



MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY OF THE MATESE ZONE · PNRR M2C1 Green Communities · Investment 3.2 · CUP: E14H25000590006 Intervention No. 4 "Experiential Geo-Tourism of the Matese" · Item A - Mapping and Storytelling · Year 2026

TITLE

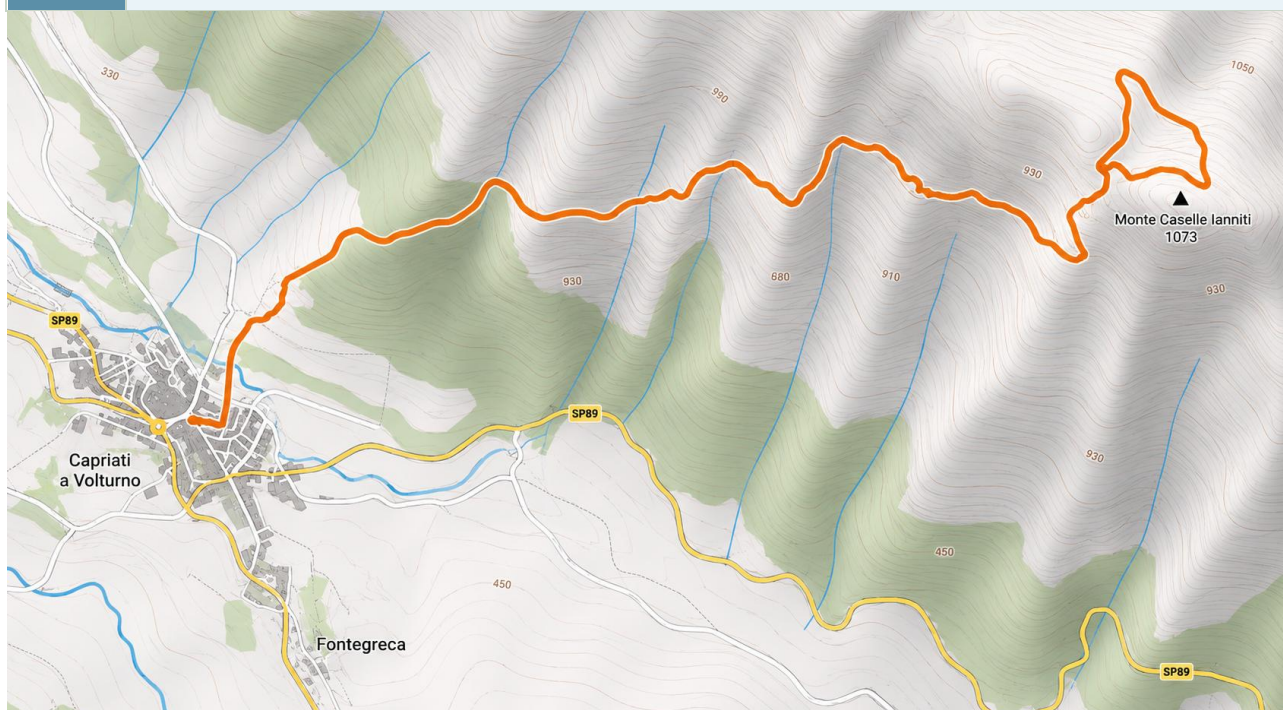
TRAIL P02 · GEO-TECTONICS · CAPRIATI A VOLTURNO · MATESE REGIONAL PARK
Monte Caselle Ianniti - Geo-Tectonics of the Western Matese
From the tectonic front of the Aquae Iuliae Fault to the carbonate ridge - Best #3

TECHNICAL DATA

Length	Elevation Gain	Max Elevation	Duration	Difficulty	Season
10.24 km	+913 m	1,125 m a.s.l.	7 h 27 min	Medium (E)	April – October

ROUTE MAP - SCHEMATIC LAYOUT

SCALA ~1:15,000 · WGS84 · Provisional cartographic processing.



