

Owing to its landscape and its morphological, natural and anthropological features, the **Tretto Plateau's hilly area** is the ideal territory for the most diverse types of excursions and walks, with **easy accessible and practicable paths during most periods of the year**. In fact, the environment presents various elements of interest both from the plant and wildlife perspective and from the historical and cultural point of view, with the numerous neighbourhoods that, still nowadays, preserve the character of an ancient rural civilisation that, through the centuries, has adapted perfectly to nature's rhythms. The **Tretto** toponym (from Latin *tretum* and Bavarian *trai*), in fact indicates that the area is criss-crossed by innumerable paths that for centuries served as the ways of communication among the small inhabited villages, cultures, woods and pastures, in their midst, a number of artefacts that are witness to both the territorial, crafts and agricultural traditions, as well as the deep-rooted religiousness typical of mountain folk, such as valuable paintings enclosed in capitals (niches) of a sober and essential architecture. From **natures path**, a naturalistic course marked in the heart of the Plateau, down to routes that unfold between the neighbourhoods' stone houses, through to the highest paths communicating with the alpine pastures, Tretto affords ample possibilities for organising pleasant excursions and relaxing walks, ideal cure-all for both body and mind.

## HIKING TRAILS



Detail of the Alba neighbourhood

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Bosco di Tretto village



## NATURALISTIC ASPECTS

The territory's variety of geological strata, altimetrical levels and exposure to sun encourages a wide range of plant species, from flowers to enormous trees as well as animal species ranging from insects to birds and mammals, in a combination of intermingling ecosystems. Ancient studies have made Summano's flora quite famous but actually, for the reasons quoted above, the territories of Novegno and Tretto are also rich in many species even if changes in cultivation and the progressive advance of wooded areas are factors that increasingly limit the permanence of many botanical species.

There are considerable quantities of more than twenty species of timber trees, forming single-specie woods (e.g. mountain beech), or associated (e.g. maple-fraxinus angustifolia) or mixed. Evolution is always in progress, with the result that several trees decrease in numbers, for example the chestnut, while there is an increase in others (false acacias, ash-trees, maples...). All of them play a significant role linked to the possibility for feeding or sheltering animals, or the quality of wood used by man but, most important of all, is definitely the biodiversity.

The fauna populating the Tretto Plateau and Mount Novegno - insects, amphibians, reptiles, mammals - is closely linked to the quality of environment and climate, but also to the protection policies for single species: reduced environmental varieties (more woods and less meadows) implies a decrease in the number of species present. Resident animals that are present all the year round are evident, even if the quantities differ, from migrators such as birds or the occasionally present, such as for example, deer.



The **Tretto Plateau** is a territory with an ancient mining background where, as far back as the **first half of the XVth century, silver, lead, copper and iron were mined**. These were small ore deposits that did not allow great quantities of minerals to be mined. Considerable, instead, was the extraction of what was called the **"white sand", kaolin**. This commodity was extracted from the galleries during winter, and was transported to the surface with rail trolleys: it was then left to decant in wooden buckets. This was followed by a drying process of the **"bricks"** in characteristic structures known as **"casoni"** (sheds) that were built from 1800 onwards. At the beginning of the XVth century, mechanised and industrial processing procedures were adopted, even though manual processing stages continued and integrated with a number of processing stages over time. In **times gone by, kaolin was used for the washing of yolk wool, while in the famous Doccia Faenza porcelain and as in the famous Doccia**



Historical picture of the kaolin mining

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## MINING AND KAOLIN EXTRACTION



Early snowfall in the Covole neighbourhood

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St. Ulderico's bell tower with the Tre Croci Chain in the background



## HISTORICAL NOTES

The name **Tretto**, belonging to a district north of the Town of Schio, derives from "Tretum" which indicated a cattle path leading to alpine pastures. The area extends for almost 25 sq. Km. and reaches heights of between 275 to 1691 mt. a.s.l., covering four villages: **St. Caterina, St. Ulderico, St. Rocco and St. Maria with over 70 neighbourhoods** (known as "Contrade"). In the Middle Ages, Tretto was inhabited by people of German origin to whom, in 1322, the noble Della Scala family granted the privilege of establishing themselves as a Borough. Documents dating back to 1635 are witness to the hardship of Tretto life, recording above all the difficulties inherent to the cultivation of a mountainous and miserly land; income from agriculture was therefore associated with handicrafts such as, for example, wool, leather and metal working. **Of great importance to the territory was the metal mining and kaolin quarrying industry**. Over 100 open-air mines were active between 1400 and 1600. During the nineteen fifties, Kaolin extraction started gradually decreasing owing to high production costs and market difficulties. Other factors contributed to further weakening the Tretto economy during the Twentieth Century, (agricultural differences between plains and mountain, industrial development in the plains), until the Tretto Municipality was finally annexed to that of Schio in 1969. The extensive history of this territory is pleasantly revealed to visitors passing through the peaceful neighbourhoods, discovering the beautiful landscapes they offer.



