

Print: Tipografia Moderna, Ravenna, December 2013



Park of the Gypsum Vein of Romagna

Historic and natural landscape,
typical products of the itineraries
in the provinces of Ravenna and Bologna

A close-up photograph of a bird of prey, likely a hawk or falcon, showing its sharp beak, yellow eye, and brown feathers. The bird is looking slightly to the left. The feathers are a mix of brown and tan, with some lighter patches on the throat and chest. The beak is dark and hooked. The eye is a bright yellow with a black pupil. The background is dark and out of focus.

THE NATURAL HERITAGE

THE HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE

water god whose roar could be heard in the depths. In the Middle Ages religious and military settlements rose on the Gypsum Vein at Brisighella, Rontana, Monte

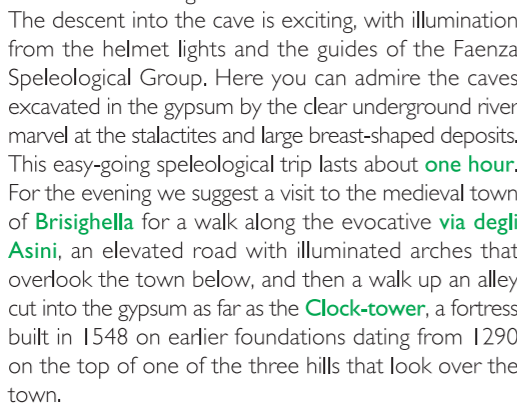
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Agriculture provides exceptional agri-food products whose value is enhanced by specialised production, quality brands and fairs. Outstanding fruits, of the many produced, include the peaches and nectarines of Romagna (PGI), the scallions of Romagna (PGI) the extravirgin olive oil of Brisighella (PDO), the chestnuts of Castel del Rio (PGI), the apicots of the Santemo Valley, the aromatic herbs and forgotten fruits of Casola Valsenio. In the entire area truffles can be found along with fresh and aged cheeses and the beef of the particular strain of Romagna (CQ), grazing lamb CQ and "Mora Romagnola", the autoctonous black pigs which are suitable for making pork products. Both traditional dishes and those of the new cuisine of Romagna are accompanied well by the wines in this part of Romagna, the main ones being Albana di Romagna (DOCG) and the DOC wines Sangiovese di Romagna, Trebbiano di Romagna, Cagnina and the recent Colli d'Imola and Colli di Faenza.



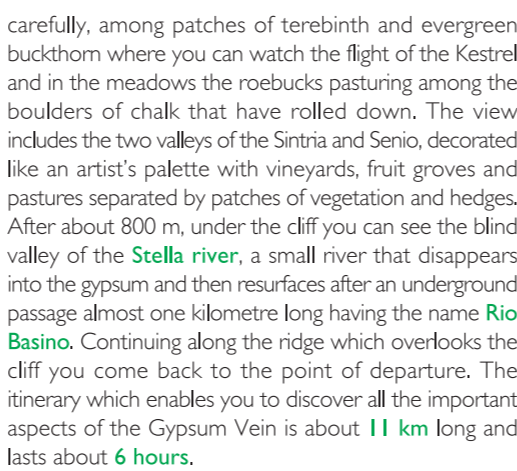
CARNÈ REFUGE

505, leaving Mount Rontana behind on the left. You come to the crest at **Ca' Angognano** and continue along the 505 until the second track on the right which takes you around the peak of **Mount Spugi** (439 m) along the 511/b, until you arrive at the **Vespignano Chapel**, among vineyards and fruit groves; then you take the CAI 511. A track leads to the area of **Castelnuovo**, returning to the gypsum outcrops whose more uneven slopes are soon covered with woods. The track joins a descending asphalt road for about 450 m until you



