

MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY OF THE MATESE ZONE · PNRR M2C1 Green Communities · CUP: E14H25000590006 ·
Intervention No. 4 "Experiential Geo-Tourism of the Matese" · 2026

TITLE

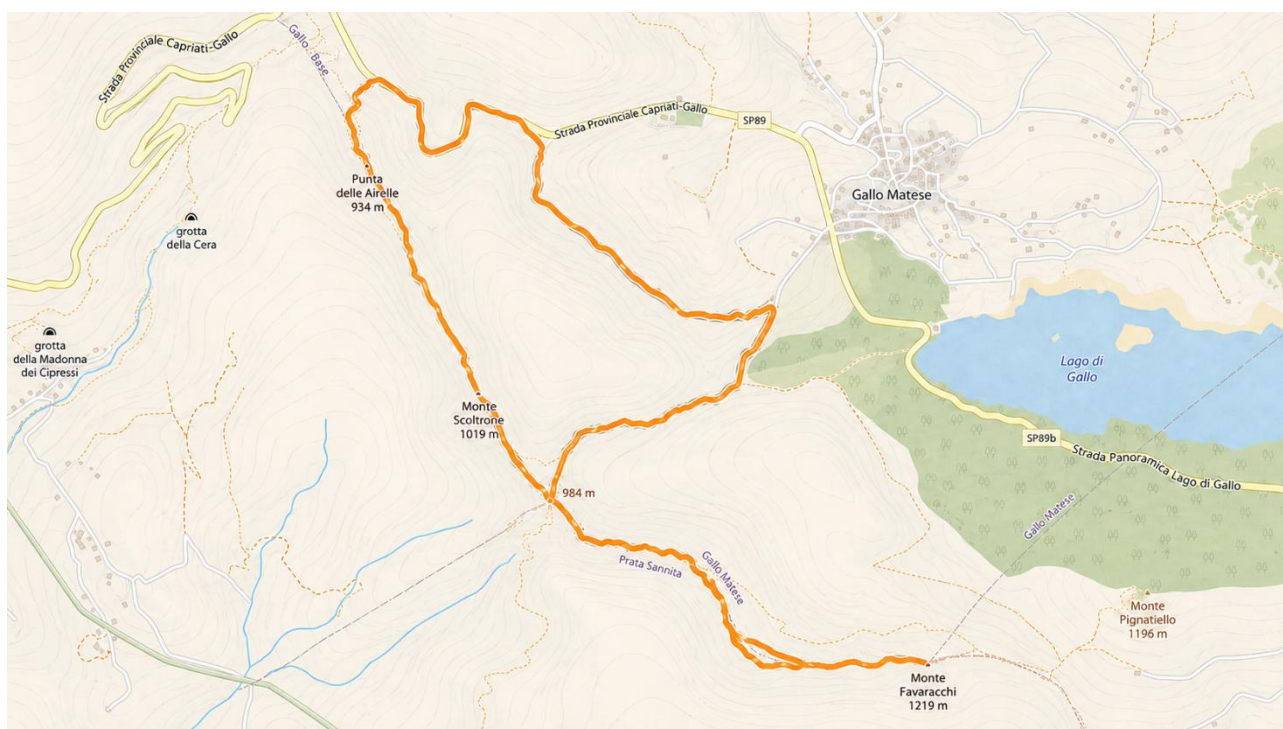
TRAIL P07 · RIDGE GEO-TREKKING · GALLO MATESE · CAI PIEDIMONTE MATESE
Limestone Ridge - Punta delle Airelle, Monte Scoltrone and Monte Favaracchi
100 million years of geology in 9 km · Tethys Ocean fossils · Max elev. 1,199 m - Best #5

TECHNICAL DATA

Length	Elevation Gain	Max Elevation	Duration	Difficulty	Season
9.09 km	+448 m	1,199 m a.s.l.	3.5–4.5 hours	Medium (E)	April – October

ROUTE MAP - SCHEMATIC LAYOUT

SCALA ~1:15,000 · WGS84 · Provisional illustrative map. GPX: see link below.