Winter landscape in the Munaretti neighbourhood

The **Novegno massif towers** over the Vicenza plains, from lar, into the region known as the **Little Dolomites**. Towards the north, their range is delimited by steep canyons descending sharply to the Posina valley, while the south watershed has a gentler gradient, with the hilly area of the Tretto Plateau and slopes, tired to a greater extent, rising to the edge of what is perhaps

The "Busa" mountain pasture in Novegno



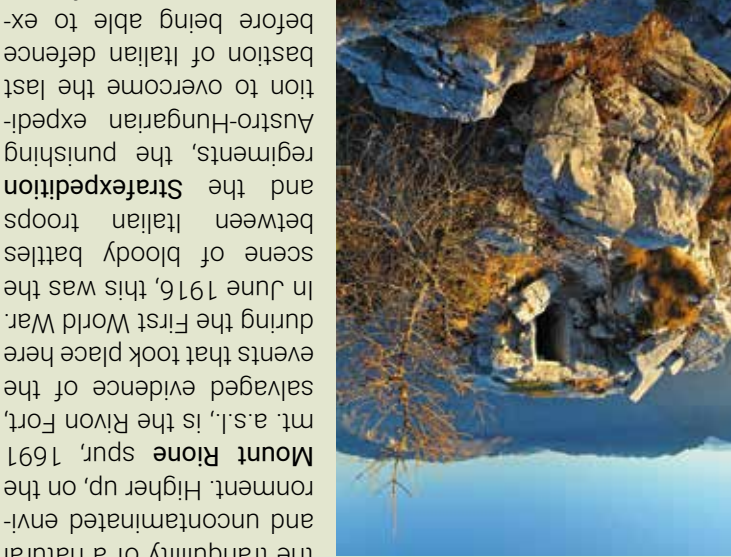
# SCHIO

## TRETTO PLATEAU MAP GUIDE



Comune di Schio

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Military observation post in the Mt. Novegno monumental area

The most characteristic feature of the whole complex, called the **"Busa"**, or grassy hollow where an **interesting variety of plant species and wild fauna** have found their ideal habitat in the tranquillity of a natural and uncontaminated environment. Higher up, on the **Mount Rione spur**, 1691 mt. a.s.l., is the Rivon Fort, salvaged evidence of the events that took place here during the First World War. In June 1916, this was the scene of bloody battles between Italian troops and the **Stratexpedition** regiments, the punishing Austro-Hungarian expedition to overcome the last bastion of Italian defence before being able to expand in the plains. Of those dramatic times, nowadays remain **many restored items**, evidence of that wartime, making this Mountain a veritable open-air museum: trenches, posts, communication trenches, shelter tunnels and a powder magazine. **Every excursion along Novegno's paths and multracks proves to be a touching historical, naturalistic and didactical trail.**

Springtime crocuses blooming around Malga Novegno



## SCHIO

### TRETTO PLATEAU MAP GUIDE

**INFORMATION**  
Communication and Promotion Service of the Territory  
+39 0445 691301/691285  
promozionedelterritorio@comune.schio.vi.it  
[www.visitschio.it](http://www.visitschio.it)

**Guided visits and environmental promotion activities**  
ECOTOPIA COOPERATIVA SOCIALE  
Via S. Maria, 15 - Santorso  
Secretarial Office - Mon./Fri. 8.30 am to 12.30 p.m.  
Tel.0445 641606 [info@cooperativaecotopia.it](mailto:info@cooperativaecotopia.it)  
[www.cooperativaecotopia.it](http://www.cooperativaecotopia.it)

**HOW TO GET THERE**  
**By car:** A4 Milan-Venice Motorway, A31 Valdastico, Thiene-Schio exit. From Schio, carry on towards Santorso, at Timonchio turn left and enter provincial road 65.  
**For Santa Caterina and Monte Novegno, from Schio, follow on for the Poleo village then keep to the road signals.**  
**By train and bus:** Schio station, on the Vicenza-Schio line

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TRANSLATED BY: [www.progettoservizi.net](http://www.progettoservizi.net)  
REPRINT 2025 - Stampa Sud



# TRETTO PLATEAU

## KEY

- Main road
- Tarred road
- Dirt road
- Path
- Nature path
- CAI (Italian Alpine Club) path
- Mountain refuge, bivouac, shepherd's hut
- Neighbourhood
- Tourist accommodation establishments
- Restoration
- Parking
- Camping
- Great War Eco-museum of Vicentino Pre-Alps
- Walks
- Biking
- Horse riding
- Kaolin area
- Evidence of wartime



