

LE VIE DEL PASCOLO

of Veneto

VALORIZATION OF TRANSHUMANCE
 INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY

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Boundaries of the Regional Natural Park of Lessinia

THE REGIONAL NATURAL PARK OF LESSINIA

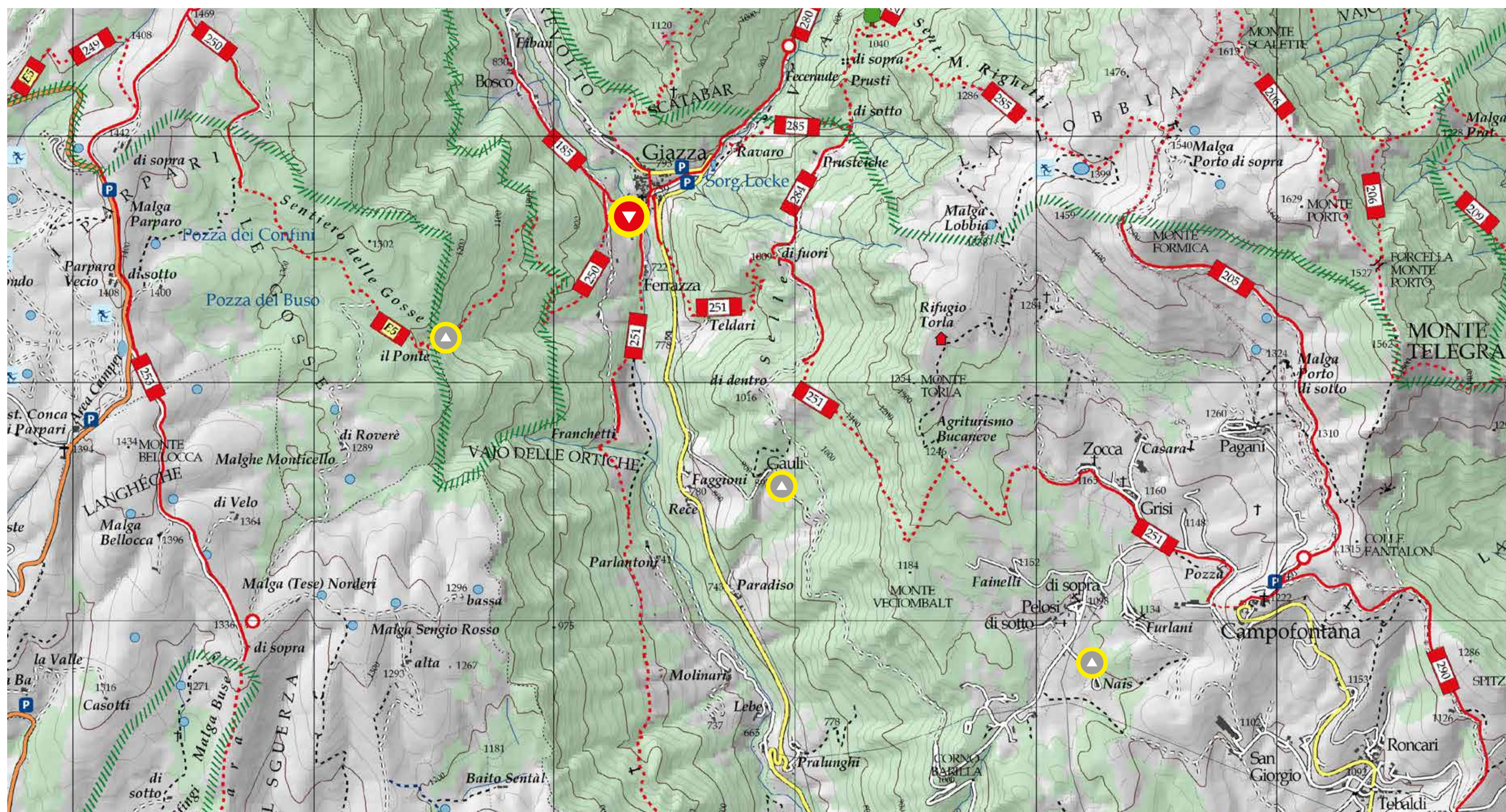
The Lessinia Regional Nature Park Authority was established by Regional Law No. 12 on January 30, 1990, with the aim of protecting the natural, historical, environmental, and ethnic features of the Lessinia territory. The Park includes all or part of the following municipalities: Sant'Anna d'Alfaredo, Erbezzo, Bosco Chiesanuova, Roverè Veronese, Grezzana, Selva di Progno, Dolcè, Fumane, Velo Veronese, San Giovanni Ilarione, Roncà, Vestenanova, Marano di Valpolicella, Crespadoro, Altissimo.

