment, it offers a rich documentation about the Nature Reserve and the Alta Valmarecchia. From Badia Tedalda, the nearest point of access is the car park situated in Capanne, where you arrive if you go towards the church of Madonna del Presale and continue for a few hundred metres as far as the equipped area.

TOUR ITINERARIES

The territory of the Nature Reserve and the surrounding areas are full of possibilities for hiking trails which require several days to be exhausted. You can choose to visit the Adriatic side first (in this case the access through Badia Tedalda is recommended), or the Tyrrhenian side, if you arrive from Sansepolcro. Other important lateral access routes are through the Viamaggio Pass and Bocca Trabara, where they cross the Great Apennine Excursion (GEA), which cuts across the Reserve along the ridge of the Alpe della Luna and joins the paths of the two sides. In both cases, it takes several hours' walk to reach the heart of the Reserve, with a quite tough difference in height, repaid with the breathtaking panorama and the beauty of the surrounding landscape.

The Reserve's trails

Two brief nature trails that reveal interesting areas of the Nature Reserve, even if they do not reach the ridge.

The charcoal burners' trail

Length: 5 km (roundtrip)
Travel time: 2h
This nature trail starts from Germagnano with display boards along it describing the ancient trade of the charcoal burners which affected many of the woods until the beginning of the 1900s.

The Presalino valley

Length: 10 km
Travel time: 3h
A second trail, longer and more difficult, explores the wooded valley of the stream Presalino by means of various detours, reaching the abandoned village of Monterano and the mixed woods at the foot of the Ripa della Luna. Access is through the car park situated in Capanne.

Other trails

If you have more than one car available or you make arrangements with people running the accommodation facilities or with the Pro-loco of Badia Tedalda, or if you plan a trip of several days, you can organise longer trails. From the Viamaggio Pass for example you can go along the GEA which passes through attractive shrub grasslands rich in blossom, as far as the ridge of the Alpe della Luna where it cuts across the path No. 8 and descends towards the Refuge of Pian della Capanna and Aboca. From Sestino, in the Nature Reserve of Sasso di Simone, trail No. 5 leads directly to Monte Maggiore crossing the Metauro valley, from here you can choose to continue in various directions. Along the way you can stop to have a rest in the Refuge of Serra Battiroli or in the "Piscina Nera" Hostel.

CAI PATHS

Several possibilities and combinations of many existing trails make it possible to organise trips of various difficulty and length.

The Tyrrhenian side

Length: 20 km
Travel time: 7h
This is quite a difficult path which a whole day should be set aside for. Climb up to the Spinella meadows from the dirt road coming from Germagnano - if you prefer walking in open spaces - or follow the path no. 6 which starts from Montagna and cut across mainly wooded areas. The more enthusiastic hikers can start the path from the Convent of Montecasale, slightly above Sansepolcro, considering an extra 5km's way on the outward journey. From here the view ranges from the Casentino Apennine ridge over most of the ValTiberina valley. The path goes as far as the Refuge of Pian della Capanna, where you can choose whether to go directly up to the peak along the path No. 8A - which climbs steeply through a wood of European beeches - or to continue along the dirt road until you join the GEA path - which runs through panoramic open spaces before leading up to the ridge. Once at the top of Monte dei Frati, amid picturesque twisted beeches and interesting herbaceous species you arrive at the spectacular face of the Ripa della Luna and from here you can continue along the path no. 8, which goes back down rapidly to Spinella.

The Adriatic side

Length: 19 km
Travel time: 7h
From the car park in Capanne the Reserve trail leads up towards Monterano and from here joins the CAI path No.5 which reaches Monte Maggiore; if you go on along the ridge you reach the Ripa della Luna and the Monte dei Frati, then you go back down along the path No. 19 towards the trail which runs across the valleys of the streams Presale and Presalino, through attractive strips of European beeches and mixed woods; then continue along the stream back to the point of departure.

