

An aerial photograph of a coastal area. The water is exceptionally clear, showing a gradient from light turquoise near the shore to a deeper blue further out. The shoreline is composed of large, rugged, brownish-grey rocks of various shapes and sizes. A narrow strip of white sand beach is visible between the rocks and the water. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

# Discovering Elba Island

# Elba Municipalities





# Marciana Marina

In Marciana Marina municipality there are 3 main areas:

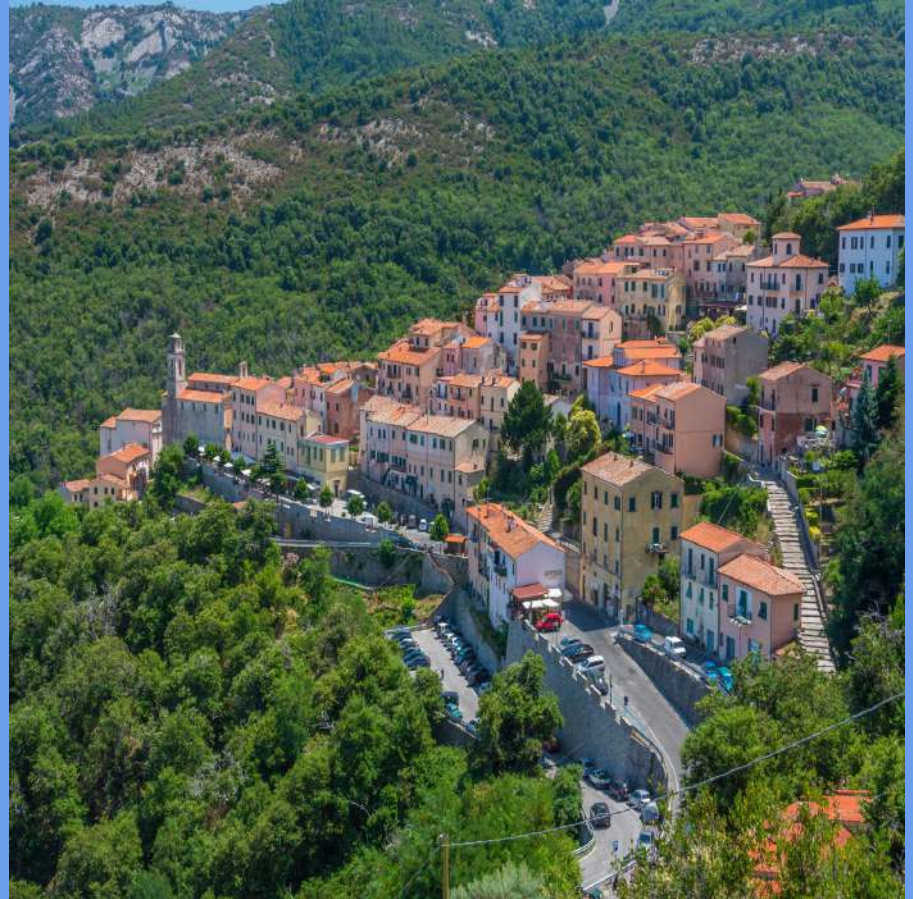
- Marciana Marina
- Bagno
- Sprizze

A tv serie called “*I delitti del Bar Lume*” was filmed in Marciana Marina.



# Marciana

In Marciana municipality there are several areas: Marciana, Poggio, Patresi, Sant'Andrea, Chiessi, Pomonte, Procchio, Cotoncello, Mortaio, Redinoce e Zanca. In Marciana there are just over 2000 inhabitants and there is the highest mountain of Elba called Monte Capanne.



# Portoferraio

In Portoferraio municipality there are other areas: Portoferraio, Biodola and Bagnaia.

Portoferraio is the capital of the Elba Island. The municipality of Portoferraio has just under 12,000 inhabitants; furthermore, in Portoferraio there are several Napoleonic and Romanesque villas and there are few fortresses.



# Elba beaches

Elba Island is very famous for its beaches and crystal clear sea.  
The most famous beaches are:

- Cavoli
- Sansone
- Ghiaie
- Lacona
- Pomonte



- Capo Bianco
- La Biodola
- Campo nell'Elba
- Sant'Andrea



# Cavoli

Cavoli is one of the most famous beaches on Elba Island.

This beach is a tourist destination for the crystal clear sea and Grotta Azzurra, which is a cave located between Cavoli and Colle Palombaia beaches. It is ideal for snorkeling.





# Sansone

Sansone is on the north side of the island, between Capo Bianco and Capo Enfola. This beach is famous for the white stones and the blue seabed. In 2021 it was recognized as one of the most beautiful beaches in Europe.



# Le Ghiaie

Le Ghiaie is close to Portoferraio city centre; it is as famous as Sansone for its white stones. The water is like a pool full of fish. It is the favorite beach of people who live in Portoferraio.



