



**Ecomuseum
of the Pistoiese Mountains**

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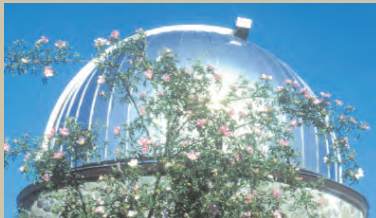
Opened in 1990, the Ecomuseum of the Pistoiese Mountains is made up of six open-air trails (incorporating museums, educational centres and historical buildings) which make it possible to discover the Pistoiese mountains through the marks that the relationship between man and the environment has left on the area over the centuries. It is an essential environment, where water and woodlands have supplied the raw material and energy used by the local inhabitants to create simple and ingenious manufacturing plants in the form of iron-works, iceworks and mills. These structures have been restored and given new functions and, together with the expressions of art and tradition, craftsmanship and agricultural knowledge, have been turned into this experimental and innovative kind of museum system which has been emulated by many other areas in Italy.



Working in collaboration with the Ecomuseum are

The Astronomical Observatory at Pian De' Termini

The observatory was founded in 1990 at Pian de' Termini, Gavinana, in the commune of San Marcello Pistoiese. It was established thanks to the collaboration between the *Comune di San Marcello Pistoiese*, the *Provincia di Pistoia*, the *Comune di Piteglio*, the *Comunità Montana Appennino Pistoiese* and contributions from the European Union, the Regione Toscana, and the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Pistoia e Pescia. The observatory stands in a small clearing at about 950 metres above sea level, well away from disturbing light sources, just under 3km from Gavinana. It is equipped with two domes and telescopes of 40 cm and 60 cm in diameter. In the field of scientific research, some excellent results have been attained by the *Gruppo Astrofili Montagna pistoiese*, which runs the observatory on behalf of the founding institu-



tions. In fact, the observatory ranks seventeenth in the world classification regarding the discovery of so-called "minor planets". Adjacent to the observatory is a large hall which can contain up to 60 people, equipped with audiovisual instruments and the latest teaching aids.

For information and reservations: Biblioteca Comunale di San Marcello Pistoiese (library) 0573-621289

The Paper Museum

At Pietrabuona, in the Swiss-like area of Pescia, visitors can see the ancient paper maker, Le Carte, where 18th-century machinery for the traditional, hand-made production of special and watermarked paper have been put back into operation. Nearby is the study centre featuring working models, a multimedia room and books about the art of paper making.

The museum and study centre have been restored and organised by the *Associazione Centro di documentazione sulla lavorazione della carta* (association for the paper making study centre), with the collaboration of the *Comune di Pescia*, the *Provincia di Pistoia*, the *Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Pistoia e Pescia*, sponsors from the *Associazione Industriali* and other private ones. *Open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays*



from 9.30 am til 12.30 pm.

Groups by appointment.

Information and reservations: Centro di documentazione sulla lavorazione della carta (study centre) tel. 0572-408020

La Fabbrica del Verde (nature centre)

At Pracchia, near Villa La Collina (via della Forravilla 35) is the *Fabbrica del Verde*, a centre offering accommodation and educational activities on the natural environment, organised by the *Laboratorio territoriale per l'educazione ambientale* of the council for Public Education, Comune di Pistoia (0573 31830) and run by the *Cooperativa Itinerari*. Among the activities on offer are workshops on woodland, rivers, mushrooms, and folk songs, as well as excursions and stays for schools and adults.

For information and reservations:

Tel. 0573/490512 fax 0573/490949 Cooperativa Itinerari- Fabbrica del Verde



The Coal Museum

The coal museum at Baggio was set up thanks to the collaboration between the Tourist Information office at Baggio, the *Provincia di Pistoia*, the *Comune di Pistoia and Circostrizione n.2*.

The museum contains exhibits regarding tools and techniques used in the manufacturing of charcoal, an ancient craft which required particular experience. The *carbonaio* (coal maker) was the person in charge of the fire, and in popular imagination he was believed to have supernatural gifts. Two itineraries have also been laid out in Baggio:

Moso-Baggio (35-40 mins, gentle path); and Villa di Baggio-Aia dei Bocchi-Ponte di Baggio-Baggio (approx 1hour, more demanding)
Information: tel.0573-46422

Hydro-electric Station Enel/Gem di Sperando

At Lima (in the commune of San Marcello Pistoiese) it is possible to visit the Sperando Hydro-electric Station, one of the plants belonging to the Enel/Gem electric company

which produces electricity from renewable sources, perfectly integrated with the environment. Thanks to Enel's "Natura e territorio" programme, it is possible to visit, by appointment, both the station itself and the trails laid out in the surrounding area. These trails are intended to make use of the natural environment and to allow visitors to explore the structure, function, industrial, environmental and economic-social value of the plant itself.

They offer an opportunity to see how natural energy resources are used today, especially hydraulic energy which for centuries has made it possible for metal-working and proto-industrial activities to be carried out in the Pistoiese mountains; activities such as iron working, ice production, and milling, as shown by the various trails organised by the Ecomuseum.