GPX

Allegato: P07_Dorsale_Airelle-Scoltrone-Favaracchi.gpx Traccia anello 9.09 km. Confermato CAI Piedimonte Matese. Riferimento: <https://eu.wikiloc.com/iblbide-senderismo/punta-airelle-monte-scoltrone-monte-favaracchi-matese-casertano-161200854>

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

DESC	The limestone ridge is one of the five best geo-tourism trails of the Matese (Best #5 - confirmed by CAI Piedimonte Matese). Starting from the SP Fontegreca–Gallo (~3 km before Gallo), it follows the ridge through Punta delle Airelle (934 m), Monte Scoltrone (1,019 m), and Monte Favaracchi (1,199 m). The CAI data sheet explicitly describes this route as a "trail of geological and environmental interest". The stratigraphic succession crossed - 100 million years from the Tethyan platform to Cretaceous limestones - is readable in 9 km of ridge.
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POINTS OF INTEREST - TRIPARTITE GEO / FAUNA / HISTORY ANALYSIS

POI-01	Trail Start - SP Fontegreca–Gallo (~700 m a.s.l.)
GEO	From the marly-Cretaceous substrate of the lower slope, the path begins its ascent towards the dolomitic ridge. The lithological change is readable in the vegetation: from the deciduous oak woodland of the basal belt it gradually transitions to beech forest and then to rupicolous ridge vegetation. The start point is on the SP Fontegreca→Gallo, approximately 3 km before Gallo Matese.
FAUNA	Honey Buzzard (<i>Pernis apivorus</i>) in summer, Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>), Common Buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>). Flora: <i>Quercus pubescens</i> , <i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i> , <i>Fraxinus ornus</i> .
HISTORY	The eastern slope of the Caserta Matese was summer pasture territory. The SP Fontegreca–Gallo follows an ancient mule track connecting the villages.

POI-02	Punta delle Airelle - Jurassic Organogenic Limestones (934 m a.s.l.)
GEO	Organogenic limestones of the Middle–Upper Jurassic (Dogger–Malm, 180–145 Ma) in sub-horizontal strata. Fossils of corals (<i>Thamnastraea</i> sp.), siliceous sponges (<i>Rhaxella</i> sp.), and ammonites (<i>Perisphinctes</i> sp.). Palaeogeography: this was the "Panormide" carbonate platform - tropical reefs of the Tethys Ocean.
FAUNA	Rock Thrush (<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>), Alpine Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>), Alpine Swift (<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>). In June: Apennine Edelweiss (<i>Leontopodium alpinum</i> subsp. <i>nivale</i>).
HISTORY	The name "Airelle" (dialect for blueberry) recalls the gathering of wild berries that farmers from local villages still practised in the 20th century. Viewpoint looking east over the Gallo Matese basin.

POI-03	Monte Scoltrone - Triassic Dolomites (1,019 m a.s.l.)
GEO	The Triassic dolomite body (Upper Triassic, ~220 Ma) is the oldest formation of the ridge. Dolomite ($\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$) derives from diagenesis of the original limestone. 360° view: Volturno Valley, Venafrò plain, Mainarde mountains, four pilot municipalities. ⚠ Ridge sections with unstable rocks - follow the GPX track.
FAUNA	Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> - documented presence in the Matese). Roe Deer, Wild Boar in the wooded belts. Ridge flora: <i>Festuca violacea</i> , <i>Sesleria nitida</i> , <i>Carex sempervirens</i> .
HISTORY	CAI Piedimonte Matese explicitly describes the route as a "trail of geological and environmental interest". From Monte Scoltrone one commands the entire Volturno Valley: the site was certainly known as a strategic observation point in the medieval period.

