

The Map - Connected trail - Blue Route



Connected trail: blue route

Heading east into the countryside, past mills, parks and holiday villas

Varlungo Bridge - Via della Funga - Via delle Mulina di S. Andrea - Via di S. Andrea a Rovezzano - Via Aretina - Via Rocca Tedalda - Villa Favard Park - Via Generale Dalla Chiesa - Via della Nave di Rovezzano - Via della Funga – Varlungo Bridge



From the **Varlungo Bridge**, staying on the right bank of the Arno, we continue along **Via della Funga**, an off-road foot and cycle path. The countryside gradually becomes more rural, bearing witness to the ancient agricultural traditions in this section of the plains, which was once Florence's "pomario" (or orchard). You can still see cultivated vegetable gardens and orchards. Once we have passed the small bridge that spans the confluence with the Mensola River (coming down from the Settignano hills), we find the weir and **Mill of S. Michele a Rovezzano**.

Varlungo Bridge – This is the first bridge upstream of the Arno within Florence's municipal boundary. It is named after the ancient village of the same name, which itself probably originates from "vadum longum", or long ford. This area was once crossed by branches of the Arno (locally known as "bisarni") and used to contain an alluvial forest, similar to the one currently found downstream from the city.



The Mill complex of S. Michele a Rovezzano



Part of the Mill

Bypassing this beautiful complex, now a private residence, we continue along the river on **Via delle Mulina di Sant'Andrea**, where we find the **Mill of Sant'Andrea a Rovezzano**.



The Mill of Sant'Andrea a Rovezzano

There are reports of this building dating back to the 15th century, when it belonged to the Alessandri-Albizzi family and was used to grind and dry the grain or to tan cloth. In 1826, it was passed on to the Witals, a Swiss family who modernised the grinding system and expanded the surface area by building a mechanic repair workshop. In 1863, it employed about twenty people, including cart drivers, millers and other skilled workers. After WWII, the grinding machinery was disassembled and it was converted into a hydroelectric power plant before it was finally turned into private residences.

Mills were very important for this area, so much so that a grinding mill was depicted on Rovezzano's coat of arms (this Municipality was established in 1808 and also used to govern the districts of San Salvi, Varlungo and Settignano, however, it was abolished in 1865).

Next to the Mill, there is a tiny walled-in street, at the end of which we find a steep staircase. This leads us to the paved part of **Via delle Mulina di S. Andrea**. From here, we cross the tabernacle featuring the mural painting entitled "Sacra Famiglia con San Giovannino", keeping to the right down **Via S. Andrea a Rovezzano**, we can take a very short detour a couple of metres to the left to discover the **Church of S. Andrea**. If it is open, we can admire the 13th century "Madonna in trono con Bambino e due angeli".

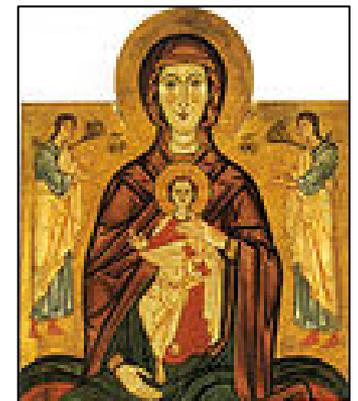


The tiny street next to the S. Andrea Mill



The Church of S. Andrea a Rovezzano

Founded on a previous oratory from the turn of the first millennium, this church was altered several times during the 13th and 19th centuries. It houses a panel painting (1200-1210) by the so-called Master of Sant'Andrea a Rovezzano. It is one of the oldest works of its kind in Florence.



We retrace our steps and continue our walk along Via S. Andrea a Rovezzano. We are now facing the huge **Enzo Pazzagli Park of Modern Art**.



Pazzagli Park

This large park (23,000 m²) is dedicated to modern art. It was begun in 2001 by the sculptor, Enzo Pazzagli, and houses a permanent open-air collection of over 200 of his iron and steel sculptures, as well as works by Giampiero Poggiali Berlinghieri, Marcello Guasti and others (see the notes for visiting information).

Once we have passed Pazzagli Park, next to the small garden on the roadside, we take a left onto **Via Aretina** and then take **Via Rocca Tedalda**, which we follow up to the entrance gate of **Villa Favard Park**.

