

# Barga to Renaio and Vetricia

*Barga 410m, Renaio  
1013m*

## Barga to Renaio

This is a three-hour walk up the ridge that rises above Barga, using the old mule-track linking the two places. It can be extended by another hour and a half to Vetricia, which in turn is the starting point for walks up to the main Appennine ridge and the 00 trail which takes in Monte Giovo.

The ridge rises in parallel to two other adjacent ridges, one featuring Sommocolonia, the other, Tiglio. Each of these leads onwards and upwards to the main Appennine Ridge. Needless to say, the views are outstanding.

The waymarked walk starts from Barga at the small car park in the Piazzale Lombardi by the side of St. Maria Assunta. To reach this point, walk through Parc Kennedy (the park between old Barga and the main shopping area over which two bridges cross) and head up to the right of the small cafe, and walk under the historic aqueduct. Take the road up to the old city gate. Turn left and walk past the distinctive Villa Buenos Aires, then go uphill to the church.

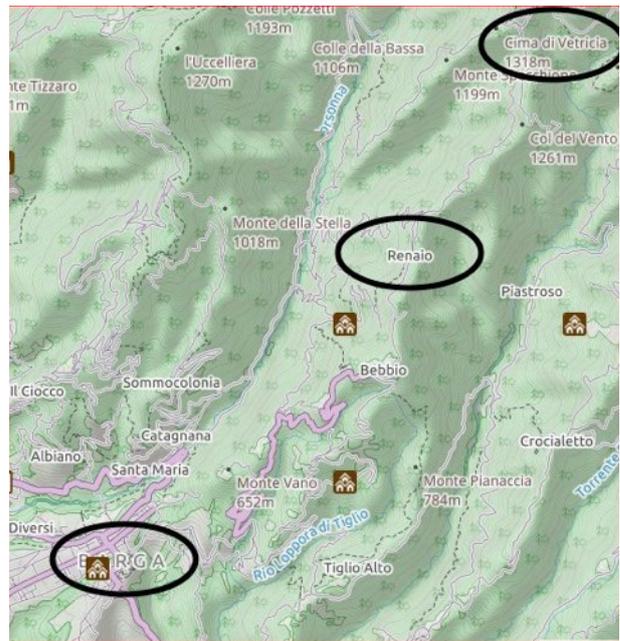
This is also a starting point for the walks to Tiglio, and Loppia signed B1.

Our route to Renaio is signed B3.

Walk uphill for a few minutes and at the junction take the left hand fork. The right goes to Tiglio and Loppia. After 100m, reach the main road to Tiglio. Cross diagonally at the lay-by to join the old mule-track opposite. Take this track upwards for 10 minutes to find a junction of tracks by a garden with a swimming pool. Turn left here along the mule track and after 100m continue on the mule-track by taking the right hand fork. Go upwards for about 15 minutes to reach a new, broad tarmac road which was constructed in 2014 to provide new access to houses above that were cut off when the old road was destroyed in a "frana" or landslide.

Turn left and walk up the new road for about 15 minutes. You will reach a house on the right with a swimming pool owned by an English couple. About 200m from here, the new, broad road ends at the point where the frana wiped out the old road. The old road is on the right, blocked off by a concrete barrier next to two red boxes.

Take this now defunct road for about 20 minutes. Go straight on when you meet a bus-stop opposite a big barn. After a few minutes you will reach a sign "Localita Fornioni". Leave the road at this point to take the steep, badly-eroded mule track which is waymarked with the familiar red and white markings. At the top, above the track, there is a private house on the right with a swimming pool. Keep left to join a narrow, road that leads to the house and continue uphill on a narrow Tarmac road to the point where the main road to Renaio is reached.



Turn left here and walk uphill on the road for about 15 minutes until you reach a sign "Palazzina Locale". Here, take the small road on the left which climbs past the drive of a private house to join a well made track.

Follow this track as it contours around the hill, going steadily downwards. Superb views back and down to Sommocolonia open up. The reassuring waymarks continue to feature. After about 15 minutes you leave this broad track to join the narrower, rough mule track which forks diagonally right uphill to Renaio. The track is fairly indistinct and has no sign or waymark at its start, but the first of reassuring marks begin again after 20 metres up the track! If this turn-off is missed, a farm house is reached on the broad track after about another 10 minutes. Time to retreat and try again to find the turnoff!

Follow the steep mule-track up to Renaio which is about 10 minutes away. The track emerges at a simple restaurant where drinks and a plate of pasta can be obtained.

## Renaio to Vetricia

From Renaio the "20" trail goes up to Vetricia which is reached in 1.40mins. The trail is mainly by mule-track through prime fungi territory. From the square in Renaio take the road uphill to the church then follow the mule-track which passes on the left side of the church.

The track often crosses the narrow road to Vetricia but is always way-marked. Some very mild scrambling is needed when crossing the hill at 1264m. The views across to Giovo and Rondinaio are superb.

Of course, one could simply drive from Barga up to Renaio and then Vetricia to start the trail up to M.Giovo and the Appennine Ridge.