

**Destination:** Calamecca - Crespole - Lanciòle - Piteglio - Popiglio - Cutigliano. *We also advise visits to:* **Popiglio** - The Pistoia Mountain Eco-museum, the Diocesan Museum of Religious Art and the Itinerary of Religious Art and Popular Worship, the Bridge of Castruccio, the Towers of Popiglio. **Gavinana** - The mediaeval village and the Ferrucci Museum. **Sambuca Castello** - The mediaeval village.

 REGIONE  
TOSCANA

 Provincia  
di Pistoia  
Ufficio Cultura

## Calamecca



Mention of the fortified castle of Calamecca can be found from the mid 11<sup>th</sup> century, when it was a halting place along the ancient road network that met here and passed through Femminamorta, Casore del Monte and Serravalle pistoiese to link up the valleys of Pescia and Pistoia.

Traces of the 13<sup>th</sup> century castle structure can still be seen inside the ancient village; it was razed to the ground in 1182 by the armies of Pistoia for having rebelled against the city's magistrates and then rebuilt during the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Calamecca was also the departure point for the Republican troops of Florence, led by Francesco Ferrucci, for Gavinana, where they were beaten by the Imperial troops of Fabrizio Maramaldo (August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1530).

A historic re-evocation is held every year at Calamecca in memory of the famous commander (first Saturday in August).

### How to get there:

*by car, from the Pistoia motorway exit: bear left onto the Tangenziale (bypass). Follow the directions for Abetone/Modena (Sr66). Turn left at Le Piastre onto the Sp21/Via delle Piastre e Prunetta. On arrival at Prunetta, turn left into Via Mammianese and then, after about 5 km, turn right into the Sp Val di Forfora to reach Calamecca.*

**Info and reception:** IAT Cutigliano - Piazza Catilina, 22  
Cutigliano - tel. 0573 68029

**Opening hours and prices:** as this is an open-air route it is advisable to visit these sites by day and in fine weather  
entrance free

## Crespole



The village still shows traces of the mediaeval castle surrounded by walls and watch-towers. Under the Medici rule the Castle of Crespole became the privileged residence of various noble families whose coats of arms still adorn the façades of the houses.

The Church of S. Maria Assunta, built on a 14<sup>th</sup> century design, contains an ancient 19<sup>th</sup> century organ built by the fa-

mous Agati and Tronci organ-makers from Pistoia.

### How to get there:

*by car, from Calamecca: continue along the Sp Val di Forfora for about 3 km to reach Crespole.*

**Info and reception:** IAT Cutigliano - Piazza Catilina, 22  
Cutigliano - tel. 0573 68029

**Opening hours and prices:** as this is an open-air route it is advisable to visit these sites by day and in fine weather  
entrance free

## Lanciòle



Of ancient origin, this village is still based on a layout typical of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> century fortified villages and, from the dominating position of the fortress, descends in concentric sectors down the slopes of the hill.

The only traces still visible of the ancient structure today are some stretches of the ring of walls, the ruins of a circular-based bulwark and part of the great gate on one side of the bell tower of the church dedicated to

St. Bartholomew.

### How to get there:

*by car, from Crespole: continue along the Sp Val di Forfora for about 2 km to reach Lanciòle.*

**Info and reception:** IAT Cutigliano - Piazza Catilina, 22  
Cutigliano - tel. 0573 68029

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entrance free



## Piteglio



The village dominates the Lima Valley, where an ancient and important route through the Apennines once passed linking Pistoia with the Garfagnana area. One of the castles forming the defensive system of the mountain territories controlled by Pistoia stood here

between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. Only a few legible traces of the ancient structure can be seen today in the houses lining the narrow streets that climb up to the centre of the village. Other traces of the castle can be picked out in the walls of the Parish Church.

# VILLAGES AND CASTLES IN THE PISTOIA MOUNTAINS

The tiny village also boasts two churches: the Parish Church of SS. Annunziata, which, according to tradition, was founded by Matilde of Canossa, and the Church of S. Maria Assunta, whose square-shaped bell tower reveals its ancient function as a watchtower.

