

MONTE ROSSO PATH

DISTANCE: 1.5 Km

DIFFERENCE IN ALTITUDE: 150 m

WALKING TIME: 2 hours

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: average

BEST SEASONS: spring, summer, autumn and winter

Geology. Monte Rosso (178m) rises in the northern area of the Euganean Hills. It is almost totally composed of Trachyte, an eruptive rock dating back to the second Euganean eruptive cycle (33 million years ago). The only relevant exception is a vein of basaltic lava near a quarry on the northern flank, which passes through the homogeneous structure of the hill.

Flora. Notice the huge secular trees in Villa Bembiana's English garden: high oaks (*Quercus robur*), white hornbeams, plane trees, poplars, elms. Along the path you can see a wood of black locust with hazel (*Corylus avellana*), elmleaf blackberry (*Rubus ulmifolius*), pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*). Near the top of the hill the heat-loving vegetation includes flowering ash (*Fraxinus ornus*), pubescent oak (*Quercus pubescens*), hackberry (*Celtis australis*). At the foot of the hill the wood of black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) prevails.

Fauna. Notice a colony of horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*), the biggest bat belonging to the Rhinolophidae family. Among birds building nests is the wrypeck (*Jynx torquilla*), with its mimetic colour and typical call, the common great tit (*Parus major*), the robin (*Erithacus rubecola*) and the blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*). Among the nocturnal rodents are the fat dormouse (*Glis glis*) and the common dormouse (*Moscardinus avellanarius*), both characteristic species in the Euganean Hills.

History and art. On the plain towards the Rialto *scolo* there is a settlement built on reclaimed land which dates back to the Bronze Age, and a peat bed at the base of the eastern slope contains the remains of a short-horned ox (*Bos tauros brachyceros*, Rutimeyer) going back to thousand years ago. Moreover, Villa Bembiana in 1918 was the Press Office seat of the Supreme Military Command; on November 4th the Office issued the last bulletin announcing the end of the war against Austria.