

MONTE CALBARINA AND MONTE PICCOLO PATH n. 7

DISTANCE: 5,5 Km

DIFFERENCE IN ALTITUDE: about 120-130m

WALKING TIME: about 4 hours

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: none

BEST SEASONS: spring, autumn

Geology. The path runs on sedimentary and volcanic rocks up Monte Piccolo and nearby Monte Ventolone, forming a single huge volcanic complex. The area of Monte Calbarina is characterized by the presence of some outstanding springs, including those feeding the natural lake of Costa; there, at the temperature of about 45°C you can observe directly the phenomenon of Euganean thermal springs.

Flora. You will find the most interesting features along the high route of the path, across the *vegri* with bushes of sumac, ash, maple and wayfaring tree, where, in spring, numerous species of spontaneous orchids appear: *Fior di ragno*, *Maschio*, *Militare*, *Tridentata*.

Fauna. Among the insectivorous mammals are the hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), the most common species in the Euganean Hills, and the shrewmouse (*Sorex araneus*). On the *vegri* you can observe a wide range of insects: grasshoppers, bees, wasps and the praying mantis (*Mantis religiosa*). The largest centipede of the Euganean Hills, the *Scolopendra cingulata*, has been found here. The black pine, planted to reforest the wood, is a larder for the hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) that feeds on the chrysalis of a butterfly called “pine procession moth” (*Thaumetopoea pitycampae*) because of its caterpillar’s peculiar habit to queue: this species is extensively and distinctly present in the woodland.

History and art. Near the lake of Costa there is an important archaeological area which dates back to the Bronze age. Today it is a private area where valuable and pure thermal mud is extracted. Worth of notice is the old *Fonte Raineriana* and the chapel, designed by Giuseppe Jappelli.