### How to get there:

*by car, from Lanciòle: go back along the Sp Val di Forfora to reach Via Mammianese again. Turn left here and continue along the main road for about 10 km to reach Piteglio.*

**Info and reception:** IAT Cutigliano - Piazza Catilina, 22  
Cutigliano - tel. 0573 68029

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entrance free

## Popiglio



This is one of the oldest castles in the Pistoia mountain area. Originally, in around the year 1000, it was a feud of the Counts Guidi and guarded over the borders with Lucca; its strategic position often made it the scene of the skirmishes between Pistoia and Lucca.

Significant traces of its fascinating past are still visible in the layout of the inhabited nucleus, as well as in the suggestive Parish Church of S. Maria Assunta, one of the most important religious monuments in the Pistoia mountain area.

Four religious routes moreover wind away from the village; one of them, which starts out from the church square and descends for about 1 km towards the river Lima, leads to

a mediaeval single-arched bridge, known as the *bridge of Castruccio*. The recently restored mediaeval customs houses and two small gates can also be seen in the vicinity of this bridge. Two small humpbacked bridges can be admired on the right on the other side of the bridge.

### How to get there:

*by car, from Piteglio: carry on along Via Mammianese in the direction of Cutigliano/Abetone. Turn left about 6 km further on at La Lima into the Ss12 and carry on for another 3 km to reach Popiglio.*

**Info and reception:** IAT Cutigliano - Piazza Catilina, 22  
Cutigliano - tel. 0573 68029

**Opening hours and prices:** as this is an open-air route it is advisable to visit these sites by day and in fine weather  
entrance free

## Cutigliano



Built on a main road network and mentioned in documents as early as the Lombard era, Cutigliano was particularly important in the 14<sup>th</sup> century when it became the residence of the Captain of the Mountains. The village, characterised by narrow streets lined with ancient houses, still preserves many rich examples of

its prestigious past, among them, Palazzo Pretorio, whose façade is adorned with numerous coats of arms in stone and glazed terracotta.

The Feast of the Shepherds is held at Il Melo every year in

the month of July, while the Mid-summer Feast, an exhibition and market of typical products with a mediaeval pageant, takes place near Cutigliano in the month of August.

### How to get there:

*by car, from Popiglio: go back along the Ss12 in the direction of La Lima. On arrival here, turn left to reach Cutigliano.*

**Info and reception:** IAT Cutigliano - Piazza Catilina, 22  
Cutigliano - tel. 0573 68029

**Opening hours and prices:** as this is an open-air route it is advisable to visit these sites by day and in fine weather  
entrance free

## We also advise visits to:

The **Diocesan Museum of Religious Art**, part of the Itinerary of Religious Art and Popular Worship of the **Pistoia Mountain Eco-museum** (Province of Pistoia - Cultural Office tel. 0573 97461) is arranged in some rooms inside the canon's house beside the Parish Church of S. Maria Assunta at Popiglio and in other spaces in the nearby Company of the Santissimo Sacramento. It contains many valuable works of art, vestments and religious furnishings that come from the churches of the Pistoia Mountains.

The two recently restored mediaeval towers, known as the **Towers of Popiglio**, that were raised to defend the territo-

rial borders with Lucca, can be found on the road that climbs up to Fontana Vaccaia, just above Popiglio, on the western slopes of the Lima valley.

Structurally the town of Gavinana is still very much like a mediaeval village, characterised by narrow winding streets and houses built in rough local stone. Piazza Francesco Ferrucci hosts the **Ferrucci Museum** (tel. 0573 913155), dedicated to the heroic Florentine commander Francesco Ferrucci.

The historic **Castle of Sambuca**, mentioned as a control post in documents from the mid 11<sup>th</sup> century onwards, lies instead between the valleys of the upper Reno and the stream of the Limentra, on the borders between Tuscany and Emilia Romagna.