

Walking in Abruzzo

Updates

September 2012

Walk 17 The Val di Rose

On 7 September 2012, the Abruzzo National Park authority had still not re-opened the Val di Rose to unrestricted access, and rangers were turning people without a permit back.

The route has been closed in July and August for years to help protect the newborn calves in the large chamois family that live at the head of the valley. There has been no advertised change to this policy and it is assumed that this year, following an unusually hard winter, the breeding season began late. Therefore the rangers had kept the path closed longer than normal. There was, apparently, notice of the closure at the beginning of the path but in Italian only.

The author walked the route in the first half of September 2011 without any problems, so the continued closure into September this year is assumed to be a one-off. The Park website continues to notify the closure for July and August only. See http://www.parcoabruzzo.it/iti_dettaglio.php?id_iti=1824.

And, of course, the rangers will sometimes do things at short notice because they need to.

Walk 25 A Tour of the Valle del Gizio

At the point between **Vallelarga** and **Pettorano sul Gizio** where you reach the house on the corner and set off to follow the path across the field to the electricity pylon, you will find that the field has been fenced and an almond grove has been planted. You can't walk across the field anymore. So, at the house, turn right and head up the rising tarmacked road heading into the Val Lavoza. After about 500m, turn left at a junction with another tarmacked lane and follow it, south east, to re-join the route description at the bridge over the canal. (This alternative is described in the book only now it isn't an alternative.)

Secondly, and better news, is that the path along the river back from Pettorano to the road near the railway bridge has been recently upgraded to a cycle path. It's as quiet as ever but is now a more pleasant stroll.

Walk 30 The Navelli Plain

The tratturo, the old drover's track, across the Navelli Plain has been tarmacked for at least the stretch running north west from **Caporciano**. So, for unsealed lane now read tarmacked track.

It's also reported that the lane leading down from **Caporciano** to the start of the tratturo has become overgrown. This can happen over the years but is often seasonal. The comune sometimes clear vegetation and trim back trees in the autumn and winter. The alternative is to follow the road down to the start of the tratturo.

One other tip for Walk 30 is that when passing through **Tussio**, on the way to **Bominaco**, cross the piazza on the south east side of the church to the far (south west) end of the church. Follow the road ahead (Via Lauretana), south west past houses, until it soon bends leftwards and leads down to a junction with the road coming up from the Navelli plain. Turn right and walk on up towards the cemetery as per the book.

September 2011

Walk 1 Fara San Martino Gorge and Val Serviera

It is highly recommended to make an early start to this route.

Walk 16 Villetta Barrea and Civitella Alfedena (pp106–107)

From **Civitella Alfedena**, to find the beginning of path I3 down through the woods to the lake, you need to walk left along the road from the **wolf museum** for about 50 metres. Then the start of the path appears on the right – just past the last building.

You can still visit the wolf compound but just go back to the museum and road after having looked into it. (In September 2011 there was a juvenile wolf being kept apart from the others in a smaller pen at the far end of the compound – a lot easier to spot!)

July 2011

Walk 13 Pietracamela and Prati di Tivo

There has been a significant landslide at **Pietracamela**. Reader Marla Williams reports the following:

"The Pietracamela walk is currently blocked! In May, the overhanging rock just above the village fell away in an enormous landslide. The rock is the size of a block of flats! Apparently at the time they thought they were having another earthquake!

We did find a way up by walking along the road to **Prati di Tivo** for about 200m and taking a path up to the right (which I believe was nearly opposite the Carabinieri) and following it up the hill. We crossed the water conduit and continued uphill to a small chapel. Past the chapel, the path went slightly right and joined the main route again by the river.

On the way back down, our way into the town was blocked by the landslide. After a failed attempt to climb above it, we were lucky enough to come across a local guy who explained what had happened. The water supply was cut off by the landslide, so they have set up a temporary pipe across the 'crater'. Our new friend guided us across the landslide, following the route of the pipe and into the square at the top of the village. Back through the garden by Piazza degli Ero, the paths have been blocked off by the commune as the top of the village is effectively a danger area. The park trails 100, 102 and 148 are all affected where they lead into the village."

In addition, James Stobart says:

"In May 2011 the paths were closed. We also found a local (climber) who showed us a route to the top of the town (through the no entry barriers) where we could pick up

the path to Prato. We don't normally disobey warning notices, but he assured us that it was safe and that no one would be angry with us! This proved to be the case."

Stuart also posts updates on his website at www.casalarocca.it/wordpress/?page_id=336.

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