

# Pistoia a crossroads for walks and ways

Five, thousand-year old routes passing  
through history, faith, art and nature

[www.visitpistoia.eu](http://www.visitpistoia.eu)

Cammino  
di San Jacopo

Cammino  
di San Bartolomeo

Via Francesca  
della Sambuca

Via Romea Germanica  
Imperiale

Via Romea Strata

**P**istoia, a cradle of art and culture and rich in traditions, is the ideal place to arrive at and to depart from on a thought-provoking experience which, step after step, along ancient roads, walks and itineraries, will bring you in touch with the very soul of the places you will visit along the way.

Set off with a rucksack on your back and you will soon find yourself surrounded by an enchanting landscape, overwhelmed by the wonders of nature, whether it be in the mountains or on the gently sloping hills, or in lovely Italian art cities and tiny resilient hamlets, all of them safeguarding unpretentious and authentic beauty..

**Pistoia** is really a crossroads where five walks almost brush against each other and even overlap; it is up to you to discover them.



## Cammino di San Jacopo

A little “Santiago Way” which passes through Tuscany’s most beautiful art cities. An easy walk, suitable for beginners as well, as it is close to residential areas and to excellent means of public transport. You can also find free hospitality with the ‘donate what you wish’ method.

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## Cammino di San Bartolomeo

This goes from Emilia-Romagna to Tuscany: a walk along mule tracks, lanes and paths, across an area rich in natural wonders. It is suitable for everyone thanks to it being close to villages and hamlets where you can have a rest and get something to eat and drink.

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## Via Francesca della Sambuca

This Road runs parallel to the Apennines’ oldest iron reinforced road, the Porrettana Railway. Running from Bologna to Pistoia, and passing through Porretta Terme, you can break your walk by taking the train for a stretch of the Walk and then you can get off and pick up the road again..

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## Via Romea Germanica Imperiale

A lovely journey along a road which intersects with many other roads for walking. It goes through art cities, small historic hamlets, delightful mountain views - both alpine and Apennine - alternating diverse environments with charming landscapes.

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## Via Romea Strata

This Road - which has always been an important route through Europe and which now has been enhanced and made accessible - starts off from the Baltic Sea, crosses Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic and Austria to finally cross over the Alps into Italy.



PK. 2505

galicia



Pistoia: a crossroads for walks and ways

# Cammino di San Jacopo

**From Florence to Livorno**

## 6 stages

Distances

174 km

Total ascent

2050 m

Info

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**The Cammino di San Jacopo winds along a 2000-year-old ancient road, the Via Cassia-Clodia, a Roman road which, by passing through Florence, joined Rome to the strategic port of Luni.**

In the Middle Ages, pilgrims on their way to Rome or Santiago de Compostela, used to stop over at Pistoia to pay their respects to the relic of San Jacopo, which had arrived in 1145, from Galizia, and which is still carefully kept nowadays in the Cathedral of San Zeno. Thanks to this deeply-loved and intensely-felt cult, Pistoia was known as the '*Santiago Minor*', the Little Santiago.

This Way is a journey through the wonderful art cities of Tuscany and it can also be considered to be a part of a longer itinerary, passing through the heart of Europe, heading towards Santiago de Compostela, crossing the Via della Costa (which passes through the Region of Liguria) and the French Way; or else, you can set sail from Livorno on route to Barcelona and to the Catalan and Aragonese walks.

## Discover



### Florence

#### In the shadow of Brunelleschi's Dome

The Way starts off in Florence's Cathedral Square in the historic heart of the city. The Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral is the first place of worship of immense historical and artistic value that the Way will visit.



### Pistoia

#### The Italian Santiago

In the Crucifix Chapel - in the Cathedral of San Zeno, the relic of San Jacopo is kept; as well as the Silver Altar, an exceptional piece of goldsmiths art made between 1287 and 1456 by the most important artists of the day, including a young Brunelleschi. Near the Cathedral Square stands the only Italian boundary stone of the Walk to Santiago.



### Lucca

#### The Walled City

Lying along the Via Francigena (the road that comes from France), Lucca has been a destination for pilgrims since the Middle Ages. The San Martino Cathedral keeps the Holy Face as well as Ilaria del Carretto's famous funeral monument, made by Jacopo della Quercia between 1406 and 1408.