GPX

GPX 1.1 file attached: P02_Monte_Caselle_Ianniti. Provisional track. Verify in the field before use.
Reference track: <https://it.wikiloc.com/percorsi-escursionismo/monte-caselle-ianniti-da-capriati-al-volturno-15693436>

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

DESC	Among the five best geo-tourism trails of the Matese (Best #3), Monte Caselle Ianniti offers a direct reading of the western tectonic front of the Matese massif. The route starts from Capriati a Volturno (360 m a.s.l.) and climbs towards the carbonate ridge of Monte Caselle Ianniti (1,125 m), crossing the transition zone between the Volturno alluvial plain and the Matese carbonate highlands. The ascent is a "vertical stratigraphic reading": from the Quaternary alluvial valley floor to the Upper Triassic limestones and dolomites, through the front of the Aquae Iuliae Fault - an active tectonic structure controlling the western mountain front.
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POINTS OF INTEREST - TRIPARTITE GEO / FAUNA / HISTORY ANALYSIS

POI-01	Piazza Roma and Cesa Iannitti Medieval Tower (360 m a.s.l.)
GEO	Village on Upper Cretaceous calcarenites (80–65 Ma). Tower (11th–14th century) on a limestone outcrop. The tectonic structure of the Aquae Iuliae Fault (AIF) - an active fault on the western Matese front - is the central theme of the route.
FAUNA	Peregrine Falcons (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) nesting in the tower walls. Swifts and bats in the historic cornices.
HISTORY	Castello Pandone, originally dependent on the Abbey of Montecassino. Gothic-Catalan portal attesting to the link with the Aragonese Crown (15th century). Ferrante I of Aragon stayed at Capriati in 1459.

POI-02	Fault Front - Scarps in the Triassic Dolomites (600 m a.s.l.)
GEO	Fault scarps in the Triassic dolomites (Upper Triassic, ~220 Ma): convex morphologies indicating slope rejuvenation by active normal faulting. The geometric contact between permeable limestones and impermeable Miocene siliciclastic flysch generates the linear springs of the mountain front.
FAUNA	Peregrine Falcon, Rock Thrush (<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>), Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> - occasional). Rupicolous flora: <i>Saxifraga callosa</i> , <i>Sesleria nitida</i> .
HISTORY	The Aquae Iuliae Fault (AIF) is an active seismogenic structure. Scientific literature (Amato et al. 2014) documents displacement of Pleistocene colluvial deposits. Seismic hazard in the western Matese is an active research topic (INGV).

POI-03	Carbonate Slope - Transition Zone (900 m a.s.l.)
GEO	The ascent crosses the transition from Quaternary deposits to Upper Triassic limestones and dolomites. The lithological change is readable in the vegetation: olive groves and oak woodland in the valley floors → beech forest at higher elevations.
FAUNA	Rock Thrush, Rock Bunting (<i>Emberiza cia</i>), Red-billed Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>). Flora: <i>Festuca violacea</i> , <i>Anemone apennina</i> , <i>Helleborus foetidus</i> .
HISTORY	The slope was the site of medieval pastoral settlements. Traces of secondary drover roads (branches of the Royal Drover Road Pescasseroli–Candela) are still legible in the morphology.

POI-04	Monte Caselle Ianniti - Carbonate Ridge (1,125 m a.s.l.)
GEO	Summit. Triassic dolomites with rudists: evidence of an ancient tropical carbonate platform of the Tethys Ocean. Panoramic views over the Volturno Valley, Lake Gallo, the Venafrò plain, and the four pilot municipalities of the project.
FAUNA	The panorama allows observation of raptors in thermal flight: Common Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Short-toed Snake Eagle (<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>). Roe Deer (<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>) in the wooded belts.
HISTORY	The name "Caselle" recalls the ancient pastoral shelters (caselle/casedde) used by shepherds during transhumance. The 1,125 m summit is the highest point of the hike: from here one sees the entire geographical structure of the Caserta Matese.

GEOHISTORY OF THE PLACE

Narrative

Capriati a Volturno is a name that says it all: the water of the Volturno, the waters of the Matese springs, the waters that the Romans sought and found here at the foot of the mountain. "Aequae Iuliae" - the waters of Julius - was the Roman name for this area, perhaps for a thermal spring or a water-related settlement. And from the same tectonic structure that creates the springs - the Aequae Iuliae Fault - the landscape of the route is born. The Samnites knew these places before the Romans. Their polygonal dry-stone walls at Mandra Castellone held for centuries. Then came the Romans with the Via Minucia, the Benedictines with their abbeys, and the Normans with their towers. Every historical stratum rests on the same limestone that outcrops everywhere: foundations of towers, floors of churches, walls of houses. The mountain is the material of Capriati's history.

