



CAMPO
IMPERATORE

CASTELVECCHIO
CALASCIO

SANTO
STEFANO DI
SESSANIO

HIKING IN CAMPO IMPERATORE AND THE PARCO NAZIONALE DEL GRAN SASSO

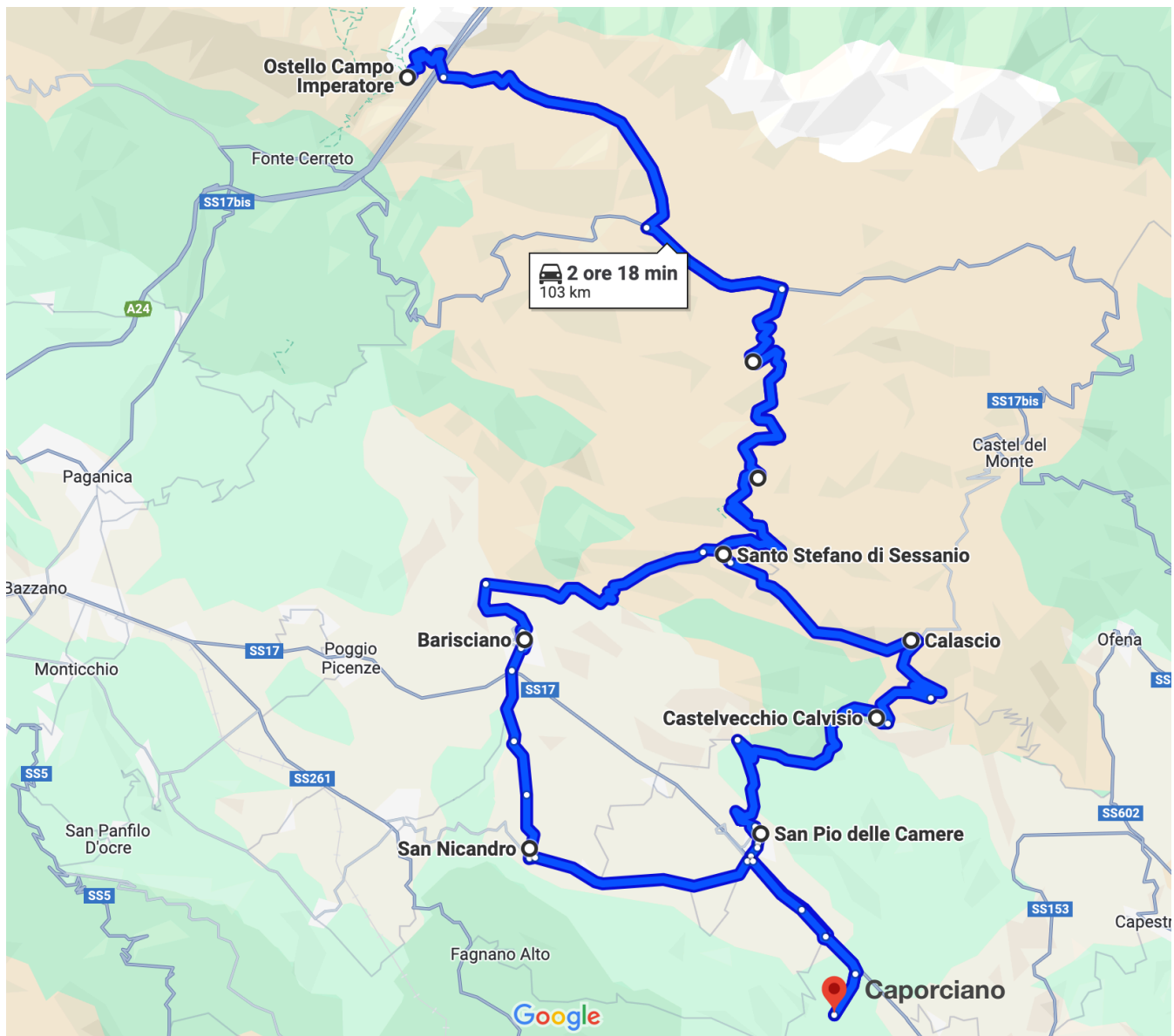


Palazzo D'Alessandro Wunderkammern & Suites

Tel. +39 335 5994204

E-mail: palazzodalessandrosrl@gmail.com





Whether you are a simple "tourist" or a passionate hiker, a hike in the Campo Imperatore area is a must.

From Caporciano it is approximately 30/45 minutes by car, depending on the point chosen for hitting a trail. There are various options, with various levels of duration

and difficulty, which you can find in every paper or online guide. Here we limit ourselves to suggesting a very brief selection, referring to the CAI maps and the various guides for details of the route.