For information and reservations:

Provincia di Pistoia

Council for Culture; tel. 0573 97461

www.provincia.pistoia.it/

ecomuseo ecomuseo@provincia.pistoia.it

Il Festival Sentieri Acustici (world music festival) Various localities of the Pistoiese mountains

(in the communes of Cutigliano and San Marcello Pistoiese). The Festival Sentieri Acustici takes place during the third or fourth week in August every year. It is the only festival in Tuscany dedicated to world music. It is an exploration of the cultures and traditions of peoples of the world, with particular emphasis on con-

temporary taste and music. Indoor evening concerts, and open-air afternoon concerts take place in the woods and in the village squares. Visitors can also take part, playing with their own groups after the festival concerts have finished, or in one of the jam sessions that take place in the streets and squares of the mountain villages. It is also possible to take part in music courses, learning how to play one of the many instruments on offer, including the guitar, the keyboards, group music, and percussion, or to sing or perform a traditional dance. Various other activities are organised by the Ecomuseum: high-altitude treks, hand weaving courses, the preparation of herbs, local cuisine, photography, astronomy, and the tasting of and learning about local produce.

For information: Provincia di Pistoia Assessorato alla Cultura tel. 0573 974671/6

www.provincia.pistoia.it/sentieriacustici

sentieriacustici@provincia.pistoia.it



More good reasons for a visit to the Ecomuseum

Educational stays

“Homo Faber”, life in the Middle Ages”, “Water, fire and wind – mountain energy sources”, “Man, the wood and daily life” are three suggested themes for primary, middle and senior schools. They offer an opportunity to spend an enjoyable few days far from traditional tourist destinations, learning to appreciate the natural beauty of the surrounding landscape and the tranquility of the area. A guide specialised in trails through the natural environment, recognised by the Regione Toscana, leads pupils through the various activities: from the traditional guided tours of the Ecomuseum’s six trails to more unusual educational games and activities (such as bread-making, orientation

and the use of the senses, listening to traditional songs around the fireplace, gathering firewood, collecting plant specimens to observe under the microscope, star-gazing at the Astronomical Observatory of the Pistoiese Mountains).

For information and reservations:

Provincia di Pistoia

Assessorato alla Cultura

tel. 0573 974676

www.provincia.pistoia.it/ecomuseo,

ecomuseo@provincia.pistoia.it

Nature trails

Following the tracks of woodland animals, learning to recognise different prints and maybe even catch a glimpse of a wolf, badger or beaver, or, looking skywards, spot a falcon, buzzard or observe any one of the many bird species hiding in the branches of the trees and listen to their song. For plant lovers, perhaps a trail among the monumental trees, or a trip to pick some of the wood fruits, still made into syrups, jams and other delicious products by local companies; or a trail to learn how to recognise medicinal herbs and make them into creams and ointments.



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The Ice Trail: historical pictures/
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The Iron Trail: Ferriera Sabatini/ Claudio Mazzanti; Suspension Bridge/
Archivio fotografico A.P.T. Abetone-
Pistoia-Montagna pistoiese; Giardino
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The Religious Art Trail: Chiesa/
C. Chiavacci; Polo didattico/ M. Tem-
pestini; Compagnia del SS. Sacramento/
M. Rabatti; Santa Lucia/ M. Tempestini.

The Everyday Life Trail: Museo Rivore-
ta/ C. Chiavacci; laboratory/ M. Tem-
pestini; Carbonara e Molino del-
l'Orsigna/ Stefano Lupi.

Naturalistico: Orto Botanico Gate and
flowers/ E. Longhi; Centro Naturalisti-
co/ C. Chiavacci.

The Stone Trail/ Piero Balletti;
Osservatorio/ Archivio A.P.T. Abetone-
Pistoia-Montagna pistoiese.

Museo della carta: Artarte p.s.c.r.l.

Museo del Carbonaio: Pro Loco
di Baggio.

Festival Sentieri Acustici: Archivio
Provincia di Pistoia.

Soggiorni didattici: Laboratorio della
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HOW TO GET TO THE ECOMUSEUM

● BY BUS

(Blu BUS tel. 0573/363171,
0573/363243, linea Pistoia-Abetone,
con stops at Le Piastre, Pontepetri,
Pracchia, San Marcello, Cutigliano,
Rivoreta e Abetone).

● BY TRAIN

(Pistoia-Porretta-Bologna, stopping
at Pracchia for the Iron Trail, and at
Ponte alla Venturina for the Stone Trail).
Ferrovie dello Stato Stazione di Pistoia
Servizio F.S. Informa, tel. 892021,
www.trenitalia.it

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

● PROVINCIA DI PISTOIA

UFFICIO CULTURA

Tel. 0573 97461, Fax 0573 974675

● AGENZIA PER IL TURISMO- PISTOIA

MONTAGNA PISTOIESE

San Marcello Pistoiese; *tel. 0573630145*

Cutigliano; *tel. 0573 68028*

Abetone; *tel. 0573 60231*

Pistoia; *tel. 0573 21622*

● PALAZZO ACHILLI

Tel. 0573-638025, Fax 0573-638849

www.provincia.pistoia.it/ecomuseo

e-mail:ecomuseo@provincia.pistoia.it