

From Forenza (Village of Mosaics) to Maschito (Historic Centre) along the Venosa Municipal Transhumance Road (Arts. 10 and 13, Legislative Decree 42/2004)

A route that tells a story of movement, labour and faith: the walk from Forenza to Maschito follows a stretch of the Venosa Municipal Transhumance Road, one of the historic routes travelled over the centuries by shepherds and wayfarers crossing the hills of the Vulture-Melfese area.

With a length of 7.4 kilometres, an elevation gain of 90 metres and a descent of 310 metres, and an average walking time of around two hours, this intermediate-level itinerary is ideal for those seeking a short yet intense experience, immersed in a landscape shaped by memory and authenticity. The route alternates between paved, compacted and unpaved surfaces, moving through an agricultural setting where human labour and nature coexist in perfect harmony.

The starting point is the Village of Mosaics in Forenza, an evocative, scattered artistic trail that has transformed the streets and squares of the historic centre into an open-air museum. The works, created using ceramic tesserae and local stone, depict scenes of rural life, religious symbols and motifs inspired by Lucanian tradition, giving the community a shared heritage of art and identity.

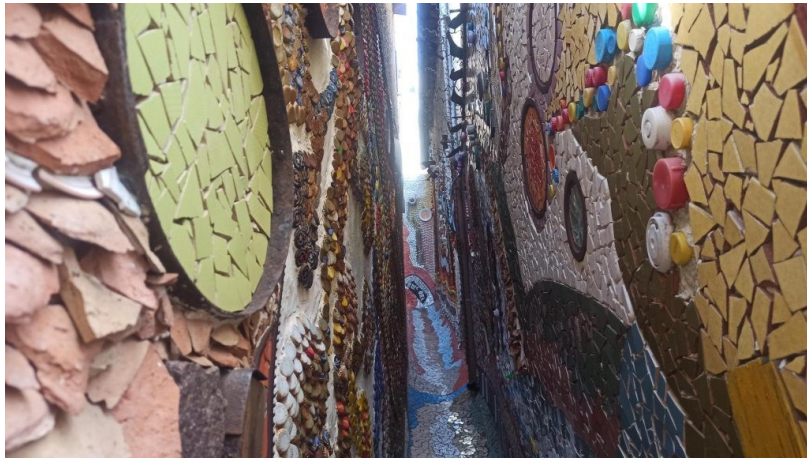


Figure 1. Village of Mosaics (Forenza)

Leaving Forenza behind, the path opens onto wide, quiet panoramas, where the Lucanian countryside reveals the full harmony of its forms and colours: vineyards, olive groves, patches of oak woodland and broad expanses of wheat.

Here begins the stretch of the Venosa Municipal Transhumance Road, one of the ancient transhumance routes that once linked the mountain pastures of Basilicata with the plains of Apulia. Walking along these paths means retracing the history of pastoral civilisation: routes of flocks, merchants and pilgrims, where time once flowed at the slow rhythm of the seasons and the animals' pace. The walk, gentle and silent, is lined with dry-stone walls and rows of olive trees, while in the distance the unmistakable silhouette of Mount Vulture emerges, dominating the landscape like an ancient guardian.

The Venosa Municipal Transhumance Road, recognised as a protected landscape asset under Articles 10 and 13 of Legislative Decree 42/2004, is a living cultural heritage and a symbol of the collective memory of these lands. Every bend in the route tells of the age-old relationship between humanity and landscape, between the need to depart and the desire to return.

The final destination of the walk is the Historic Centre of Maschito, a charming network of narrow paved alleyways, arches and courtyards that recount centuries of history and arbëreshë identity. Stone houses, carved coats of arms and small Byzantine-style churches create an atmosphere that is both authentic and timeless. Walking through these narrow streets means entering the heart of local culture, where language, music and popular traditions blend into a unique mosaic of memory and spirituality. The Historic Centre of Maschito is the perfect

conclusion to the journey: a place where travel becomes encounter, and the history of transhumance merges with the vitality of a community that still proudly preserves its cultural heritage.



Figure 2. Historic Centre of Maschito

The route from Forenza to Maschito is far more than a simple link between two villages: it is a journey into the history of transhumance, shaped by faith, labour and rural beauty. Every step leads to the discovery of an authentic Basilicata, made up of silences, unhurried moments and a landscape that speaks with an ancient voice.

It is an ideal itinerary for those who love cultural and scenic trekking—an experience that brings together art, history and spirituality, where walking itself becomes an act of reflection and harmony. Along the rural road, between stone and light, the traveller rediscovers the beauty of simple things: the earth, the wind, the water and the deep voice of Mount Vulture, to be experienced step by step.