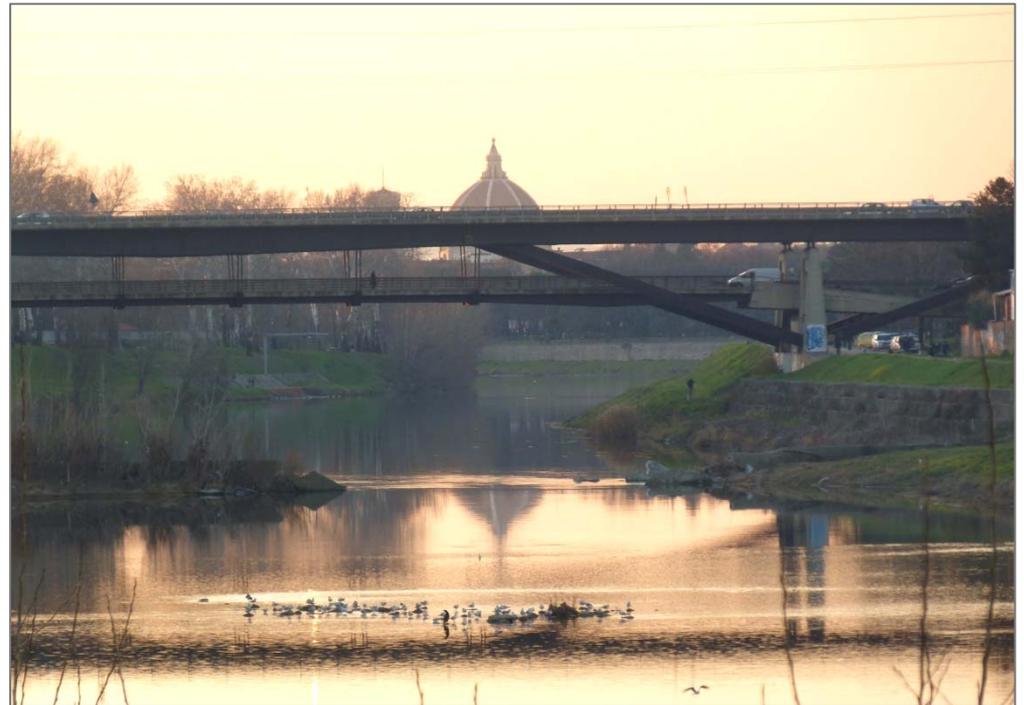


Villa Favard – Owned by the Cerchi family and then in 1493 by the Bartolini family, it was restored in the early 1500s by Baccio d’Agnolo and then again in the mid-1800s by the architect Giuseppe Poggi, at the request of Baroness Fiorella Favard de l’Anglade. This beautiful suburban villa is surrounded by an English-style park featuring oaks, holm oaks and Lebanon cedars. It has its own private chapel and stables. Following many setbacks which almost brought it to a state of abandon, the villa was restored and today it is used by the Cherubini Conservatory. The park is owned by the Municipality and is free to visit (see notes).

We leave the Park, skirting along the right-hand side of the front of Villa Favard, which takes us to the right onto **Via Generale Dalla Chiesa** (over the pedestrian crossing), turning back towards the city. We then get back onto **Via della Nave a Rovezzano** which leads us to **Via della Funga**, passing the **Mill of San Michele a Rovezzano**, and finally reaching the **Varlungo Bridge**, which is back where we started.



The tower of S. Michele Mill



On the way back, towards the Varlungo Bridge

Technical information

Trail distance	4.5 km
Height difference	11 m
Maximum gradient	-
Average journey time	Walking: 1h 10' - Running: 30'
Difficulty:	*

Technical and sporting features

Road conditions and surface	This trail is completely flat (except for the slopes on the bridges over the Arno). It mainly runs along footpaths, except for the part connected to Villa Favard, although there is still a pavement here (except for a short section).
Suitable for	Walkers of all levels Families with children (all along Via della Funga) Runners of all levels
Type of training	This type of trail allows you to train at your own level. It is excellent for developing resistance . It is also well-suited for repetition training for the development of aerobic strength .
Footwear:	Walking shoes and in particular running shoes

Directions

Ataf lines:	<i>With stops directly at or next to the start of the trail:</i> Line 14 - stop Aretina 09 (Careggi - Station - SMN - Bellariva - Aretina) Line 23 B - final stop Nave a Rovezzano (on the right bank)
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Places to visit

Villa Favard Park

Free admission.
November - March: 09:00 am - 06:00 pm
April - October : 08:00 am - 08:00 pm

Pazzagli Park

Paid admission.
March - October - November: 03:00 pm - 06:00 pm
April - May - September: 03:00 pm - 06:30 pm
June - July - August: 04:30 pm - 07:30 pm
Otherwise only by booking
Info:
tel. 055 691114 e + 39 3483300352
info@pazzagli.com
<http://www.pazzagli.com>

Church of S. Andrea a Rovezzano

Open for Mass (11:00 am on Sundays and public holidays, 05:00 pm before public holidays and weekdays)
Tel. + 39 055 69 01 77.

NB: The information on the line services and places to visit was correct in January 2014. Please check for potential changes.

Design, creation and coordination

Project

Text, layout and coordination	Municipality of Florence - Department for Culture, Tourism and Sport: Carla Giannini
Route layout	Municipality of Florence - Department for Culture, Tourism and Sport: Paolo Mangini
Technical and sporting features	Training Consultant: Fulvio Massini
Photos	Municipality of Florence - Department for Culture, Tourism and Sport : Fabio Reggioli and Giulio Monasta Contributor: Giacomo Scarzanella
Thanks	Presidents of the Commissions for Sport in the districts of the Municipality of Florence Ataf
<i>for the trail layouts</i>	Bardazzi Andrea, Bardazzi Giulia, Bugetti Stefano, Verzieri Daniele and Gensini Marco

Maps and Mobile Apps

Coordination and development	Municipality of Florence - Department for Information Systems : Gianluca Vannuccini, Leonardo Ricci, Enrico Castagnoli, Elena Marrassini, Stefano Gecchele and Annita Bandini Contributor: Giacomo Scarzanella Linea Comune S.p.A.: Bianca Maria Beconi and Gabriele Andreozzi
Mobile app	Geoln S.r.l.