## Pisa

### Miracles of art and faith

One of the most famous places in the world, the piazza - renamed "of Miracles" by Gabriele d'Annunzio - is an absolute masterpiece of creativity and craftsmanship. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

## Florence

1<sup>st</sup> stage  
27,1 km

## Prato

2<sup>nd</sup> stage  
27,1 km

## Pistoia

3<sup>rd</sup> stage  
29,6 km

## Pescia

4<sup>th</sup> stage  
26,3 km

## Lucca

5<sup>th</sup> stage  
28,6 km

## Pisa

6<sup>th</sup> stage  
35,9 km

## Livorno





Pistoia: a crossroads for walks and ways

# Cammino di San Bartolomeo

## From Fiumalbo to Pistoia

### 5 stages

Distances

90 km

Total ascent

4201 m

### Info

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[www.camminodisanbartolomeo.com](http://www.camminodisanbartolomeo.com)

**A 90 km long road unites places dedicated to the Saint's cult between the Emilia-Romagna and Tuscan regions, passing through charming places of notable naturalistic interest that make the Pistoia Mountains so truly unique.**

Clambering up the Apennines, from Fiumalbo, the Way goes past the Abetone Pass to eventually arrive at the delightful hamlets of Cutigliano, Popiglio and Piteglio and then on to the final destination: the Church of San Bartolomeo in Pantano in Pistoia.

Along the Way, you will come across various historic roads such as the Via Romea Strata and the Via Romea Germanica Imperiale which, when joining up, lead on to the most important destinations of pilgrims from all over the world.

## Discover



### Cutigliano

#### A jewel in the Pistoia Apennines

Characterized by narrow lanes, bordered by ancient '*palazzi*' and monuments, Cutigliano still has many signs of its medieval past. The hamlet of Cutigliano has been awarded the Orange Flag an award given by the Italian Touring Club for excellency in tourism, hospitality and the environment.



### Torri di Popiglio and Ponte di Castruccio

#### Diving back to the Middle Ages

The Torri - the Towers - are the very last remains of the Rocca Securana - the Securana Fortress - standing in front of Popiglio. From the Parish of Santa Maria Assunta, seat of the Parish Museum of Sacred Art - one of the sections of the Pistoia Mountains Ecomuseum - an itinerary starts off from here that takes you to the Ponte del Castruccio - Bridge of Castruccio.



### The Madonnina icehouse

#### The traditions of the Valley of Ice

The icehouse is an imposing building with a conical, thatched roof, standing on the grand-ducal road, in the Le Piastre area in Pistoia. It is a part of the Ice Itinerary of the Pistoia Mountains Ecomuseum.



## Pistoia

### San Bartolomeo

The final destination of the Way is the church of San Bartolomeo in Pantano - of Lombard origins - in Pistoia.

The unusual tiles on its Pistoia Romanesque facade have been a source of inspiration for the Walk's logo.

## Fiumalbo

1<sup>st</sup> stage  
23 km

## Cutigliano

2<sup>nd</sup> stage  
16 km

## Piteglio

3<sup>rd</sup> stage  
20 km

## Pontepetri

4<sup>th</sup> stage  
9 km

## Spedaletto

5<sup>th</sup> stage  
22 km

## Pistoia



Pistoia: a crossroads for walks and ways

# Via Francesca della Sambuca

## From Bologna to Pistoia

### 4 stages

Distances

96,2 km

Total ascent

2870 m

Info

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[www.viafrancescadellasambuca.it](http://www.viafrancescadellasambuca.it)

**The Via Francesca della Sambuca connects the two cities of Pistoia and Bologna, both cities devoted to San Jacopo, the Patron Saint of pilgrims.**

This road made a change from the Via Francigena; it went from Bologna to Pistoia, and then arrived at Fucecchio where it joined up with the other road.

Thus its nickname "*francesca*" is explained as it was a part of the network of francigene roads, coming from France and then leading down to Rome. Enchanting parish churches, remains of hostels for pilgrims, and cobbled roads show today's rambblers what the original, ancient origins of the Via were actually like, plodded along by pilgrims since Etruscan times.