In particular, the following areas are included within the Park's perimeter and designated as areas under a natural reserve regime: Corno d'Aquillo - Spluga della Preta, Alto Vaio dell'Anguilla - Foresta dei Folignani, Foresta di Giazza, Cascate di Molina, Ponte di Veia; Covolo di Camposilvano - Valle delle Sfinzi; Covoli and Purga di Velo; Pesciara di Bolca - Monte Purga - Monte Postale; Strati di Roncà and Basalti colonnari di S. Giovanni Ilarione. The objectives of the Regional Nature Park are: the protection of soil, subsoil, flora, fauna, and water; the conservation, maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of the natural, historical, architectural, and landscape environment in its entirety, including the recovery of any altered parts; the safeguarding of specific anthropological, paleontological, geomorphological, vegetational, faunal, and archaeological characteristics of the areas; the use for scientific, cultural, and educational purposes; the promotion, also through the provision of appropriate technical and financial support, of maintenance activities for the natural and historical elements constituting the Park, as well as traditional economic, tourist, and service activities compatible with the primary need for the protection of the natural and historical environment; the social, cultural, and economic development of the populations within and around the Park; the promotion of leisure services and the organization of tourist flows; the protection and enhancement of the ethnic, historical, cultural, and linguistic heritage of the "Cimbrian" populations.

THE CIMBRI

The Cimbri were people of Bavarian-Tyrolean origin who first arrived in Verona in the 10th century. They were welcomed by Bishop Walterio and settled in the area, engaging in the same work activities they had practiced in their original territories, such as logging, charcoal production, and livestock farming. In the Lessinia region, these people arrived towards the end of the 13th century, mostly from the nearby Asiago Plateau, which was their first settlement area, but also from the regions of western Tyrol and southern Bavaria.

For a long time, there was a belief that this population could be descended from those Cimbri who descended from the Jutland Peninsula and were defeated in 101 BC by the Roman consul Gaius Marius in the Battle of Campi Raudii near present-day Vercelli. According to this hypothesis, the defeated Cimbri, in disarray, partly headed north to return to their homeland and partly sought refuge in the southern Alpine heights, including the Lessinia area. However, this historical reconstruction has lost credibility, even after recent DNA research conducted by the University "La Sapienza." Even the name "Cimbri" itself does not originate from these ancient



Elaborazione tratta dalla Carta Turistica per Escursionisti "Lessinia" del Comitato Gruppi Alpinistici Veronesi, ed. 2022

Teutonic people but perhaps from the word "Tzimbar," which is related to the activity of logging that many Cimbri were engaged in.

The settlers who established themselves in the new Lessinia territories brought with them customs, traditions, language, and rituals closely linked to their homelands. While place names in the Veronese mountains are undoubtedly connected to the ancient Cimbrian language called Taucias Gareida, other similarities with the Tyrolean and Bavarian Alpine valleys also arouse curiosity. An example is the worship and devotion to Saint Leonard of Limoges, a saint revered by the Cimbri people. Even today, there are churches dedicated to this saint in the Upper Vinschgau Valley and western Tyrol, which contain iconography, votive offerings, and sacred objects very similar to those found at the church dedicated to Saint Leonard on Mount San Moro in the eastern part of the Lessinia region.