# Pomonte

Pomonte is the main destination for scuba divers and snorkelers, because on its seabed lies the huge wreck of the Elviscot, a vessel located next to the Ogliera rock which sank in the 70s.



# Lacona

Lacona is the second longest beach on Elba Island (after Marina di Campo). It is the only beach in the Tuscan Archipelago which has preserved some dune areas. In this beach there are many bathing establishments and water sports.



# Sant'Andrea

The bay of Sant'Andrea is on the northern side of Elba Island. This is one of the most famous beaches in Marciana area.

It has turquoise, crystal clear water.



# Biodola

It is considered one of the most famous beaches of Elba Island. Biodola is a suitable beach for kids, but it is loved by young people too. It's separated by a rock from Scaglieri beach, where you can get through a path.



# Capo Bianco

Capo Bianco is one of the most beautiful beaches in Italy. This beach has high white and wild cliffs, it has a crystal clear sea, with tones ranging from turquoise to blue.



# Marina di Campo

Marina di Campo is the longest beach on Elba island. During the summer of 2017, a *Caretta caretta* turtle chose the beach of Marina di Campo to deposit her eggs.



# Diving in Elba

There are several diving centres where you can snorkel and scuba dive.

The best places to dive are:

- il Relitto
- I Grottoni - Scoglietto
- Statua del Cristo - Scoglietto
- Secca di Santa Lucia
- Scoglio della Nave (Capo Enfola)
- Secca del Semaforo
- Punta della Madonna
- Formiche della Zanca



# MINES OF ELBA





# ELBA MINES

The old mines are all located in the eastern part of Elba, in the territories of Rio and Capoliveri. Proceeding from north to south you find the Rio Albano mine that extends from the stretch of coast between Cala del Telegrafo and Rio Albano to the whole Monte Calendozio. the mineral was extracted and processed in this site since Etruscan and Roman times. hematite and limonite were mainly extracted.



## What can be obtained from Elba mines?

Elba mines are rich in iron, the gold of pyrite and the silver of hematite and Granite.



# Porto Azzurro Mines

In the area of Porto Azzurro there are Terra Nera and Capo Bianco Mines. After excavations, Terra Nera mine, from which pyrite, hematite and magnetite were extracted, has become a freshwater lake near the sea. From the mine of Capo Bianco, so called for the color of its rocks, limonite was mainly obtained.





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# Ginevro Mines

Ginevro belongs to the more recent history of the Capoliveri mines. Around the beginning of 1900s some excavations made on the spot confirmed the presence of precious stones.

deposits of Magnetite and other minerals that contain the highest percentage of iron were discovered in the first years of the twentieth century. the works only began in the thirties, but the extraordinary thing is that the real treasure was much deeper than sea level.



# *Mountains and Paths of Elba Island*



# Elba Mountains

The western part of the island is dominated by the monzogranite ridge of Monte Capanne, created about 11 million years ago through submarine uplift. The highest mountain is Monte Capanne with its 1019 m.

There are other important mountains such as Monte Perone, Monte Maolo, Monte Giove.

On the bicornuate summit of Monte Giove there was the first prehistoric settlement of Elba (Bronze Age) These mountains are rich in granite. The Pomonte Valley is the largest on the island.

The most important mountains in the centre of Elba are: Monte Orello, Monte Tambone, Monte San Martino, Monte Poppe, Monte Fabbrello.

The east part is oldest part of the island, in this part the mountains are like hills! the main mountains are Cima del Monte, Monte Calamita is famous for its iron mines.



# Elba Mountains

The principal Mountains are:

M. Capanne (1019 m)

M. Di cote (950 m)

M. Giove (855 m)

M. Perone (630 m)

Cima del monte (516 m)

M. Otello (377 m)

M. Grosso(348 m)



# Monte Capanne (1019 metres)

## The highest mountain of the Tuscan archipelago!

Monte Capanne is the highest mountain of the Tuscan archipelago. From its summit you can admire a unique panorama, you can see the islands of the archipelago:

Pianosa, Capraia, Montecristo, Gorgona and also Corsica.

To reach the summit of Monte Capanne, besides the numerous paths, there is a cable car that leaves from Marciana. In a few minutes you can reach the top of the mountain and enjoy a unique view!

The area of Monte Capanne, is characterized by Mediterranean scrub and large granite rocks, which eroded by the wind, have assumed over time curious and particular shapes.





