

Drive to Badia Prataglia (½ day trip with Valle Santa) landscape landscape

Badia Prataglia is the most important village included in the Foreste Casentinesi National Park; it has survived for centuries thanks to its economy linked to the activities carried out in the wood and it is for this reason that it has been chosen as the central theme of this Visitor Center. The reproduction of the working places and the tools used by coalmen and woodsmen, give you the opportunity to make a time journey into a history made "of men and of trees". It is a series of images whose aim is to tell the daily life in the forest, when wood was considered one of the most important resources by the people living in the mountains. You can spend a visit to the Abbey, an old church built around the 1000, but refurbished along the centuries, it has an impressive cripta.

After the village of Badia Prataglia, follow the sign (on the right) for Corezzo and Rimbochi (11 km in total). You will cross the wilder and less inhabited part of the Casentino valley, called "the Holy valley". That is the area of the "Tortello alla lastra". Villages are not of interest, except for the bakery setting in Rimbochi, (PANIFICIO DI RIMBOCCHI Localita' Rimbochi, 41; 52010 - Chiusi Della Verna, AR, Tel. 0575518000) famous for the typical bread without salt, but the road is quite panoramic.

After Rimbochi, you can drive to Bibbiena (15,5 km) or continue the road to Giampereta, La Beccia, to arrive in Chiusi della Verna (14 km in total).

If you go down to Bibbiena and have children with you, you can stop for a walk into the small Corsalone river, that you find at the bottom of the mountain. When you arrive to the bridge signed on the map, you can take the white road going upstream and stop a few later.

If you continue to La Beccia, you can cross a wild area with sheep farming: big Maremmano dogs protect the sheep from the wolf, that is common in the area. Even the dogs are impressive, do not exit the car in their presence.

At La Beccia there are several hotels with restaurants, but to stop there for a meal could be not a tip. If you need a place, cross Chiusi della Verna village and find the panoramic cottage along the road on the other side of the pass.

Chiusi della Verna was the birthplace of Michelangiolo, even if the next village of Caprese pretended to be the one, adding the artist to the village name, that is now "Caprese Michelangiolo".

If you did not visited or planned to spend a visit to La Verna monastery, go now! (ST. FRANCIS)

If you have been in La Verna, you can go back to Bibbiena or continue the trip crossing from Chitignano (11 km), To visit the Castello you need to be lucky or reserve in advance: 333 9104810. Chitignano has been an independent Contea until the 18th century. For this reason there were a number of authorised "polverifici", or gunpowder deposits, and also many illegal ones hidden throughout the woodland, which meant that there was a thriving smuggling trade. The **Museum of Gunpowder and Smuggling** is part of the network of so-called "eco-museums", Outside the museum there is an itinerary known as the "Polveriera dell'Inferno", which leads to one of the largest gunpowder hideouts in the atmospheric woodland. Can be visited only on arrangement, call 3396617113 - Bondi Lorenzo 3351277258- Lazzeri Vittorio 2 or more days in advance.

From Chitignano drive to Rassina and than back to Bibbiena (14 km).

If you like fashion shopping, the UNION Between Rassina and Corsalone can be a cheap tip.