

MONTE FASOLO PATH n. 12

DISTANCE: about 2,5 Km

DIFFERENCE IN ALTITUDE: about 80m including the detour near the beech

WALKING TIME: 2 hours

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: none

BEST SEASONS: spring, autumn

Geology. Monte Fasolo (301m) has gentle morphology and soft outlines typical of sedimentary soils. Jura limestone outcrops at the base of the hill, while the summit and the flanks are composed of “scaglia rossa” and marls. Also basaltic tuff may be found in the rock.

Flora. The eastern flank of the hill crosses woods of pubescent oak (*Quercus pubescens*), hornbeam (*Ostrya carpinifolia*), flowering ash (*Fraxinus ornus*), with undergrowth composed of butcher’s broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*), wild asparagus and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Typical of shaded limestone reliefs is the strawberry groundcherry (*Physalis alkekengi*); on the northern flank of the hill it carpets the ground. On the southern slope there is a group of turkey oaks (*Quercus cerris*), a rare variety. Particularly beautiful is the avenue of almond trees which are an explosion of splendid white blossoms in spring.

Fauna. Along the path, especially in spring, you can hear the characteristic call of the pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), a widespread species; the nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) makes its nest on the clearings surrounding the wood. Among reptiles are the slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*) and the ratsnake (*Coluber viridiflavus carbonarius*) also called “scarbonasso”, widely present in the Euganean Hills. The presence of nocturnal mustelids such as the weasel (*Mustela nivalis*) and the marten (*Martes faina*) is revealed by traces of faeces. The wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), introduced in the Euganean Hills by men, is now naturalized here, and its presence is damaging the economy and the ecosystem of the area.

History and art. Notice the small S.Gaetano’s church, which goes back to the 17th century; it is situated close to the farm, at the top of the hill, and it is built on the place where, in the 11th century, there stood a hermitage.