EXPERIENTIAL PACKAGE

PACKAGE PKG-02	"Reading the Mountain" - Geo-Trekking on the Tectonic Front of Capriati
Target: Fit hikers, geologists, naturalists, upper-school and university groups (with guide)	Interpretive trekking on the tectonic front of the western Matese. From the active fault to the Triassic dolomites: a vertical stratigraphic reading of the Matese in a single route.
Duration: 7 h 27 min total (including stops)	Difficulty: Medium - for fit hikers only
Periodo: April – October	Mobility: On foot - loop. Start from Piazza Roma, Capriati a Volturno
Features:	Guided trekking on geo-tectonics and lithology · Educational fossil collection · Panoramic reading of the hydrographic system · Visit to Le Mortine Oasis (observation stop) · Tasting of local products from Capriati

SAFETY WARNINGS



D+ 913 m: fit hikers only. Vibram footwear mandatory. Trekking poles recommended. Water 2 L. Check weather 48 h in advance. 📞CNSAS: 112 / +39 0823 1923501.

ACCESS AND LOGISTICS

Start	Piazza Roma, Capriati a Volturno (41.4150°N, 14.1600°E). Geo-Matese Panel #02.
By car	From Naples: A1 Caianello → SS6 → SS85 → Capriati a Volturno (~85 km, 1h10m).
Emergencies	CNSAS: 112 / +39 0823 1923501. Hospital Venafrò: ~30 km.

IDENTIFIED ISSUES

Issues	Description	Priority
Physical demands	D+ 913 m in a single day: for fit hikers only. Not suitable for beginners or children under 14.	HIGH
Signage	Verify CAI waymarking in the field before the official survey.	MEDIUM
GPX	Provisional track. Official survey mandatory (Item A §3.1.1 Spec. M4).	HIGH

WEB REFERENCES

- geo-matese.it - Geo-Matese Platform (Item B, Specification M4)
- www.parcoregionaledelmatese.it - Matese Regional Park Authority
- www.wikiloc.com - GPS hiking tracks of the Matese
- www.sentieroitalia.cai.it - Sentiero Italia CAI
- geoportale.mite.gov.it - ISPRA/MITE Geoportal: geosites, Natura 2000 habitats
- www.borghiubelliditalia.it - Most Beautiful Villages of Italy
- www.opentopomap.org - Free topographic maps WGS84
- www.regione.campania.it/turismo - Campania Tourism
- <https://it.wikiloc.com/percorsi-escursionismo/monte-caselle-ianniti-da-capriati-al-volturno-15693436> - Traccia di riferimento P02 (Migliore #3)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Mountain Community of the Matese Zone (2026) - Special Contract Specification, Intervention No. 4. CUP E14H25000590006.
- CAI Club Alpino Italiano (2020) - Trail classification and waymarking standards.
- ISPRA (2019) - Italian geosites. Rome: ISPRA Reports 307/2019.
- Amato V. et al. (2014) - Geomorphology and late Quaternary evolution of the Matese Massif. Geomorphology, 214.
- Grimaldi S. et al. (2018) - Hydrogeological characterization of the Matese karst aquifer. J. Hydrology, 556.
- EUROPARC (2019) - Loving them to death? Sustainable tourism in Europe's Protected Areas.

GPS TRACKS AND MAPS ON OUTDOOR PLATFORMS

Wikiloc	Monte Caselle Ianniti from Capriati al Volturno - confirmed GPS track https://it.wikiloc.com/percorsi-escursionismo/monte-caselle-ianniti-da-capriati-al-volturno-15693436
Komoot	Similar alternative hikes. https://www.komoot.com/it-it/guide/526272/fantastici-trekking-e-escursioni-nei-dintorni-di-capriati-a-volturno

⚠ Tracks on Wikiloc/Komoot are user-uploaded and may differ from the official route described in this data sheet.