

# Surroundings

Giovannis Diary

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## Doss Trento

Here I am up Doss Trento, the closest elevation from the city center. You may recognize this doss by the proud white monument of Cesare Battisti looking over the valley. The doss feels smaller than expected from up here, there are two main grass areas: one next to the monument and another one next to a war museum. I visited the museum a while ago, displayed were uniforms, weapons and tools used by the people of this lands during world war 1. The purpose of this entire doss seems to be to hold the memory of such a terrible past. Some scary weapons lay on the outside, with some people standing over them as if it were a bench. Other people come here to walk thee dogs or just to take a breath.





Figure 1: View of northern Trento



Figure 2: View of southern Trento



Figure 3: Monument to Cesare Battisti



Figure 4: Map of the area

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## Surroundings Map

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### Moena - Passo Carezza

Today we have taken a walk from the village of Moena in Val di Fassa to the locality of passo Carezza, touching the province of Bolzano beneath the Latemar mountain group.

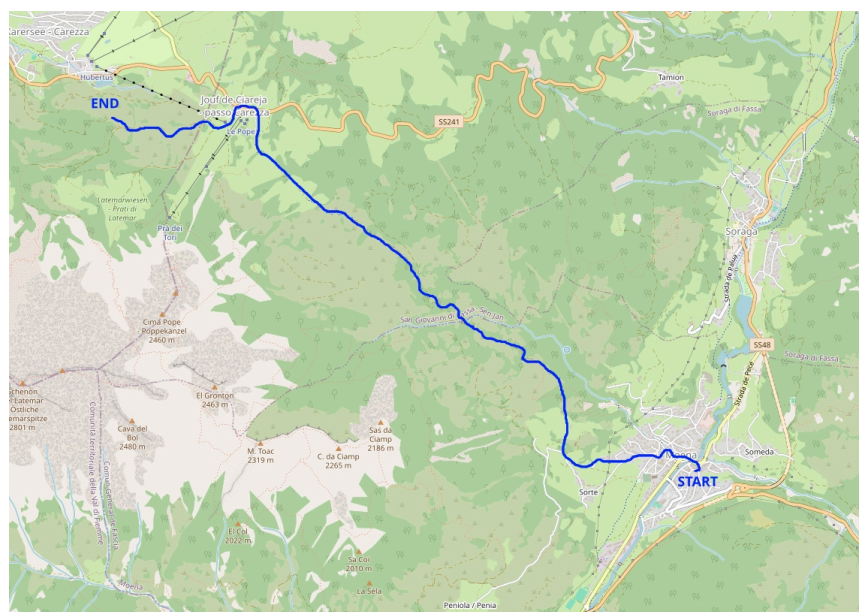


Figure 5: Path taken on map

The village of Moena is a beautiful place in a beautiful valley that could enjoy some good peace if it weren't for the tourists. We park the car just south of the city centre in a free parking lot (even if some old signs tell otherwise). From here you can go to the north or to the south following the river down in the valley next to some small villages and

localities. Alternatively, you could go west or east to face some elevation and a better landscape from above. We choose to go west towards the locality of Carezza, for an easy and enjoyable walk.



Figure 6: Parking lot

Just after getting off the car, we had breakfast at "Caffe' Moena" and visited the church. The inside felt huge and empty, as if it could contain thousands of people but only we were present to fill the space. We proceeded north-west to a beautiful dandelion field where we took some pictures. I kept joking about the tourists taking pictures here.





Figure 7: Flower field

Off we go following the 519A.



Figure 8: SAT Sign



Figure 9: Moena village from above

The leftovers of Vaia storm can still be witnessed all around us. In 2018 a powerful storm hit the region, taking down most if not all of the trees of entire mountains and creating a post-apocalyptic landscape. The view is terrible and it will take a long time to repopulate the mountain with new trees. This is where we had lunch.



Figure 10: Destruction of vaia

The path keeps going for 2 hours until the area opens up towards the town of Carezza. The view here is majestic, it totally deserves the walk. A little trivia: we went to this specific spot because it was marked by someone as a beautiful view in an app, so every time we were thinking of going back I went like "we need to see the beautiful view that some random guy marked".



Figure 11: View

We enjoyed the view and went back from the same path, singing mountain songs.

