

Len's 31st letter from the Via

Date:7/08/17

Location

Castell'Arquato

KM's to
Rome

786

Steps Today

32,188

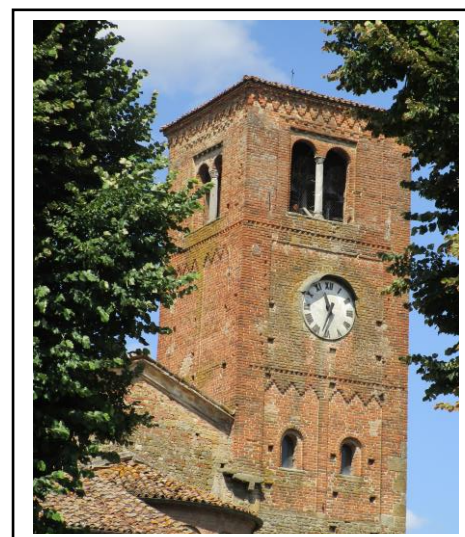
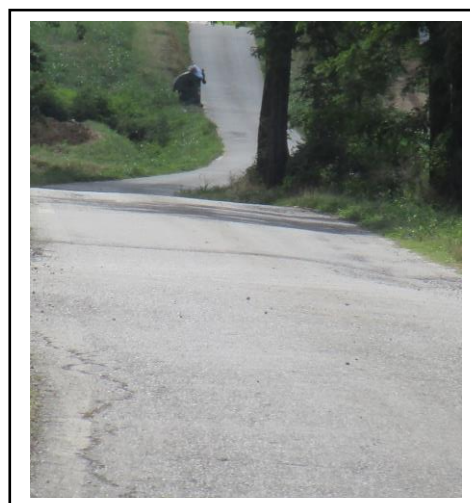
When doing village to village walks I have always found that the most difficult navigation is finding your way out of the village on the right road. A small error in the village becomes a significant one five kms. down the wrong road. Today the track started virtually at the front door of the hotel, I stepped away from the breakfast table and onto the track which lead off into the forest along a waterway.

At breakfast, there were four cyclists from Germany doing part of the Via. As usual they found it difficult to understand why somebody would travel to Europe on a plane for twenty-four hours to do a walk.

I was looking forward to today's walk as it was in some minor hills and consisted of either track or backroad walking. As I emerged from the forest onto one of these backroads I could see a Moses like figure waving to me in the distance from the side of the road. Was he waiting for me as the last one for the Ark or was I becoming delusional because of all the walking in the heat. This is what I could see from about 500 meters. I thought somebody must have put a statue of a pilgrim beside the road, but it was definitely moving. It's constant moving and waving impacted on my reasoning and I started looking for alternative routes. As I got closer I realized it was a large green rubbish bin on which somebody had piled some plastic bags, which gave Moses his head and two black plastic bags had worked free and were waving in the wind, giving Moses his arms.

I must stop visiting all these churches, it is causing religious delusions which only conspire to overcome the crushingly superior force of nature.

However, my resolve to not visit as many churches only lasted about half an hour. I walked into the tiny village of Vigolo Marchese which as its centrepiece has an eleventh century church still intact and seemingly unspoiled by later renovations or repairs. The only thing I noticed out of place was a board hung up for notices. I took the opportunity to sit on a stone seat that looked like it had been there for centuries, what tails it could tell.



Also in the village was this memorial to the people who lost their life in the 1914-18 war. There are quite a few memorials to the first great war but not so many to the second.

I continued my walk into the stunning village of Castell'Arquato, but more of that tomorrow.

Those with an eagle eye would have noticed that the kms.to Rome has increased. This is because I made an error in my spreadsheet not that I have been walking around in circles after my Moses sighting.