



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 P03 · HISTORIC-NATURALISTIC · CAPRIATI A VOLTURNO · MATESE REGIONAL PARK

The Castle and the Wood of Capriati

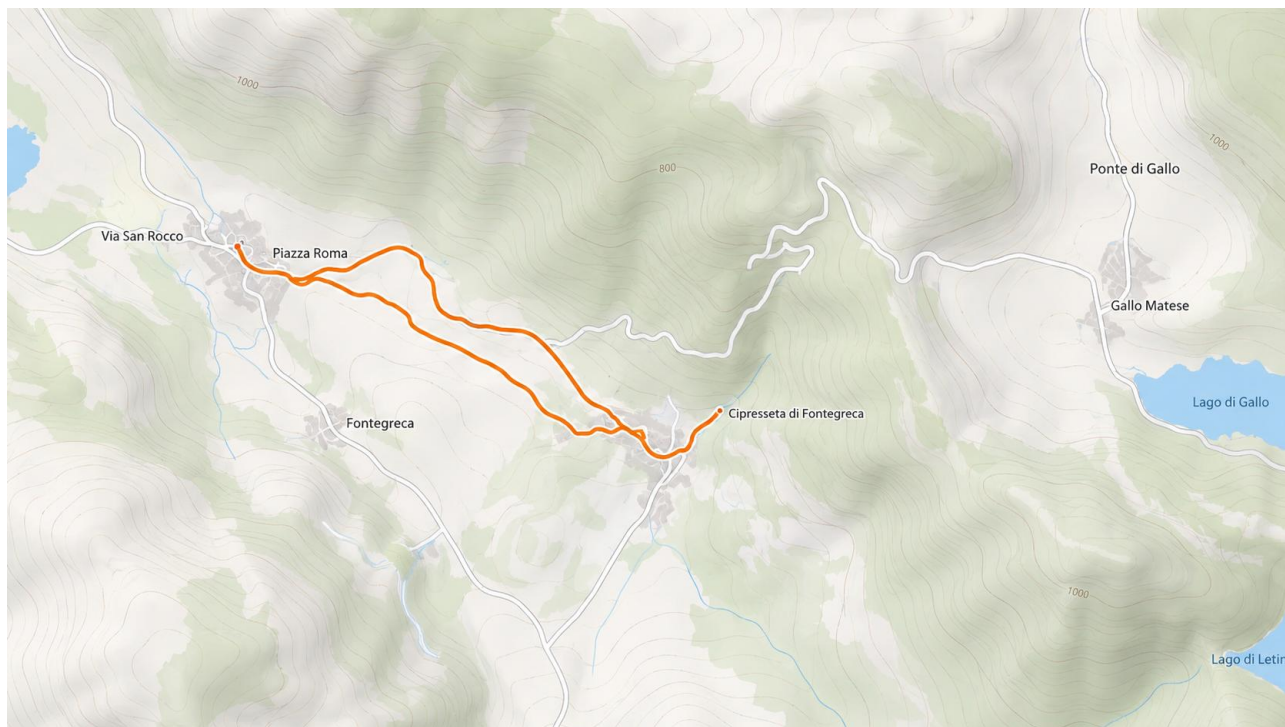
Stone villages, a 17th-century organ, and ancient woodland - the trail for all ages

TECHNICAL DATA

Length	Elevation Gain	Duration	Difficulty	Type	Season
4.8 km	+190 / -190 m	2–2.5 hours	Easy (T)	Loop	Year-round

ROUTE MAP - SCHEMATIC LAYOUT

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



GPX

GPX 1.1 file attached:
P03_Castello_Bosco_Capriati_ <https://maps.app.goo.gl/KbzntNp69pWrADkc6> . Short family route.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

DESC	Il percorso più breve e accessibile del progetto Geo-Matese: 4.8 km che concentrano più strati di storia per chilometro di qualsiasi altro percorso. Dal borgo medievale di Capriati con il Castello Pandone (X sec.) e il Palazzo con portale gotico-catalano (XV sec.), alla Torre Medievale con vista a 360° view over the Mainarde mountains and the Volturno Valley, to the San Rocco Sanctuary with its still-functioning 17th-century organ, to the ancient downy-oak and Turkey-oak woodland never completely felled. A loop accessible to families with children from age 4, suitable in every season.
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POINTS OF INTEREST - TRIPARTITE GEO / FAUNA / HISTORY ANALYSIS

POI-01	Piazza Roma and Palazzo Pandone (360 m a.s.l.)
GEO	The village stands on Upper Cretaceous calcarenites (80–65 Ma). The alleyways follow the direction of the limestone strata, oriented NE–SW: geology dictated the town planning. The local building materials (limestone and calcarenite) attest to the lithological availability of the site.
FAUNA	Pallid Swift (<i>Apus pallidus</i>), Savi's Pipistrelle (<i>Hypsugo savii</i>), Crag Martin (<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>). Wall rupicolous flora: Wild Caper (<i>Capparis spinosa</i>), oregano, maidenhair fern.
HISTORY	Palazzo Pandone (15th century) with Gothic-Catalan portal: evidence of the feudal link with the Aragonese Crown. The church of S. Maria delle Grazie houses an 18th-century Neapolitan school canvas donated by Charles III of Bourbon.

