

# La Via Francigena Fidenza - Aulla



## **Fidenza -Aulla**

Fidenza can be easily reached by train from Milano or Bologna; This week it centered on the crossing of the Appennino, the long chain of mountains that unfolds for the whole length of the Italian peninsula. Mountains after mountains until the horizon opens up and on a clear day the pilgrims were able to catch a first glimpse of the sea. An untouched landscape thick with woods. Now and then small, forgotten by time hamlets and small towns are the human note in a pristine scenery. You will find at your hotel all the material you need for your trip: hotel vouchers, the detailed description of the walking, the GPS maps and the pilgrim's "Credenziale".

**Highlights:** Fidenza and Barcelo Duomos -The statue stele - The Appennino mountains scenery at Cisa Pass

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**Activity Level:** Moderateb - **Daily Mileage:** 18/29 km - **Daily Walking time:** 3/7 hrs

## Day by day walking program

### FIDENZA

#### Day 1 – Arrival in Fidenza

Seat of the European Association of the Vie Francigene the town has been a major stop on the pilgrimage road. The sculpture of its Duomo façade are very famous and have taken on a symbolic significance for the Francigena travelers.



### FORNOVO

**Day 2 – Fidenza – Fornovo – Length: 31,80 km**  
**- Unpaved 45% - Altitude gap: +607m/ - 534m**  
**- Highest point: 299m**

A fairly long day full of ups and downs approaching the first hills before the Appennino mountains. Pastures and vineyards to begin with, then replaced by oak woods, cool in the summer heat. Fornovo is a pleasant, small town that doesn't offer many interesting things to see, but being at the beginning of a scarcely populated area offers one of the few opportunities for decent lodging

### CASSIO

**Day 3 – Fornovo – Cassio – Length: 20,8km - unpaved: 40% - Walking time: 4h.30**  
**Altitude gap: + 1015 / - 365m -**

From your hotel which is 2 km out of town, there is a shortcut that avoids going back to Fornovo and shorten the daily mileage by 5km. Once rejoined the official trail, you will start the climb to the Cisa Pass. It is a tough day because of the high altitude gap. Superb scenery with strange rock formations called "I salti del Diavolo". Nice churches in Bardone and Terenzo. The only available accommodation is the hostel we therefore have you picked up by your host in Berceto and driven back to Cassio the next morning.

### BERCETO

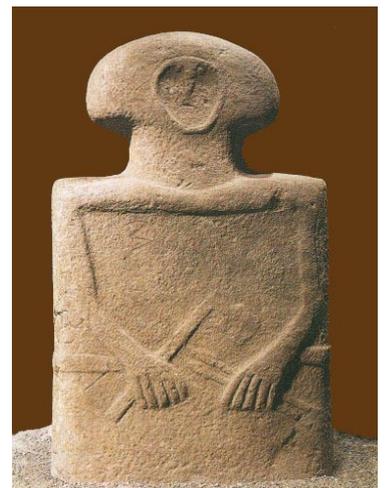
**Day 4 – Cassio – Berceto – Length: 10,7 km - Altitude gap: +310m/- 260m - Walking time: 4h.00 - Unpaved: 62% - Highest point: 953m**

A softer day with many interesting very typical villages that were built while the Francigena soared, with houses lining the road, Reach Berceto with its important Duomo. Located on the Via Romea, it used to be a crossroad for commerce. Now it is a quiet little town where families spend summer vacations. Same hotel

### MONTELUNGO

**Day 5 – Berceto – Previdè– Altitude gap: Uphill: m 650 Downhill: m 710 Length: 15,5 km W.time:4 h.30**

Today we enter Tuscany and we enjoy some of the most beautiful scenery of the whole Francigena. The view from the Cisa Pass is just awesome. The official road goes straight to Pontremoli; however this makes for a very long day with a very steep descent that can become very slippery when wet; we have therefore divided the stage in 2 with a night in Montelungo,



## PONTREMOLI

**Day 6 – Previdè – Pontremoli – Length: 12 km Walking time: 5hs.00 - Altitude gap: +538m /- 1127m – Highest point: 820m**

Not the longest day of the week, but a tiring one, though mainly downhill. Along the way many signs of the faith that was so much part of medieval life: small altars, little chapels, via crucis line the way. You will cross the river Magra on a bridge dating from year 300. Think of visiting the Statue Stele Museum: they have a very intriguing collection of the pillar statues some of which are as old as 5000 years!

## AULLA

**Day 7 – Pontremoli – Aulla – Altitude gap: +386 m/- 565m - Length: 33,5 km - Unpaved: 50 % Walking time: 6h.30**

Just outside town, the St Annunziata church was built after the Virgin appeared to a young sheppard girl. If the Pieve di Sorano is open, take the time to enter; there is an original Statua Stele. In Aulla you should visit St. Caprasio abbey, dating back to 884 and entirely rebuilt after the destructions of the war.

## YOURS DEPARTURE

**Day 8 – end our services**

### **Possible intermediate stops**

in Fidenza- Fornovo : Medesano

in Pontremoli- Aulla : Villafranca

## Accommodation



**Fornovo**



**Berceto**



**Previdè**



**Pontremoli**



**Aulla**