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## Mount Celva

Today I decided to take a walk to Mount Celva. It is easily reachable from the city by foot in about two and an half hours and it is only 998 meters high. Despite not being in the same status as the bigger mountains, it has been a strategic place during world war I because of its position halfway across the Val Sugana and the Val d'Adige. From its top, one can see the entire Val Sugana and possibly any enemy's army marching









Figure 13: Austrian Fortress

We proceed through the path and we see the first entrance inside the mountain. It is a scary one, you don't know what is inside but you are curious. Some voices inside me were saying "Forget about it, keep following the path, it is dangerous" while another voice was saying "I really want to see the inside and how far the hole goes". This time, curiosity won so I entered. The ceiling was low, the temperature dropped quickly and the air was humid. Some holes on the left or right were completely dark so I grabbed a torch, other places were openings to see the path beneath.



Figure 14: View from the cavern

Peeking from holes, you could see the entire path I was going to take, and I felt totally invisible. This reminded me that this place was designed for war and for death, there was no way you could go through the path without being noticed or shot at.



Figure 15: Peeking from a hole

I went back to the entrance and kept going through the

path I was supposed to follow. After some time, the street splits: one part going up and the other going down with the sign "Sentiero dei 100 Scalini" which translated means "Path of 100 Step". This one goes to another fortress inside the mountain, this time deeper and scarier.



Figure 16: Sign at the intersection

The name is not misleading, there is a tunnel of 100 steps going upwards in total darkness, which is really scary especially when being alone. I started going up with my phone's flashlight, performing each step as carefully as possible. The ceiling was really low, and it felt like the steps were endless. Behind me I could hear two people taking the same path as me, but decided not to go up the stairs. I really hope I did not scared them by making noises, I surely would have been incredibly scared in the total darkness, what an horror movie that would have been.



Figure 17: The start of the 100 steps

But there was light at the end of the tunnel, with a big hole opening from at least 10 meters above. This could have been used to transport materials, weapons or people from one base to the other, but its just me wondering now.



Figure 18: The big hole at the end of the 100 steps

Going back downstairs, the view opens up for the first time, revealing a good view of the Valsugana.





Figure 19: View of the Valsugana

Back to the original path, the 411, we reach the Bassa Celva where a big area welcomes the hikers (or the solders). From here the entire valley is visible with great clarity, with fortifications all around it. The path keeps going upwards towards the top, crossing the remains of the fortress.



Figure 20: Bassa Celva

After resting some time and taking a bite of chocolate,

I headed downward taking the west route. Just beneath the top there is another entrance to some dark corridors, I tried getting in but the corridors were really long and disorienting. I got scared and retreated. The rest of the walk back was smooth, arriving at Oltrecastello in about one hour.

I sat on a bench in Povo Sale' to write this text. There is a public shelf for books where everybody can take or leave a book, I always stop by to check what books have changed. This time, I see a bunch of kids ripping off pages from the books and throwing them to the trees, that made me really sad. While I was in the bus I could barely breathe as at least 30 people were talking loudly at their phone, each one of them trying to be louder than the others so that they could be heard well.

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## **Mount San Martino**

Mount San Martino (~1400m) is located west of Bleggio Superiore and east from Val Rendena, in a beautiful place called Giudicarie. The whole area of Bleggio is a place rich with history and legends. Once upon a time, in the medieval age, merchants and popes would travel through those lands to go north, villages developed, churches were built. Even to this day, this place still holds the memory of a great and prosperous time. In modern times, due to industrialization, the valley of Adige began developing and became the main road to the north and an important industrial center. Still, this place gained something else, it is now a peaceful, wonderful place, respectful of nature and life itself.

We begin our hike on the location of Larido, south of Rango (as a sidenote, Rango is famous for Christmas shops) where there are places to park. The path forward is not certain at the start, since there are no signs mentioning the mountain top, so with a bit of trust we follow the only path west going upward.

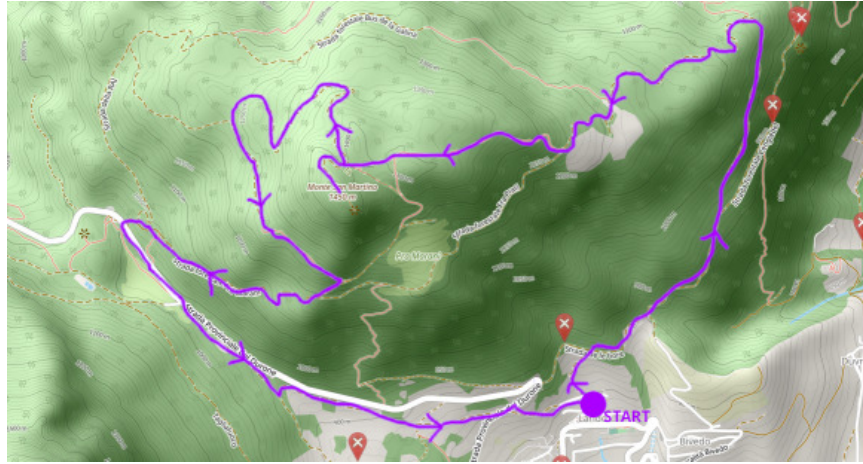


Figure 21: Map of the hike

The hike is a safe one, the overall height difference is 670m but the rate of change in elevation is smooth across the whole hike, without any difficult sections. We choose this hike because there is still snow over 1500m so we planned to stay low (spoiler, we still found some snow in unilluminated areas). After some time, the view opens to the valley below, looking east. The tops of Bondone and Stivo are very recognizable, dominating over the other mountains.