On the way back, since in the mountain it is always better not to delay the start

of the walks, you can stop in one of the villages you drive through along the way, all very beautiful and each with its own characteristics: Santo Stefano di Sessanio with its Medici tower, Calascio with its fortress, Castelvecchio Calvisio with its characteristic walled nucleus.



Palazzo D'Alessandro Wunderkammern & Suites

Tel. +39 335 5994204

E-mail: palazzodalessandrosl@gmail.com





Ruins of the benedictine grange- Campo Imperatore

Ring of the three lakes

In about 35/40 minutes from Caporciano, through San Pio delle Camere, Calascio, Santo Stefano di Sessanio and, from there, going up the provincial road, you arrive at Rifugio Racollo, our starting point for this walk.

The route, easy, on comfortable terrain, extends for 13 km with only 400

meters of difference in altitude, but allows you to enjoy fantastic views of the plateau. Shortly after leaving, you pass the ruins of the Cistercian grange of Santa Maria del Monte, a medieval outpost of sheep farming.

On the way back we suggest a refreshment break at the Racollo Refuge. In the summer, to eat a

complete meal, booking is recommended, but you can always buy excellent sandwiches from them, in particular the ham, pecorino and "giro d'olio" ones.

<https://www.kalipemountainlove.it/events/campo-imperatore-lanello-dei-lagheti-e-la-grancia-di-santa-maria-del-monte/>



Palazzo D'Alessandro Wunderkammern & Suites

Tel. +39 335 5994204

E-mail: palazzodalessandrosl@gmail.com





Campo Pericoli ring

Another easy and scenic route, this time at the foot, or rather "at the flanks" of the Gran Sasso itself.

From Caporciano by car, in about 50 minutes you arrive at the hotel in Campo Imperatore, also the terminal of the cable car that arrives from L'Aquila. From here, at an altitude of 2130 metres, proceed to the left of the Observatory and go up through some hairpin

bends, at the end of which you go to the right and towards the slopes of the Monte Portella Pass (2260 metres). Continue towards the Sella di Monte Aquila, at around 2330 metres.

Then go down on the right crossing Campo Pericoli. This is a glacial basin around 2100 meters. At the first crossroads you go left arriving at Rifugio Garibaldi, 2231 metres, the oldest in the whole Gran Sasso, built in 1886 (12 beds and 8 in a small

room). Then you descend towards the 2156 meters of Passo del Lupo, cross the southern slope of Monte Portella to return to Campo Imperatore.

The total route is approximately 9.5 km with approximately 600 meters of altitude difference.

<https://perunpugnodipassi.com/2023/07/07/anello-di-campo-pericoli/>



Palazzo D'Alessandro Wunderkammern & Suites

Tel. +39 335 5994204

E-mail: palazzodalessandrosl@gmail.com





The Brancastello Ridge

This is one of the most interesting and panoramic routes of the Gran Sasso. From the trail you can admire the Corno Grande pyramid which rises with extraordinary grandeur above the Valle dell'Inferno. The route includes a steep climb but is still quite easy.

The starting point can be reached by turning left (1800 m) on the asphalt road towards the Campo Imperatore hotel, where a dirt road branches off to the right, recognizable thanks to the old picnic tables at the beginning, which goes halfway up the coast to Vado di Corno.

On foot, follow the dirt road, which bends to the right and gives way to a path indicated by signs 106 and 6. With an easy climb you reach Vado di Corno (1924 m), cut by a service road to the tunnel construction site for the ventilation of the Tunnel, which passes vertically (evidence of the impact of the work also on the surface)

The path climbs and continues on the rocky and spectacular edge of the ridge, avoiding a landslide and reaching another saddle.

The trail, which is divided into several routes, goes up

a grassy slope on the ridge, crosses to the right and reaches a plateau (2118 m), in front of the easily recognizable Pizzo San Gabriele. On the Isola side you can see the Rigo Rosso stazzo. Here the edelweiss begins to appear. You overcome a second steep section, and exit into a sloping basin. Go around a hill of grass and gravel, leave the path to Pizzo on the left (2210 m), and continue in the direction of Monte Brancastello.

Total duration approximately 4/5 hours for 11 km in length and 700 meters of altitude difference.



Palazzo D'Alessandro Wunderkammern & Suites

Tel. +39 335 5994204

E-mail: palazzodalessandrosl@gmail.com



Villages to Visit

The suggested itinerary offers the opportunity to visit very interesting villages.