# Hiking on Elba Island

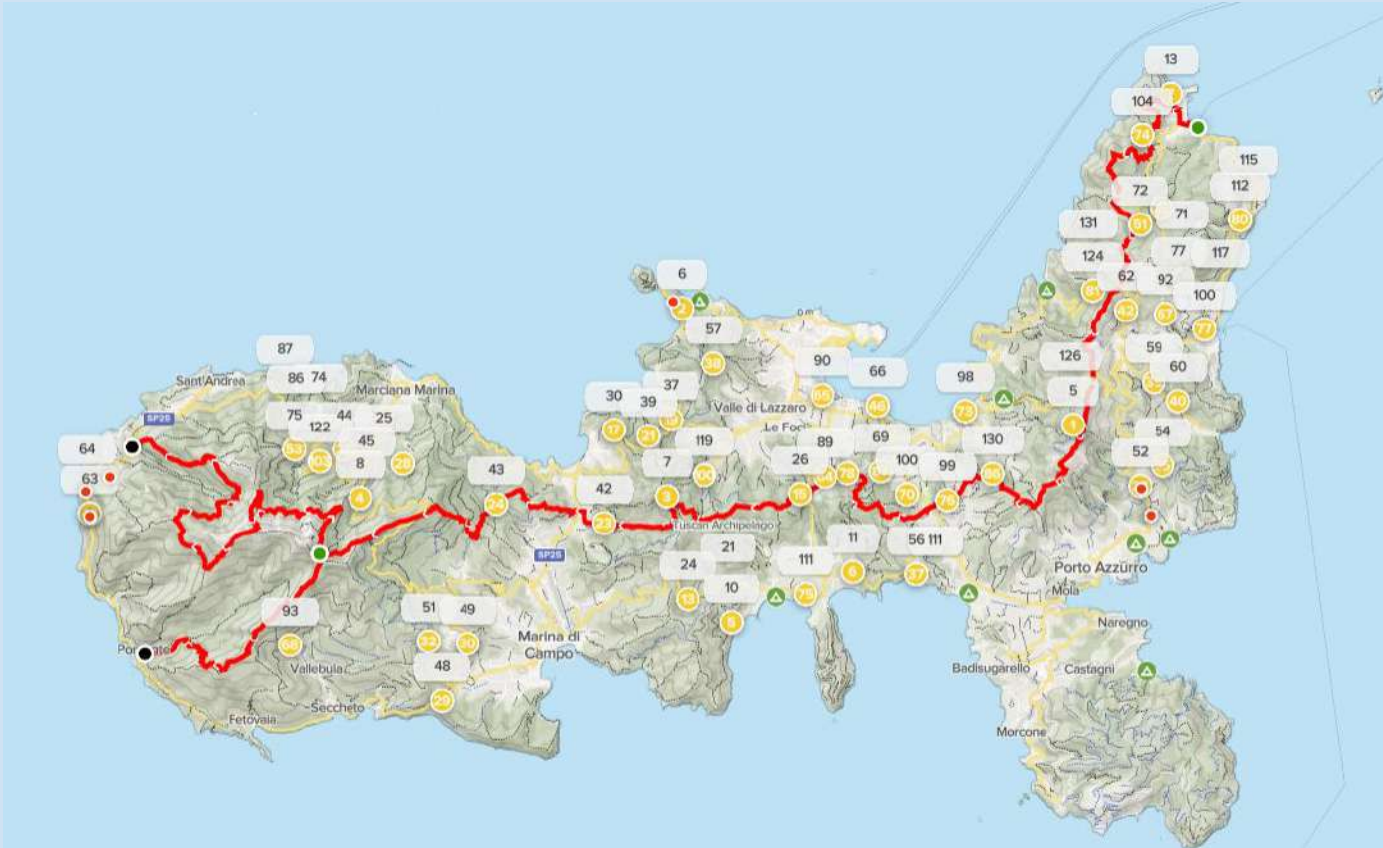
Elba Island is a paradise for hiking lovers. The network of paths on the Elba Island is about 314 km and 60 km of grit roads. In Elba there are "only" 220 km of main roads. So we can say that in Elba there are more kilometres of excursion routes than main roads. 50% of the Elba territory is part of the Tuscan Archipelago National Park and all the paths are free for everyone.

But there are some rules to be followed:

- admire the flowers and wild plants, but do not take them;
- do not light fires for any reason;
- free camping is forbidden
- use only the marked paths
- do not damage the trees and bushes
- do not bother the animals and do not approach their young
- do not disturb the quiet of the forest, the silence and the peace of nature are everyone's heritage
- it is forbidden to access paths and forest tracks with motorized vehicles.



# Map of the Hiking Paths of Elba Island



# The main route “Grande Traversata Elbana (GTE)” from east to west

The Grande Traversata Elbana (GTE) is the most important, spectacular, difficult and hard route on Elba Island. The GTE crosses the entire ridge of the Island. It starts from the villages of the north-eastern side and arrives at the western coast across the mountains that make up the “backbone” of the island. The GTE follows the old paths that for centuries have been the safe ways of the Elbans to go from the "lands of iron" (Cavo) to the distant "lands of granite" (Pomonte or Patresi).



This brochure has been created by the students of the class IIAM of the lower secondary school “A. Lupi” in Marciana. It is the final project made during the school year 2022/2023 regarding the natural elements of the island.



*“We hope that tourists will find this brochure useful to discover Elba island and its wonders”.*