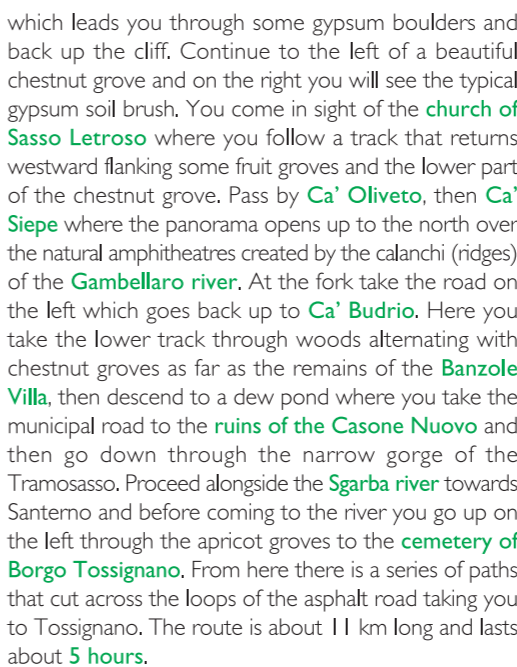
MONTE MAURO

The itinerary starts from the road that goes up to **Mount Mauro** (the highest peak of the Chalk Vein, 517 m) and crosses over to the right (in the direction of Zattaglia) of the valley bottom of the **Sintria river**. From the parking area before the last hill that leads to the **parish church of Santa Maria in Tiberiaci**, you continue along the CAI 511 trail, passing the church and along the spectacular crest of Mount Mauro about half way up its side. From here you can admire a breathtaking view over the plain of Romagna and all the way to the sea on the clearest days. Skirt the peak on the south side where you can see the best examples of the characteristic cliff vegetation and brush. The path then leads into the wood and goes down a steep wooded hill until it crosses a track where you turn left towards **Ca' di Sasso**, right under the sheer cliff of Mount Incisa, along the CAI 513 trail. After about 150 m you leave the track and follow a path on the left that overlooks a ridged valley. After passing another house after about 500 m you take the left fork to another track that takes you up to the next bend where you turn left on another path to **Ca' Castellina**. The path continues uphill and you keep right until you reach a point under the saddle of **Ca' Faggia**. Passing the house of the same name you go down to **Ca' Sasso** where a track on the left takes you to the picturesque **village of Crivellari** whose original houses of chalk and flint date from the 13th century. You go up a path right through the centre of the **village** between patches of vegetation and arid meadows where you can admire the splendid flowering of orchids and on to the crest of the Gypsum Vein and return to the CAI 511 trail at the top of **Mount Volpe** (495 m). You turn left, following the difficult stretches of the path



RIVA DI SAN BIAGIO

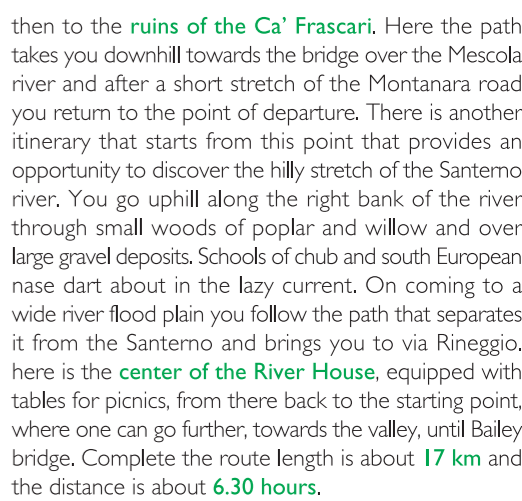
The itinerary starts from the town **square of Tossignano**, an old village built on gypsum, in a position overlooking the Santerno river valley. Follow the CAI 705 trail as far as the church of **San Mamante** and the **ruins of the medieval fortress**. Skirt the hill on which the village stands along a path that takes you down to the gorge of **Tramosaso** which can be crossed where the **Sgarba river** disappears under the clack. Then you pass under the imposing **cliffs of the Riva San Biagio** walking through meadows, patches of juniper and broom and large boulders of gypsum that have rolled down. After the ruins of **Ca' Nova** you ascend to the top of the cliff to the **Prè pass** (384 m). From here you follow a long stretch the crest of the ridge taking due care if it rains. The path is bordered by patches of bushy Holm oak and evergreen buckthorn. There are frequent traces of diggings left by hedgehogs and prickles left behind. You continue up to **Mount Casino** (474 m) and then descend to the **Ca' Budrio** saddle. Go past the house on the southern side along the side of a dolina where there is a meadow, an excellent site for seeing various species of orchids. Go round the dolina, crossing the meadow lower down and then follow the CAI 705 trail