The choice depends on you and the time you want to dedicate to visits versus walking, which we suggest doing mainly in the early morning. If you are not particularly active, you can concentrate on the villages... fresh air and scenery are guaranteed.

Castelvecchio Calvisio

The walled historic center is very interesting with its characteristic custom-made stairs in the very narrow alleys to allow the passage of packed mules. Note the clock tower and the church of S. Giovanni Battista and, isolated outside the historic center, the church of San Cipriano with its tabernacle



Castelvecchio Calvisio



Palazzo D'Alessandro Wunderkammern & Suites

Tel. +39 335 5994204

E-mail: palazzodalessandrosl@gmail.com



Calascio and its fortress

The fortress of Calascio is one of the iconic images of Abruzzo and, today, of Italy, appearing in countless films and commercials.

The town overlooks a breathtaking panorama and offers various points of interest: the Church of S. Antonio Abate, that of San Carlo, noble palaces which bear witness, as in other towns in the area, to the wealth once generated by sheeps, for the their wool. Don't miss the goldsmith's art museum (and workshop).



Calascio and its Rock



Palazzo D'Alessandro Wunderkammern & Suites

Tel. +39 335 5994204

E-mail: palazzodalessandrosrl@gmail.com



Santo Stefano di Sessanio

Now a very well-known destination (avoid going on summer weekends), its streets alternate old renovated homes, noble buildings and the famous Medici Tower.



Santo Stefano di Sessanio



Palazzo D'Alessandro Wunderkammern & Suites

Tel. +39 335 5994204

E-mail: palazzodalessandrosrl@gmail.com



Castel del Monte

On the edge of the Campo Imperatore plateau, capital of sheep farming for centuries, the town is full of historical sites, from the tower, to the numerous churches, to the "diffused" ethnographic museum which displays objects and ways of life in various homes of the time. Note the monument to the miners who died in the Marcinelle, Belgium, many of them from around this area



Palazzo D'Alessandro Wunderkammern & Suites

Tel. +39 335 5994204

E-mail: palazzodalessandrosl@gmail.com



Barisciano

Large center along the S.S.17, rich like many other villages with churches and beautiful buildings, today often carefully renovated. Worth noting, outside the town, the park's botanical garden, near the convent of Santo Colombo



Barisciano - Park's botanical garden



Palazzo D'Alessandro Wunderkammern & Suites

Tel. +39 335 5994204

E-mail: palazzodalessandrosl@gmail.com



GOOD TO KNOW

- a) From Caporciano to get to the different starting points for the Campo Imperatore walks, consider a good hour's drive
- b) On the outward journey, the best route is going up from San Pio delle Camere, Castelvecchio Calvisio, Calascio Santo Stefano di Sessanio, then along the provincial road that passes through the Racollo refuge (starting point of the three lakes itinerary), then turning left at crossroads towards the Campo Imperatore/Cableway hotel, starting point for various itineraries around the Gran Sasso
- c) In the summer period, the suggestion is to stay away during weekends, to avoid the peak of visitors
- d) Suitable shoes and clothing are recommended even in the event of sudden changes in weather
- e) Along the plateau you can find some shepherds selling cheese and sandwiches.

- f) The complete ring is approximately 105 km
- g) These are only overall indications. Do not adventure on trails or climb without proper equipment and a good map

CONTACTS

Rifugio Racollo
Località Lago Racollo, 67020 Santo Stefano di Sessanio AQ
Telefono: 328 164 9396
Position 42.39853015874543,
13.656831456717306

Il Palazzo Locanda e Residence
Via Gabriele D'Annunzio, 13, 67020 Santo Stefano di Sessanio AQ
Telefono: 328 161 5128

Calascino Cafè,
Strada Provinciale 7, 61, 67020 Calascio AQ
320 876 0658



Palazzo D'Alessandro Wunderkammern & Suites

Tel. +39 335 5994204

E-mail: palazzodalessandrosl@gmail.com



CONTACTS

Jewelry Museum - Calascio
Verna Gioielli
Email: info@vernaoro.it
Tel: +39 085380288
(Il museo è privato, contattare per verificare visite)

Canestrato di Castel del Monte
Cheese Coop
Strada Provinciale, 1
67020 Calascio (AQ)
Tel: 0862/930345

Capra&Co. (production and sale of
cheese in Santo Stefano di Sessanio)
Tel. 335 600 2838
capreeco@gmail.com

Aquilana - wools ad wollen items
Piazza Medicea, 8 e 9, 67020 Santo
Stefano di Sessanio AQ
Telefono: 347 658 8531



Palazzo D'Alessandro Wunderkammern & Suites

Tel. +39 335 5994204

E-mail: palazzodalessandrosrl@gmail.com

