

The Visitor Centre of Ponte Buriano

The main entrance to the Nature Reserve is in Ponte a Buriano: the fastest way to reach it from Arezzo is to take the S.P. 1 "Setteponti" towards Castiglion Fibocchi or, for those coming from Florence, the S.R. 69, taking the turn-off for Laterina and Castiglion Fibocchi and continuing towards Arezzo. The Visitor Centre of the Nature Reserve provides publications about the protected area as well as further information on fluvial areas, the history of the river Arno and fauna of these environments.

TOUR ITINERARIES

Part of the Nature Reserve trails begin close to the Visitor Centre. If you contact the Guides you can access the observation huts. Other locations suitable for starting an excursion in the protected area are near Pieve a Maiano and in the villages of Penna, Rondine and Monte Sopra Rondine. Information about how to book a guided tour of the Penna dam installation may be obtained from the Visitor Centre or the Guides, who will check availability with ENEL.



The trails in the Reserve

The Nature Reserve has a network of paths making it possible to visit both sides of the Arno valley and to choose varying lengths of route. All the paths are freely accessible but remember that to make the most of your visit and to use some facilities you need to make arrangements with the Guides.

The Canale Maestro (A and B)

Length A: 2 km
Travel time A: 40'
This trail starts at the foot of the village of Monte Sopra Rondine, a natural panoramic terrace overlooking the reed thicket. The trail leads to the confluence of the Arno with the Canale Maestro della Chiana and skirts the river as far as the old paper mill, offering the chance to use the facilities provided here to observe the aquatic fauna without creating inconvenience. In the other direction the trail runs along the Canale Maestro and beyond it into the shrubby and panoramic agricultural areas surrounding the wetland. The visit ends by going back along the same route or taking the footbridge (opened from summer 2017) which crosses the Canale Maestro. In this case continue along trail B, which leads through the wetland to an observation hut and ends in Ponte Buriano. The circuit B, inside the reed thicket, is accessible only with a Guide.

La Penna Lake (C)

Length: 4 km
Travel time: 1h 30'
About a kilometre beyond the village of Pieve a Maiano, on the S.R. 69 going towards Civitella Val di Chiana, you can park the car and take the nature trail C, ideal for familiarising with the forest environment of the Reserve and for birdwatching on La Penna reservoir. From the car park the trail leads to observation huts (accessible only through guided tours), skirts a stretch of the reservoir and crosses the Acquaforte watercourse to the hills, offering numerous panoramic views of the river. The trail ends in the village of Case al Cincio and the return trip may be made along the same route or, alternatively, along the road to Pieve a Maiano (considering more or less the same time as the outward journey).

The GERDA

The Great Hike of the Arno Reserves (GERDA) is a trail of approximately 25 km which connects Ponte a Buriano to Acqua Borra in the Nature Reserve of Valle dell'Inferno e Bandella, running along the right bank of the river. The stretch of GERDA in the Nature Reserve from Ponte a Buriano to Penna is 9.4 km long and takes about 4 hours for the outward journey; the route back goes along the same path unless you use two cars or take a taxi or public transportation. Along the GERDA several short detours lead - among other historic relics which are plentiful in Valdarno - to the medieval hamlets of Penna and Rondine and to the attractive 18th century villa in Monsoglio.



Mobile version available for GPS enabled smartphones

Install the free App **Avenza Maps** Get the app, get the map

Install Avenza Maps and download this Map



Sentieri CAI CAI paths	Altri sentieri Other trails	Centro visita Visitor centre	Trasporto pubblico Public transport
Infopoint Tourist information	Area protetta/contigua Protected area/contiguous	Agriturismo Holiday farm	Borgo antico Ancient village
Altre strutture ricettive Other accommodation facilities	Edifici religiosi Religious buildings	Ristoranti Restaurants	Edifici storici Historical buildings
Area attrezzata camper Camper area	Parcheggio Parking	Ponte Bridge	

GERDA
Grande Escursione delle Riserve dell'Arno
Great Hike of the Arno Reserves

Scala 1:20.000 Scale

Coordinate: UTM-WGS84 Zona 32 N - GPS compatibile
Coordinates: UTM-WGS84 Zone 32 N - GPS compatible