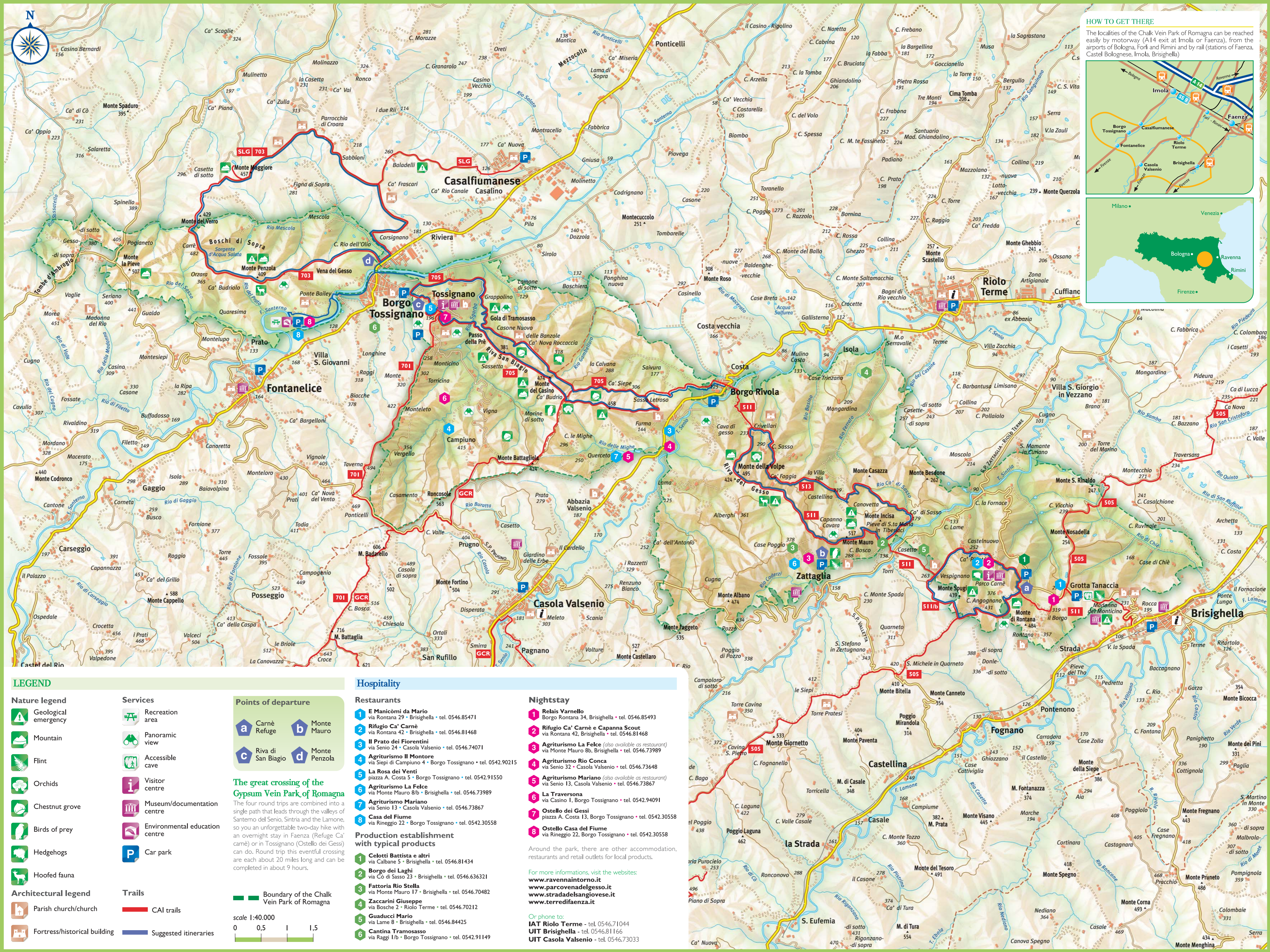


On returning to Tossignano it is worthwhile stopping at the **Palazzo Baronale visitor centre** devoted to the ecosystem of the Chalk Vein and the torrential rivers of the Apennines that cut through it.

MONTE PENZOLA

The itinerary, of considerable **geological interest**, starts just before the bridge on the Montanara provincial road over the Santeiro river near the enormous **block of gypsium**, known as the **Sasello**, which fell right into the middle of the water course. The track goes along following the CAI 703 marking north of the vein as far as the top of **Mount Penzola** (409 m) which can be reached following a rather steep ascent among apricot groves and meadows. From the top of the mountain you can enjoy a view of the **Santeiro river** valley and looking downward among the blocks of gypsium that have rolled down and patches of brush it is possible to catch a glimpse of deer and wild boar. After passing through **Ca' Budriello** you ascend on the right through the patches of broom to the clayish crests from which the walk along the calanchi (ridges) of the **Mescola river** valley begins. After crossing a ploughed field the narrow trail rises over clay to **Mount Acqua Salata** which owes its name to the existence of a spring of bromo-iodine water, typical of clayey regions. The trail descends along the crest to the **ruins of the Carré** where it becomes a muddy track until after the former **quarry area of Mount Verro**. On passing the quarry you take a path to the right which rises and bears right again to the source of the Mescola river and the top of **Mount Maggiore**, a clayey peak rising 455 m. Then you follow the trail down to Colline while the path on the crest of the calanchi gradually becomes narrower and increasingly interesting until you come to the so-called **Croara Bridge** which leads to the church of Croara where you join the road. A little further on you come to a path on the right which takes you back to the crests of the calanchi. First you come to the enormous **Sabbioni pine**.





