



Monte Luco

Experiencing nature in peace and quiet

Monte Luco is a mountain in the Sienese Chianti area that rises just over 800 meters and is characterized both by the presence of pines, firs, chestnuts and beeches and, in the lower area, by thick Mediterranean scrub.

Its places are wild, but well liked by those who wish to **experience nature in full quiet**. In summer you can find a pleasant cool climate while in winter you can see some snowflakes falling on firs, pines and chestnut trees.

In these wonderful places in the middle of the forest you can also find many gifts offered by nature including mushrooms, chestnuts, chestnuts, blueberries, quinces, strawberries, blackberries and wild strawberries.

Among the animals you can see foxes, badgers, hares, roe deer, fallow deer, wild boar, porcupines, squirrels, wolves and birds of prey.

In its lands there is also a beautiful and particular **family of llamas** made free by the not far zoo of Cavriglia (now closed), the animals have adapted to the area so much that they have procreated other little ones of their species. The luckiest visitors can see them grazing in the clearings or walking along the road even if they prefer to be immersed in the woods near the water springs near the summit.

The **Ombrone River** rises from Mount Luco and after a distance of 161 kilometres it flows into the Tyrrhenian Sea near Alberese, winning the silver medal for being the second longest river in Tuscany after the Arno.

This mountain has a very peculiar and nice **legend** about Lucos, famous king of a population of gnomes, who extracted silver, gold and precious stones from the bowels of the mountains. He had two magical weapons, a cloak, which made him invisible, and a belt which gave him the strength of a dozen strong men. His most precious treasure, however, was the magnificent enchanted lake inside his great cave. Bathing there during the summer solstice you could become immortal for the whole calendar year, but one day the waters of the lake receded and all the gnomes died leaving behind only a legend.