Apart from its luxuriant and wild nature, the other feature that characterizes it is its water: the Via - the road - follows alongside the flow of two Apennine rivers, the Reno and the Limentra di Sambuca.

## Discover



### **Bologna**

#### **In the name of San Jacopo**

San Jacopo (or Giacomo) unites the two ends of the Via. While Pistoia is custodian to the Saint's relic which came from Santiago de Compostela, in Bologna the Basilica di San Giacomo Maggiore is dedicated to the Patron Saint of pilgrims.



### **Pàvana**

#### **Along the border**

Pàvana stands in the Municipality of Sambuca Pistoiese, on the border between Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna and is an ancient village dating back to the Etruscan era. Its name is linked to the singer-songwriter Francesco Guccini who grew up here and who has often spoken of his love for the place.



### **Sambuca Castello**

#### **Surrounded by woods**

Near Pàvana, Sambuca Castello is an ancient fortified centre which had a strategic role in the century-long fighting between Bologna and Pistoia. Below the fortress, standing more than 700 metres above sea level, is the Parish Church named after San Cristoforo and San Jacopo.



## Pistoia

### The cult of San Jacopo

In 1145, the Bishop Atto introduced the cult of San Jacopo - who was already revered in Spain in Santiago de Compostela - to Pistoia, by bringing a relic of the Saint to the city.

The chapel and the altar in the Cathedral of Saint Zeno were consecrated on 25th July.

## Bologna

1<sup>st</sup> stage  
29, km

## Marzabotto

2<sup>nd</sup> stage  
23,2 km

## Riola

3<sup>rd</sup> stage  
18,3 km

## Sambuca Castello

4<sup>th</sup> stage  
25,7 km

## Pistoia





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# Via Romea Germanica Imperiale

**From Fiumalbo to Arezzo**

(Tuscan segment)

## 9 stages

Distances

209,8 km

Total ascent

4308 m

## Info

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imperialevrg@gmail.com

[www.viargimperiale.it](http://www.viargimperiale.it)

**T**he Via Romea Germanica Imperiale's history has its roots in ancient times.

It makes up part of the Vie Romee Germaniche network of roads (certified by the Council of Europe as a Cultural Route) which for military, religious and commercial reasons connected the north of Europe to its southern areas. The Italian segment of the Via is 560 km long stretching from Trento to Arezzo. In Tuscany, the "Via" - the Way - first passes through the Abetone Pass, then descends the Pistoia Mountains and passes by Pistoia, Prato and Florence. By means of the Valdarno Superiore, it reaches Arezzo where, together with the Via Romea Germanica, it continues on its way to Rome. The Via joins up with the most important European roads, thereby helping to create an excellent network of roads that join Europe up and which flow towards the most important destinations for pilgrims.

## Discover



### Fiumalbo

#### A lovely hamlet

An ancient medieval hamlet of the Modenese Apennines, on the border with Tuscany, it offers unique views over Monte Cimone which, with it being 2.165 metres high, is the highest peak of the Northern Apennines. It has been awarded the Orange Flag by the Italian Touring Club.



### Abetone

#### Nature and sport all the year round

On the Tuscan-Emilia Romagna Apennines, the Abetone Pass is the entrance door to the Province of Pistoia. Abetone is the most important winter sports resort in central Italy, where many come to spend time in the summer months thanks to its many parks, its trekking and bike routes as well as the many outdoor activities available.



### Pistoia

#### The Little Santiago

Even before arriving, Pistoia can be clearly seen from its crest, which offers various points of observation.

Called *Santiago Minor* or Little Santiago since the Middle Ages, it is linked to the cult of San Jacopo: it holds a relic of the Apostle James the Elder.



## Florence

### The Medici family villas and the Lungarno

The Via enters the city - the very symbol of the Italian Renaissance - by crossing an area scattered with Medici villas which eventually lead to the hills of Careggi.

Leaving the city is one of the most romantic roads due to the fact that it crosses over the wonderful Ponte Vecchio.

