

## IL SENTIERO DEI CARBONAI THE PATH OF CHARCOAL MAKERS



Pomonte ha mantenuta viva l'antica tradizione dei carbonai. Un tempo non lontano le carbonaie erano diffusissime: dati i costi e la distanza dai luoghi di estrazione del carbone fossile di alto potere calorifico, la trasformazione del legno in carbone vegetale serviva ad alimentare sia le forge dei fabbri che le buche calcinaie, dove la pietra calcarea veniva trasformata in calce da edilizia. Man mano che i trasporti internazionali si sono sviluppati e che, anche in Italia, in molti luoghi si procedette all'estrazione della Lignite, al carbone vegetale rimase l'uso per cui tutti lo conosciamo: la cosiddetta "carbonella", protagonista dei nostri barbecue. Quella di Pomonte, realizzata con Leccio, Ormiello e Corbezzolo, è di elevatissima qualità e conferisce al cibo un inconfondibile aroma. Pomonte rievoca oggi la tradizione con la "Cotta del Carbone". Prenotando presso la Pro Loco ( 328 697 1048), al termine dell'escursione, che tocca anche le rovine del monastero di Madonna del Monte, e percorre il panoramico crinale di Poggio delle Civitelle, potrete partecipare a laboratori didattici sulle carbonaie.

Pomonte has kept the ancient tradition of charcoal burners alive. In the not-too-distant past, charcoal kilns were widespread: given the cost and distance from the places where high-calorific charcoal was mined, the transformation of wood into charcoal was used to fuel both blacksmiths' forges and limestone pits, where limestone was turned into lime for building. As international transportation developed and, even in Italy, Lignite was mined in many places, charcoal was left with the use for which we all know it: the so-called "charcoal," the protagonist of our barbecues. Pomonte's charcoal, made from Hblm Oak, Flowering Ash, and Strawberry Tree, is of the highest quality and gives food an unmistakable aroma. Pomonte evokes this tradition today with the "Cotta del Carbone." By booking with the Pro Loco ( +39328 697 1048), at the end of the hike, which also touches on the ruins of the monastery of Madonna del Monte, and travels along the scenic ridge of Poggio delle Civitelle, you can participate in educational workshops on charcoal burning.



Altitude difference: 443 m

Km 6,5

Duration: 2h15 (stops excluded)

Difficulty: E (escursionistico) easy/medium

Signage: none

Water along the route: source along the route and at the educational workshop

Recommended season: year-round

Trail type: trail and earthen forest roads interdicted to traffic.

Points of interest: the monastery of Madonna del Monte, educational workshop on charcoal kilns

#### ROAD MAP.

Reached Pomonte, from the valley of Puglia, past the built-up area marked by the bell tower, turn right onto a paved road that soon turns into an excellent gravel road and keep it for a little less than a km until you meet the group of houses that is your starting point. Leaving the car, retrace your steps for about a hundred meters (dir. Pomonte), and on your right, you will find the entrance to the path leading to the pass. After about 500 m at the bottom you notice an arable widening with a "spoil" local name for water catchment. A small box on a post, open, allows you to draw water (close the tap!). If you have a full canteen, however, you will avoid having to climb back up. In the Hblm oak grove, here as on the descent, you may notice circles devoid of vegetation, with dark earth bottoms: these are what remains of the once widespread charcoal kilns. Reaching the pass, a beautiful ridge route takes you to the ruins of the monastery of Madonna del Monte then, descending by route only partially coinciding with that of the outward journey, go to the educational workshop and, from here, to the car.

Be careful on hunting days, at the hunting posts: if manned, announce your presence before passing through.

<https://www.turismogualdocattaneo.it/ita/23/associazioni/45/pro-loco-pomonte/>

<https://www.facebook.com/proloco.pomonte>

<https://www.instagram.com/proloco.pomonte>

[https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbone\\_vegetale](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbone_vegetale)

<https://www.iluoghidelsilenzio.it/chiesa-e-monastero-della-madonna-del-monte-o-de-civitellis-bevagna-pg/>