HOW TO GET THERE

The localities of the Chalk Vein Park of Romagna can be reached easily by motorway (A14 exit at Imola or Faenza), from the airports of Bologna, Forlì and Rimini and by rail (stations of Faenza, Castel Bolognese, Imola, Brisighella)

LEGEND

Nature legend

- Geological emergency
- Mountain
- Flint
- Orchids
- Chestnut grove
- Birds of prey
- Hedgehogs
- Hoofed fauna

Services

- Recreation area
- Panoramic view
- Accessible cave
- Visitor centre
- Museum/documentation centre
- Environmental education centre
- Car park

Points of departure

- Carnè Refuge
- Monte Mauro
- Riva di San Biagio
- Monte Penzola

Architectural legend

- Parish church/church
- Fortress/historical building

Trails

- CAI trails
- Suggested itineraries

The great crossing of the Gypsum Vein Park of Romagna

The four round trips are combined into a single path that leads through the valleys of Santemo del Senio, Sintria and the Lamone, so you an unforgettable two-day hike with an overnight stay in Faenza (Refuge Ca' carnè) or in Tossignano (Ostello dei Gessi) can do. Round trip this eventful crossing are each about 20 miles long and can be completed in about 9 hours.

Boundary of the Chalk Vein Park of Romagna

scale 1:40.000

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Hospitality

Restaurants

- E Manicòmi da Mario**
via Rontana 29 • Brisighella • tel. 0546.85471
- Rifugio Ca' Carnè**
via Rontana 42, Brisighella • tel. 0546.81468
- Il Prato dei Fiorentini**
via Senio 24 • Casola Valsenio • tel. 0546.74071
- Agriturismo Il Montore**
via Silepi di Campiuno 4 • Borgo Tossignano • tel. 0542.90215
- La Rosa dei Venti**
piazza A. Costa 5 • Borgo Tossignano • tel. 0542.91550
- Agriturismo La Felce**
via Monte Mauro 8/b • Brisighella • tel. 0546.73989
- Agriturismo Mariano**
via Senio 13 • Casola Valsenio • tel. 0546.73867
- Casa del Fiume**
via Rineggio 22 • Borgo Tossignano • tel. 0542.30558

Production establishment with typical products

- Celotti Battista e altri**
via Calbane 5 • Brisighella • tel. 0546.81434
- Borgo dei Laghi**
via Lame 8 • Brisighella • tel. 0546.636321
- Fattoria Rio Stella**
via Monte Mauro 17 • Brisighella • tel. 0546.70482
- Zaccarini Giuseppe**
via Bosche 2 • Riolo Terme • tel. 0546.70212
- Guaducci Mario**
via Lame 8 • Brisighella • tel. 0546.84425
- Cantina Tramosasso**
via Raggi 1/b • Borgo Tossignano • tel. 0542.91149

Nightstay

- Relais Varnello**
Borgo Rontana 34, Brisighella • tel. 0546.85493
- Rifugio Ca' Carnè e Capanna Scout**
via Rontana 42, Brisighella • tel. 0546.81468
- Agriturismo La Felce** (also available as restaurant)
via Monte Mauro 8b, Brisighella • tel. 0546.73989
- Agriturismo Rio Conca**
via Senio 32 • Casola Valsenio • tel. 0546.73648
- Agriturismo Mariano** (also available as restaurant)
via Senio 13, Casola Valsenio • tel. 0546.73867
- La Traversona**
via Casino 1, Borgo Tossignano • tel. 0542.94091
- Ostello dei Gessi**
piazza A. Costa 13, Borgo Tossignano • tel. 0542.30558
- Ostello Casa del Fiume**
via Rineggio 22, Borgo Tossignano • tel. 0542.30558

Around the park, there are other accommodation, restaurants and retail outlets for local products.

For more informations, visit the websites:
www.ravennaintorno.it
www.parcovenadellgesso.it
www.stradadelsangiovese.it
www.terredifaenza.it

Or phone to:
IAT Riolo Terme - tel. 0546.71044
UIT Brisighella - tel. 0546.81166
UIT Casola Valsenio - tel. 0546.73033