THE GREAT COMMUNICATION ROUTES OF THE APENNINES

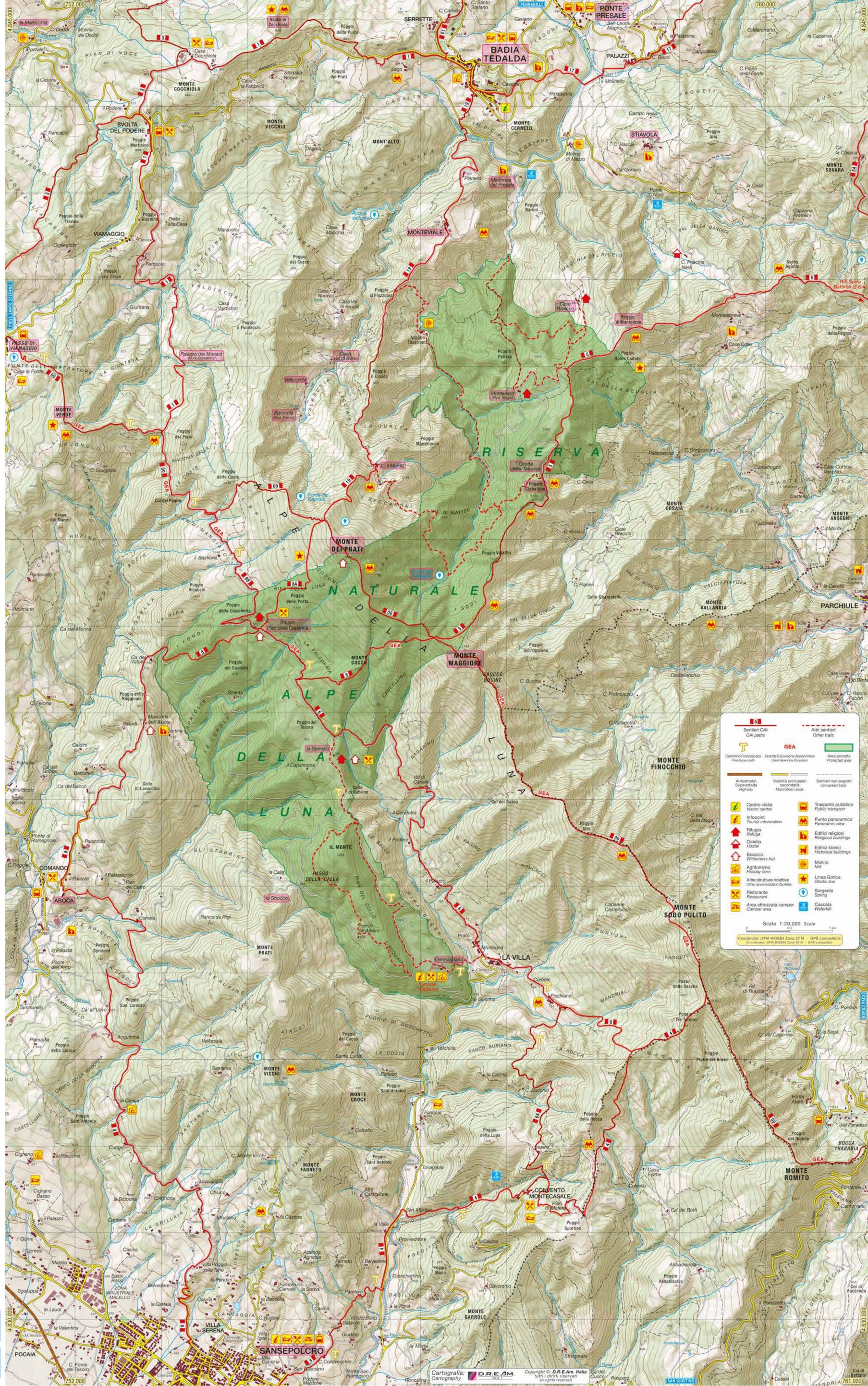
The Reserve can be included as a stop on an itinerary lasting several days, following the GEA trails and Path No. 00, for which we recommend referring to specific bibliography. The GEA, or Great Apennine Excursion, is a long and well-known path which runs along the whole northern Apennines from the border between Tuscany and Liguria (Due Santi pass) to the border between Tuscany and Marche (Bocca Trabara). Path No. 00 is a ridge-way path coinciding in part with the GEA; through 52km it connects Bocca Trabara to Poggio Tre Vescovi, inside the Alta Valle del Tevere - Monte Nero Nature Reserve.



Mobile version available for GPS enabled smartphones



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	Sentieri CAI		Altri sentieri
	CAI paths		Other trails
	GEA		Area protetta
	Cammino Francesco		Protected area
	Grande Escursione Appennina		
	Orti Apennini		
	Autosstrada		Viabilità principale
	Superstrada		secondaria
	Highway		Motorway roads
	Sentieri non segnati		Unmarked trails
	Centro visita		Trasporto pubblico
	Visitor centre		Public transport
	Infopoint		Punto panoramico
	Tourist information		Panoramic view
	Refugio		Edificio religioso
	Hostel		Religious buildings
	Bivacco		Edificio storico
	Wilderness hut		Historical buildings
	Agriturismo		Molino
	Holiday farm		Mill
	Altre strutture ricettive		Linea Gotica
	Other accommodation facilities		Ghioic line
	Ristorante		Sorgente
	Restaurant		Spring
	Area attrezzata camper		Cascata
	Camper area		Waterfall

Scala 1:20.000 Scale

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