## Fiumalbo



1<sup>st</sup> stage  
21,5 km

## Cutigliano



2<sup>nd</sup> stage  
22 km

## Pontepetri



3<sup>rd</sup> stage  
21,2 km

## Pistoia



4<sup>th</sup> stage  
27,5 km

## Prato



5<sup>th</sup> stage  
28 km

## Florence



6<sup>th</sup> stage  
25 km

## Palazzolo



7<sup>th</sup> stage  
20,1 km

## San Giovanni V.no



8<sup>th</sup> stage  
24,5 km

## Laterina



9<sup>th</sup> stage  
20 km

## Arezzo



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# Via Romea Strata

**From Passo della Croce Arcana to Fucecchio**

(Tuscan segment)

## 5 stages

Distances

102,5 km

Total ascent

2328 mm

Info

+39 0444 327146

[www.romeastrata.org](http://www.romeastrata.org)

**The Via Romea Strata is a historical transit road that, over the centuries, built the foundation base of European culture due to its continuous exchange of people, trade and tradition.**

The Italian stretch of the route follows 82 different stages, crossing six regions for a total of 1.400 kilometres; in Tuscany, the Via Romea Strata passes over the Apennines at the Passo della Croce Arcana - the Croce Arcana Pass - crosses the Pistoia Mountains with its historic hamlets and its breathtaking and uncontaminated valleys to eventually arrive at city of Pistoia, the custodian of the only relic of San Jacopo outside Spain.

The Via Romea Strata continues along the downhill slopes of the Montalbano mountain chain, carries along to Vinci, birthplace of the genius Leonardo, passes Cerreto Guidi and then reaches Fucecchio where it joins the Via Francigena.

## Discover



### **The Croce Arcana Pass**

**On the border between the Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna regions**

This is one of the historic paths connecting both sides of the Tuscan-Emilia Romagna Apennines, used by wayfarers and pilgrims since Medieval times. An ancient iron cross even today still indicates the road to walkers.



### **Pedestrian Suspension Bridge**

**One of the longest in the world**

A pedestrian gangway that connects the two sides of the Lima Stream between Mammiano Basso and Popiglio, in the Municipality of San Marcello Piteglio. A picturesque 227 metre long and 36 metre high walkway.



### **Pistoia**

**Five jewels of spirituality**

Crossing Pistoia's centre, you will pass the most important churches of the area: the Church of San Francesco, the Parish Church of Sant'Andrea, the Church of Sant'Ignazio di Loyola, the Cathedral of San Zeno with its San Jacopo's relic and its Silver Altar, and the Basilica of the Madonna dell'Umiltà.



## San Baronto pass

### In the heart of Montalbano: the road of oil and wine

An exceptional example of equilibrium between nature and town landscape, a harmony of vineyards and olive groves cut through by winding roads that pass by villas, hamlets, ancient parishes and archeological remains. At Quarrata and Serravalle Pistoiese, you can enjoy a wine and food itinerary with quality tastings.