Figure 22: View of the town of Fivie from the mountain



Figure 23: View of the mount Stivo

Midway to the top, a grass area opens up. A few tiny, little one-room houses are scattered here and there, one high up, one far down the edge. The view here is wonderful, the sun shines, no car noises can be heard. We spot a young couple enjoying their breakfast in the garden, we say hello to them and shared a smile, as everyone does with strangers.





Figure 24: A beautiful and peaceful house

All of a sudden we reach the top, where a radio tower replaces the usual cross we find in mountain tops. We stop for a break and to have lunch and some laughs.



Figure 25: Group photo after reaching the top



Figure 26: South view

Descending here is easy, we take the well made forestale path, and then we switch to an abandoned one which is barely visible. It had a magical feel, as if we were in a forgotten



forest with witches and monsters, with dead trees left and right to disorient us. We came out alive towards the strada provinciale before taking another path back to Larido, where everything started. Before that, we took some time to play with an horse.



Figure 27: Picture of a horse

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## **San Marco Garden**

I find myself in the San Marco Garden. The garden is situated in the center of the city of Trento, in the oldest part. The park is an odd but beautiful place, a drop of green in the middle of buildings and busyness. Surrounded by medieval walls, it feels like this place is outside our times. The first brave daisies paint the grass, announcing the start of this year's spring, together with many other colorful flowers on display, with their descriptions on metal plates. Pigeons are everywhere, to remind me the reality of the situation: the nature here is human-made, those plants and shiny flowers have no reasons to be here other than for show, being artificially

kept alive by us humans for our own delight.

Being situated in the city center, the park is a busy place, often used to move from one place of the city to another. Lots of people are passing by. Sometimes some people stop to take pictures of the colorful flowers. I believe there is a kindergarten nearby so a few kids with their families join the others in the garden, bringing laughs and tears, emotions.



Figure 28: My view of the garden

On my right there is a fountain delivering fresh water. On top of it, a bird is drinking the water. There are a few bird houses scattered on the sides of the trees, I can see just one from my position but I believe there are more since I can hear birds singing all over the garden. A few ants and flies are moving around silently. A bigger fountain sits in the middle of the garden, but with a much weaker water throughput and it is difficult to reach, just for display.





Figure 29: The fountain on my right

Looking closely at the ground, one can find many used cigarettes, bottle caps, straws and pieces of plastic envelopes. Overall, the garden is decently clean, unless you start paying attention to the details. There are those automatic irrigation systems spread in the park, I hope they don't turn on right now (it happened once in another place).



Figure 30: Cigarettes and bottle caps

The colorful houses that surround the park completely block the view from the mountains. Maybe a glimpse of the Marzola

mountain could be seen from here on a nicer day without clouds. A flag of peace is displayed from a window of one of the buildings. The clouds have moved and there is no trace of the Marzola, sadly.

A dog and the owner are joining the park, playing with a ball. Although the dog is more interested in biting the ball, with much focus. Some drops of water are falling from the sky, the sun is slowly setting and it is becoming colder.

It is the 25 of March 2025, 5:53pm, the spring season started a few days ago.

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## **Sant Agata Church**

Sitting in front of me is Sant'Agata church, or what remains of it. Despite it's age, being born in the 16th century, the church stands strong from the ground, challenging time itself. We rest together on a "Doss" which is a tall hill or bump from the ground, but too modest to be considered a mountain, laying between Povo and Oltrecastello. Everything is quiet here except the birds and the noise of the cars from the city beneath.

Reaching the top of the Doss is simple. From Povo, more specifically Piazza Mancini, one can follow the street going east towards Cimirlo. At the first opportunity, turn left when you see a SAT sign advertising a walk reaching Oltrecastello. The trail quickly goes up for the first 10 minutes, and slows down for the remaining 15. Despite the first half, the path is generous with many benches to let the explorer catch some breath. Overall, the walk is easily accessible even for elderly people, I even met two elderly women while I was going up. An alternative route would be from Oltrecastello, following the street towards Povo and turning right just after the main piazza of the town. The path here is shorter but steeper. Obviously, you could go down from either of the two ways.