POI-04	Monte Favaracchi - Summit (1,199 m a.s.l.)
GEO	Highest point of the route. The view from Monte Favaracchi complements that of Scoltrone and allows reading the entire structure of the Airelle–Scoltrone–Favaracchi ridge as a single eroded anticline. The contrast between the east slope (tectonic basin of Gallo) and the west slope (Volturno Valley) reveals the structural asymmetry of the Matese.
FAUNA	Red Kite (<i>Milvus milvus</i>) on spring migration. Apennine Hare (<i>Lepus corsicanus</i> - endemic). Flora: <i>Primula vulgaris</i> , <i>Helleborus foetidus</i> in early spring.
HISTORY	From Monte Favaracchi one can make out Fontegreca, Prata Sannita and - on clear days - the Venafrò plain and Monte Cassino. This panorama was known to the monks of Montecassino who controlled these lands in the Middle Ages.

GEOHISTORY OF THE PLACE

Narrative	Three hundred and twenty million years ago there was no mountain here. There was sea. The Tethys Ocean covered what is today the Matese, and the corals that lived here were transformed, million by million, into the limestone rock we walk on. Then the tectonic plates collided, and the rock was uplifted. The Alps and the Apennines were born of the same geological violence. Walking on the Airelle–Scoltrone–Favaracchi ridge is walking on what was a tropical seabed. The coral fossils at Punta delle Airelle are the geological document of another era of the Earth.
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EXPERIENTIAL PACKAGE

PACKAGE PKG-07	"One Hundred Million Years in Nine Kilometres" - Ridge GeoTrekking
Target: Experienced hikers, geologists, naturalists, upper-school and university groups (with guide)	The limestone ridge crossing four lithological formations in 9 km: from Cretaceous marly limestone to Jurassic organogenic limestones with tropical reef fossils, to the Triassic dolomites. Confirmed by CAI Piedimonte Matese as a trail of geological and environmental interest.
Duration: 3.5–4.5 h	Difficoltà: Medium (E) - escursionisti esperti
Periodo: April – October	Mobility: On foot - loop. Start point on SP Fontegreca–Gallo (~3 km before Gallo)
Features:	Interpretive trekking on tectonics and lithology · Educational fossil collection (corals, ammonites) · Panoramic reading of the western Matese system · Certified geological guide

SAFETY WARNINGS

	Ridge with unstable rocks: Vibram footwear mandatory. No water along the route: 1.5 L min. Helmet recommended on the ridge. ☎CNSAS: 112.
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ACCESS

Start	SP Fontegreca–Gallo, ~3 km before Gallo Matese. Parking near the trail start.
By car	Access by car only. No public transport to the trailhead.

ISSUES

Issues	Description	Priority
Ridge	Ridge sections with unstable rocks and possible barbed wire remnants (reported by CAI). Vibram footwear mandatory.	HIGH
Water	No water points along the route: carry min. 1.5 L.	HIGH
GPX	Wikiloc track available.	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
- www.regione.campania.it/turismo - Campania Tourism
- <https://eu.wikiloc.com/ibilbide-senderismo/punta-airelle-monte-scoltrone-monte-favaracchi-matese-casertano-161200854> - Traccia P07 (Migliore #5)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Mountain Community of the Matese Zone (2026) - Special Contract Specification, Intervention No. 4. CUP E14H25000590006.
- CAI (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.

GPS TRACKS AND MAPS ON OUTDOOR PLATFORMS - VERIFIED LINKS P07

Wikiloc	Punta delle Airelle, Monte Scoltrone, Monte Favaracchi - Caserta Matese (confirmed CAI Piedimonte Matese) https://eu.wikiloc.com/ibilbide-senderismo/punta-airelle-monte-scoltrone-monte-favaracchi-matese-casertano-161200854
⚠ Note	CAI Piedimonte Matese describes this as a "trail of geological and environmental interest". Official GPX to be requested from the CAI Section or surveyed in the field.

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