## The Croce Arcana Pass

1<sup>st</sup> stage  
**15,0 km**

## Cutigliano

2<sup>nd</sup> stage  
**23,6 km**

## Pontepetri

3<sup>rd</sup> stage  
**18,1 km**

## Pistoia

4<sup>th</sup> stage  
**19,4 km**

## San Baronto

5<sup>th</sup> stage  
**26,4 km**

## Fucecchio



**Cammino  
di San Jacopo**



**Cammino  
di San Bartolomeo**



**Via Francesca  
della Sambuca**



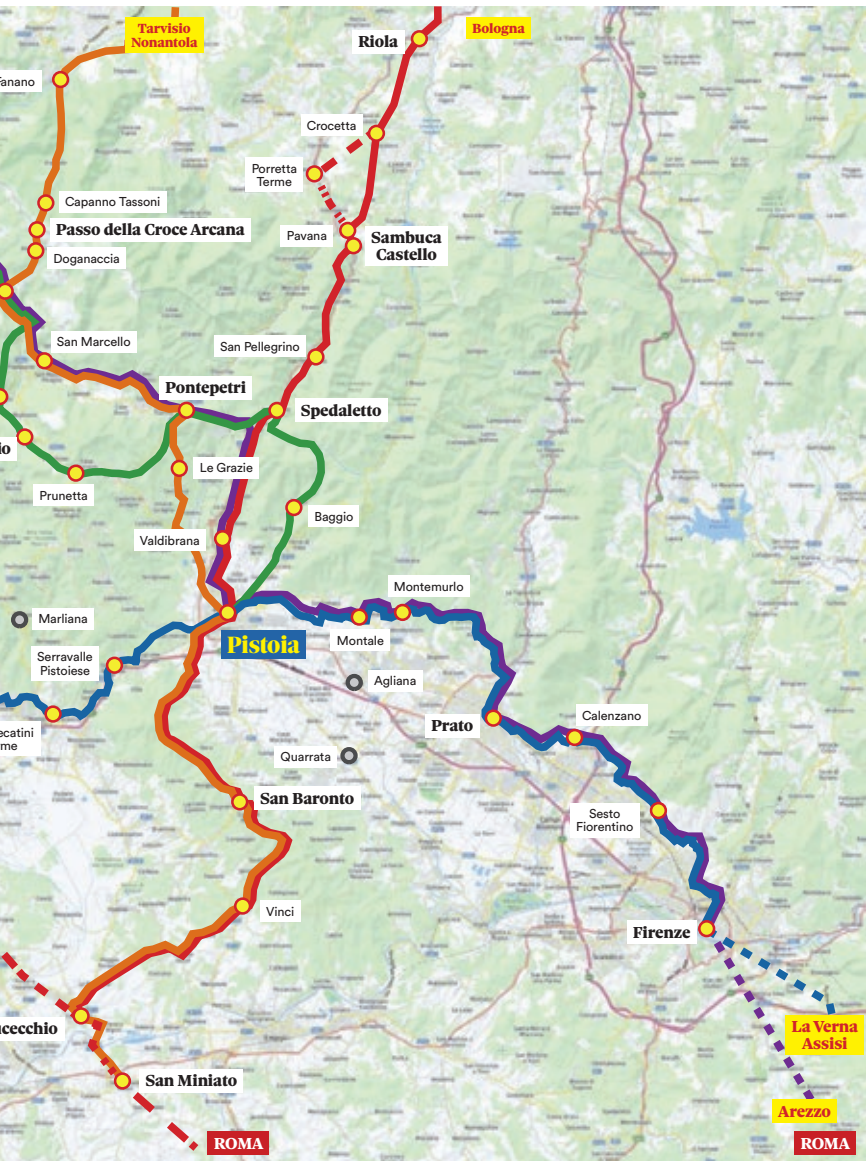
**Via Romea  
Germanica  
Imperiale**



**Via Romea  
Strata**







# Tourist offices

## **IAT Pistoia**

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## **Punto Informazioni Turistiche San Marcello Piteglio**

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## **Informazioni Turistiche Serravalle Pistoiese**

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# Before leaving

## What should I know before setting off on my journey?

Before setting off on a long Walk, it is always advisable to speak to a contact association for information about the route's condition, about the problems of each leg of the journey, about public transport. And always remember to check the weather forecast.

## What is the walk's GPS footprint for?

The GPS is an important device for locationing which you should use together with a map of the area. Get in touch with the contact association for further information. And don't forget to fully prepare your walk, carefully and cautiously.

## How should I dress and what should I take with me?

Recommended clothes include

- trekking shoes or boots
- rucksack and waterproof rucksack-cover
- flask or water bottle
- trekking poles
- cloak
- layered clothes
- anorak and hat

And if you are going to walk for several days:

- sleeping bag
- light mattress
- a change of underwear
- towels

## What is the credential?

The credential is the pilgrim's identity card. It is a sort of passport which, stamp after stamp, records the places you have passed through and it means that you will be able to receive the '*testimonium*' - documented proof - that certifies the pilgrimage you have made.

## What does "donate what you wish" hospitality mean?

Along some walks, you will come across places which welcome pilgrims for the night and which ask you to 'donate what you wish' in exchange. Bring your credential with you.

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**To go on a walk along one of the ancient pilgrims' routes** is not only a spiritual and religious experience but it is also an intelligent and nature-respective way to enter 'on tiptoe' the culture and traditions of the hamlets that you will find along the way, a new way of visiting the area with its century-old rites and rituals.

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