### RESTORATION

- **SPINECHILE RESORT** - Contrà Pacche, 2 - Loc. Tretto di Schio  
Tel. 0445 1690107 [spinechileresort@tiscali.it](mailto:spinechileresort@tiscali.it) [www.spinechileresort.com](http://www.spinechileresort.com)
- **TRATTORIA SAN ROCCO** - Via Dalla Guarda, 12 - Loc. San Rocco di Tretto  
Tel. 0445 635222
- **TRATTORIA DA GIANCARLO** - Contrà Chiesa, 3 - Loc. S. Caterina di Tretto  
Tel. 0445 635056 [trattoriadagiancarlo@libero.it](mailto:trattoriadagiancarlo@libero.it) [www.trattoriadagiancarlo.it](http://www.trattoriadagiancarlo.it)
- **TRATTORIA DIANA** - Contr. S. Ulderico di Tretto, 68 - Loc. S. Ulderico di Tretto  
Tel. 0445 635335
- **RISTORANTE ALBERGO DALLA COSTA** Via Bosco di Tretto, 14  
Loc. Bosco di Tretto - Tel. 0445 635057 [ristorantedallacosta@libero.it](mailto:ristorantedallacosta@libero.it)
- **RISTORANTE VEGETARIANO ALLOGGIO DAMARCO** di Zenere Alessia  
Loc. Cerbaro - Tel. 0445 635243 - Cell. 338 5869938 [info@damarco.net](mailto:info@damarco.net)
- **TRATTORIA DALL'AMELIA**  
Loc. Ravagni 1 - Tel. 0445 521289

### HOTEL FACILITIES

- **HOTLES**
- **ALBERGO RISTORANTE DALLA COSTA** - Loc. Bosco di Tretto, 14  
Tel. 0445 635057 [ristorantedallacosta@libero.it](mailto:ristorantedallacosta@libero.it)
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- **AGRITOURISMI**
- **IL MAGGIOCIONDOLO** - Accommodation Only  
Contrà Proveste, 1 - Loc. San Rocco - Tel. 0445 635512  
[info@ilmaggiociondolo.com](mailto:info@ilmaggiociondolo.com) [www.ilmaggiociondolo.com](http://www.ilmaggiociondolo.com)
- **TRA I GLICINI E IL SAMBUCO** - Contrà Zaffonati 2  
Tel. 0445 635142 - 349 7090216  
[info@traiglicinieilsambuco.it](mailto:info@traiglicinieilsambuco.it) [www.traiglicinieilsambuco.it](http://www.traiglicinieilsambuco.it)

### HOLIDAY HOMES

- **VILLAGGIO S. GAETANO**: Casa Elvira, Casa S. Gaetano, Casa S. Giuseppe,  
Casa S. Pio X - Loc. Bosco di Tretto  
Tel. 0445 512 399 - Cell. 347 1516450 [info@villaggiosangaetano.it](mailto:info@villaggiosangaetano.it)
- **VILLA CONTRÀ FACCI** - Contrà Facci - Loc. S. Caterina  
Cell. 349 5409050 [contrafacci@gmail.com](mailto:contrafacci@gmail.com)
- **CASA LUISA** - Contrada Pozzani di Sotto, 20  
Reservations only on Booking.com

### CAMPING

- **CAMPING CLUB CERBARO** - Loc. Cerbaro, 20  
Tel. 0445 635086 [campingcerbaro@libero.it](mailto:campingcerbaro@libero.it)

### LABORATORY/ARTIST CRAFT

- **NICOLA TESSARI**, Cabinet maker and wood turner  
Loc. Bosco di Tretto  
Cell. 370 31585500 [www.nicolatessari.it](http://www.nicolatessari.it)
- **PINO GUZZONATO**, Atelier Acquasaliente - Contrà Bonati, 22  
Cell. 347 2544419
- **HONEY PRODUCTION**
- **APICOLTURA ILARIA RILIEVO** - Contrà Molin - Loc. San Rocco  
Cell. 347 2753912 [ilarilievo@gmail.com](mailto:ilarilievo@gmail.com) [www.apicolturagentile.com](http://www.apicolturagentile.com)

### FOOD

- **DALLA VECCHIA PAOLO** handmade sweets and desserts  
Loc. San Ulderico di Tretto, 72 - Tel. 0445 635392 [alimentari.pdv@libero.it](mailto:alimentari.pdv@libero.it)
- **MACELLERIA DALLA VECCHIA**  
Loc. San Ulderico di Tretto, 18 - Tel. 0445 635016

Any updates on accommodations are available at [www.visitschio.it](http://www.visitschio.it)

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