

# APUANE ALPS

ITALY

## Mountain Walking In Tuscany

- *Remote Unsophisticated Tuscany*
- *Hike on Limestone Summits*
- *Marble Mountains and the 'Grotta del Vento'*

This remote area of northern Tuscany has an old world charm of its own. It is a world away from the towns and rolling hills of the south. The Apuane Alps are covered by a web of trails providing routes from hamlet to hilltop and beyond. You will experience superb scenery, mountain wilderness and tranquillity. This trek has many attractive ingredients, from wide mountain vistas, to remote hamlets surrounded by forest and mountain scenery. There are few other walkers and the villagers make you feel truly welcome.



From the small unassuming town of Fornaci di Barga we enter the Apuane forests, climbing up through chestnut woods and dropping down through vineyards to the ancient village of Verni. Here we enter an impressive series of limestone massifs that rise up to 2000m within a few kms of the sea, the Apuanes are famous for their scenery of white marble towers, abysses and the largest cave system in Italy. En route to Trassilico (732m) we stumble across remote chapels, and abandoned farms. We climb Monte Forato (1223m) visit the 'Grotta del Vento' with its subterranean lakes and 'living' stalagmites and stalactites. From Fornovolasco there is a long day to make the optional ascent of Pania della Croce (1860m), the view from the summit is quite magnificent. Before dropping down to the old hermitage at Calomini and back to Fornaci.



### Inn to Inn 8 days

TOUR CODE JAA

**Grade** Day Stages  
Moderate - Challenging. Min 10km, max 24km.

#### Waymarking

The route is well-waymarked by the Club Alpin Italiano with red signs. The trail is very remote, so map reading skills are recommended.

#### Accommodation and Meals

Good small hotels (ensuite rooms are not always available) and pensions with dinner, bed and breakfast throughout.

#### Start and End of Tour

The closest international airport is Pisa. Train, Pisa to Fornaci di Barga with one change in Lucca. Journey time 2hrs. (Not included). After breakfast on the final day, train from Fornaci to Pisa. Journey time 2hrs. (Not included).

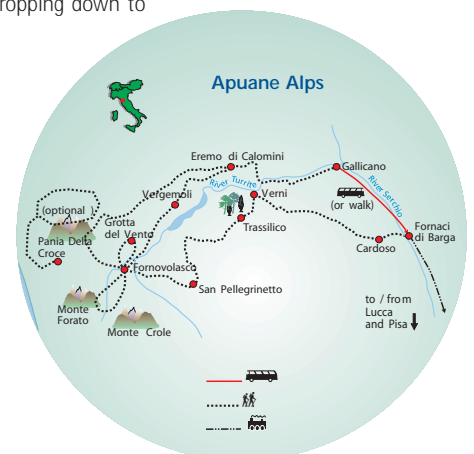
### Self-Guided Dates and Prices 2008

Available April - October

For prices please see insert.

▶ For more details request dossier JAA

▶ For those who wish to spend more time in Tuscan cities, we recommend spending an extra day in the medieval city of Lucca at the end of the tour



### Accommodation

**7 nights/8 days** - Accommodation in the Apuane Alps is generally of a more simple standard than one might expect in the more popular parts of Tuscany. It is however clean and comfortable.

We spend our first and last night in Fornaci di Barga at a centrally located modern 3\* hotel. Then a small pension in the village of Verni which was once a Roman colony. The pension has a terrace with a wonderful view of Trassilico.

Our next three nights are spent in Fornovolasco at a typical small unclassified hotel, the rooms are simply furnished and share a bathroom.

The penultimate night is spent at the Eremo di Calomini, an ancient hermitage site carved into rock walls, now converted into charming unusual rooms and a superb restaurant.