The influx of settlers from the original regions continued in the 14th century, but gradually, in the following centuries, a process of "Italianization" took place, resulting in the loss of traditions, customs, and the near disappearance of Cimbrian culture. It is thanks to the dedication and passion of enlightened and persevering individuals, as well as the commendable work of the Curiatorium Cimbricum Veronese and the Lessinia Regional Nature Park, that the protection, enhancement, and promotion of this ethnic-cultural peculiarity of the Veronese mountains is alive and present today. It significantly characterizes the territories of central and eastern Lessinia, even from a tourist-cultural perspective, with the Cimbri Museum in Giazza - Mons. G. Cappelletti Cimbrian Cultural Center and the Trombini Museum in San Bartolomeo delle Montagne.

MUSEUM OF CIMBRI DI GIAZZA

Cimbrian Cultural Center "Mons. G. Cappelletti"

The Museum of the Cimbri - Cimbrian Cultural Center (in Cimbrian "Nest ume tzimbar gabizza," nest of culture), part of the "Museo System of Lessinia" along with the Trombini Museum in San Bartolomeo delle Montagne, is involved in various activities aimed at disseminating, communicating, and promoting the vast heritage of the Cimbri people of the Lessinia upland. It serves as a driving force for all cultural, editorial, linguistic valorization, historical research, and environmental conservation activities related to the Cimbri. The museum is housed in the historical building constructed by the Lessinia Mountain Community in the 1970s, intended to document the historical, linguistic, and cultural aspects of this ethnic community that settled on the slopes of Lessinia since the Middle Ages.

The center is dedicated to Monsignor Giuseppe Cappelletti, a native priest of Giazza who dedicated his entire life to studying the Cimbrian language

and its historical evolution, grammar, and toponymy of the Upper Val d'Il-lasi area. The visit begins with the presentation of two historical hypotheses regarding the settlement of this Germanic-speaking people, which could instead have Danish origins. Through a series of sculptures, paintings, examples of folk art, objects, and tools related to the Cimbri's traditional activities (agriculture, hunting, ice and charcoal production), as well as their customs and traditions, the museum offers a range of itineraries and in-depth exploration of the cultural, artistic, and religious aspects of this ancient people. A section is dedicated to the linguistic aspects of the Cimbrian language and its influences on the local toponymy.

THE MUSEUM OF THE TROMBINI IN SAN BARTOLOMEO DELLE MONTAGNE

The Museum of the Trombini in San Bortolo (or San Bartolomeo delle Montagne) documents the widespread presence of a particular folk instrument called the Trombino or Pistone. It is a muzzle-loading firearm, possibly from the 17th century, which is still used today to emphasize the main events of the Lessinia region through powerful shots. It could be considered an extension of the Center of Cimbrian Culture. For about thirty years, two associations of these shooters have been active, named "Trombini di San Bortolo" and "Pistonieri dell'Abbazia di Badia Calavena," accompanying every patronal feast and exceptional event in the area. The trombini are folkloric weapons consisting of large muskets, weighing up to forty kilograms, with a barrel filled with black powder. Carried on the shoulders and properly operated, they produce a thunderous blast that makes the operator spin. The museum documents the construction of the trombino, its evolution on the shooter's shoulders, the various stages of loading, the pressure exerted on the powder poured into the barrel from above, and the shooting operations. The museum collects some of these trombini or pistonieri, along with several films that provide a better explanation of the functioning, structure, and use of these weapons.

The trombini thus become a source of valorization for the territory and its culture, as they are quite unique, and no similar ones are known in other parts of the world. They were never offensive weapons but rather "instruments of joy" since they were always used for celebration, particularly during exceptional events such as the visit of the Bishop, the arrival of a new Parish Priest, or the celebration of a wedding or patronal festival. The Trombini festival is celebrated every year on Trinity Sunday between May and June in San Bortolo, while the Pistonieri dell'Abbazia festival takes place on the first Sunday of June in Badia Calavena.

Coordinamento editoriale: Diego Lonardonì



The Museum of the Trombini in San Bartolomeo delle Montagne (San Bortolo) - Fotografia di Giulio Carradore



Lime kiln of Rëbita di Buskangrube - Fotografia di Gianmarco Lazzarini



"Contrada Gauli" in the municipality of Selva di Progno - Fotografia di Luca Signori

RULES OF RESPECT

Rules of the Environmental Plan of the Regional Natural Park of Lessinia (D. C. Regione Veneto n. 42/1997)