POI-02	Cesa Iannitti Medieval Tower - 360° View (480 m a.s.l.)
GEO	Circular tower (diam. ~8 m, height ~18 m) on a limestone outcrop. On clear days one can see: Mainarde (M. Meta, 2,241 m), Matese plateau (M. Miletto, 2,050 m), Volturno Valley.
FAUNA	Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) nesting in the walls. Black Redstart (<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>) in the cracks of the historic masonry.
HISTORY	Built between 979 and 1290 by the Benedictines of Montecassino. Stronghold of the Barony of Capriati under the Pandone counts. Strategic view over the entire Volturno Valley and medieval communication routes.

POI-03	San Rocco Sanctuary - 17th-Century Organ (420 m a.s.l.)
GEO	Nave in local limestone. The limestone used is the same as the geological substrate of Capriati: material quarried on site, visibly similar to the rock outcropping in the woodland above.
FAUNA	Greater Mouse-eared Bat (<i>Myotis myotis</i>) in roof cavities. The churchyard vegetation hosts rare terrestrial orchids in spring.
HISTORY	17th-century pipe organ still in working order - one of the oldest in the province of Caserta. Venue for annual musical events. The dedication to San Rocco (patron of plague victims) recalls the medieval epidemics of the Matese.

POI-04	Ancient Woodland of Capriati (400–550 m a.s.l.)
GEO	Downy oak (<i>Quercus pubescens</i>) and Turkey oak (<i>Quercus cerris</i>) woodland on limestone substrate. The centuries-long ecological continuity is indicated by the understorey biodiversity. The "ancient" woodland (never completely felled) is an indicator of deep soils on limestone.
FAUNA	Great Spotted Woodpecker (<i>Dendrocopos major</i>), Eurasian Jay (<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>), in spring Golden Oriole (<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>). Fire Salamander in the damp areas of the woodland.
HISTORY	The woodland was hunting territory of the Pandone counts, then common land (timber, grazing, chestnut gathering). 12th-century notarial documents attest to conflicts between the municipality of Capriati and the feudal lords over exploitation of the woodland.

GEOHISTORY OF THE PLACE

Narrative	Capriati a Volturno is a palimpsest: every stratum of history rests on the same limestone that outcrops in the woodland and in the walls of the houses. This continuity between geology and architecture is rare in Italy and enormously valuable for geo-tourism communication. The Cesa Iannitti tower was built by the monks of Montecassino, who saw these valleys as the boundary between the civilised world and the wild mountain. The Pandone counts transformed it into a fortress. And the organ of the San Rocco Sanctuary - built in the 17th century by an unknown craftsman using wood from the Capriati woodlands - still plays.
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EXPERIENTIAL PACKAGE

PACKAGE PKG-03	"The Village Tells Its Story" - Guided Visit for Families and School Groups
Target: Families (from age 4), school groups all levels, elderly visitors, cultural tourists. Partial PMR accessibility.	Il percorso più accessibile del Matese: 4.8 km tra storia medievale, organo seicentesco e bosco antico. Ideale per famiglie con bambini piccoli. Nessun tratto esposto.
Duration: 2–2.5 h	Difficulty: Easy - suitable from age 4
Periodo: Year-round	Mobility: On foot - loop. Start from Piazza Roma, Capriati
Features:	Guided tour of the historic centre · Storytelling for children on medieval life · Listening to the 17th-century organ (when available) · Snack with local products · Educational activity on rock, woodland, and history

SAFETY WARNINGS

	Cobblestones in the village: closed-toe shoes. Natural surface in the woodland. Suitable for children from age 4. No exposed sections. In winter, ice possible in the woodland.
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ACCESS AND LOGISTICS

Start	Piazza Roma, Capriati a Volturno (41.4150°N, 14.1600°E).
By car	Da Napoli: A1 Caianello → SS6 → SS85 → Capriati a Volturno (~85 km, 1h10m).
TPL	Air Campania 30-CE and 17-CE.

IDENTIFIED ISSUES

Issues	Description	Priority
Accessibility	Cobblestones in the historic centre: difficult for prams and wheelchairs. Natural surface in the woodland.	MEDIUM
GPX	GPX track available: P03_Castello_Bosco_Capriati_v2.gpx (253 trkpt · 2.19 km · D+297 m · WGS84 · GPX 1.1)	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.borghipiubelliditalia.it - Most Beautiful Villages of Italy
- www.opentopomap.org - Free topographic maps WGS84
- www.regione.campania.it/turismo - Campania Tourism

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 - VERIFIED LINKS P03

Google Maps <https://maps.app.goo.gl/KbzntNp69pWrADkc6>

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