Figure 31: Map of the path

From up here one can enjoy a good view of Adige's valley, with its urban areas and urban noises, especially the southern parts of Trento. Instead, the small fraction of Borino and Cimirlo are perfectly visible in their entirety, a rare sight since they are often hidden by this same doss. Surrounding the hill stand the mount of Marzola on the South-East, mount Celva from east, mount Calisio on the northern side and the valley on the west. The snow on top of Paganella and Bondone can be appreciated even during the spring, although this year the snow has been very shy.





Figure 32: View of the valley from the top

Up here there is a flat grass area where you can enjoy the view and some fresh air, with plenty of benches and space to rest. Most of the area is now inaccessible because of some excavations beneath the ground. A long long time ago there was a fortress here meant to protect the city from attacks coming from Valsugana. When the fortress was not necessary anymore, it got dismantled but the foundations still remains.



Figure 33: Archaeological site

Dominating the area stands a modest church made of stone and concrete. The look of the church is very simple, with only some framing around the two windows on the side of the wooden door at the front of the house facing west. The walls lack any kind of decoration, displaying all ruthlessness of time like an old person. A hollow structure on the roof hints of a bell lost to time. Despite its size, the church catches the attention and the imagination of the people coming up here, wondering of the devoted and hard working people who created it in a past era.



Figure 34: The church view from west

Peeking at the windows, the interior looks as abandoned as the exterior. A wooden floor with some benches fills the empty space, hidden by a layer of dust and the lack of sun light. On the back sleeps what used to be an altar, retired from its important job, now discredited and disrespected.



Figure 35: Peeking at the window

A good variety of flowers and plants surround the church, keeping spring alive. The green grass is painted with colors of violet, yellow and white.



Figure 36: Some bright flowers

It is the 26 of March 2025, 6:11pm.





Figure 37: The church from the back

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## **Sant'Apollinare Church**

Walking next to the Adige river close to Trento, one cannot miss the church of Sant'Apollinare because of its height and its oddity. The story of this church dates back to the first paleocristiani, in the 6th century, and it evolved and reshaped over the centuries. Its surroundings have changed too, perhaps more violently, leaving this place as a monument to a past time.

The church is situated in a busy road just west to the city, on the other side of the river. Cars and busses pass through here in waves, briefly glimpsing the back of the church. Instead, if you approach it from west or north-west, you would appreciate its front face and dimensions. The church has a rectangular floor with the shorter edge at the front and back. It develops in height by at least double its width, with an even higher bell tower. The exterior is plain and simple, with the remains of paint suggesting some lost pictures decorating the front. Up the main door there



is a rosone, common to many churches, and above it there are 8 windows placed symmetrically on the left and on the right. The tower is attached in the corner between the front and the southern edge.



Figure 38: View of the church

As you get closer to the church, you feel smaller and tinier, as if the balance of importance and power slowly changes, making you humble just before reaching the main entrance.



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Figure 39: Looking up

The door looks as old as the church, made with wood and metal plates with figures placed between the gaps. There is a description of the changes to the church throughout history right next to it. Briefly, it was created around the 10-11 century where different groups would stay here throughout the years. The bell tower still comes from this period. Then, in 1250-1300 it was demolished and the current church was built. Some decorations on the outside were added but were lost in time, some inner paintings have been restored, as well as the floor which was raised by 1.7 meters because of floods. The church is still used for Christian ceremonies to this day, and it makes its own parrocchia, together with other churches nearby.



Figure 40: Front entrance



Beneath the church lies a grass area, now flourishing with daisies, and a park with various toys and benches and a board with upcoming events. We are in the area of Piedicastello, one of the oldest places in Trento. Next to the park is a museum called "Le Gallerie" where two old galleries are now used to display historical testimonies and other events. The content often changes a couple of times each year so it is worth checking this place from time to time, the show is very different from a conventional museum as they use sound and light effects.

Watching over us is the mount of Bondone and the Doss Trento, which can both be reached from here. You can reach Sardagna in about 40 minutes but its not an interesting walk, from there you can go higher towards Vaneze or go west where there is a really nice walk towards Vigolo Baselga. It is about 3-4 hours between agriculture land and towns in the valley, it is simpler if you go from Vigolo Baselga to Trento since it is mostly downhill and there is a public bus to Baselga. This path is part of a bigger one that goes from Madonna di Campiglio to Trento and lasts something like 5 days.



Figure 41: Walks starting from the church