

36 TROU DE LA BOMBE

See also photograph opposite (top) Distance/time: 6km/3.7mi; 2h

Grade: fairly easy, with overall ascents of under 150m/500ft; agility is required on the approach to the Trou de la Bombe.

Equipment: see page 50; walking boots recommended; *IGN map 4253 ET*

Access: as Walk 35, page 123

Short walk/picnic suggestion: **Aiguilles viewpoint** (2.8km/1.7mi; 55min; easy). Follow the main walk to the 30min-point. Then retrace your steps and keep left at both forks, to return to 'Bavella par la Chapelle'.

This walk to the edge of the southern Bavella massif is shady and undemanding — a perfect outing for a warm day. But it's not lacking in drama — you can either admire the 'shell-hole' from a distance, or climb right up to it!

Start out by following WALK 35 (page 123). About 600m from the *auberge*, fork right uphill (10min) on a path way-marked with red paint (30 paces before Walk 35 forks left). The path rises gently through ferns and pines. Ten minutes uphill you meet a crossing path, where 'BAVELLA PAR LA CHAPELLE' is signposted to the right (you will return this way). Turn left here, for 'COMPULEDDU' and 'PIANONA'. Two minutes later, at another fork, 'TROU DE LA BOMBE' is signposted down to the left. Although that is our destination, first we'll make a short detour to a pretty viewpoint.

Fork *right uphill* here for 'PIANONA', following orange waymarks. An easy ascent of eight minutes brings you to a crossing track at the top of a rise, at the setting shown opposite, a GRASSY PLATEAU (30min) from where you look out to the Aiguilles de Bavella — an idyllic picnic spot.

Turn left on the track and, three minutes later, fork left on a lesser track (*not* waymarked). This narrows to a path and brings you back to the main 'TROU DE LA BOMBE' path in four minutes: turn right on this wider, crossing path. The gentle undulations of this red-waymarked path bring you to a barrage of signposts at the **Bocca di Velaco** (55min). Cairned paths (*not* signposted) lead almost straight ahead from this pleasant clearing up to the jagged heights of Punta

Velaco and le Promontoire. But we turn *left* here. After about seven minutes, take a path climbing up to the right (red waymarking on trees). In two minutes you're just below the 'shell-hole' (**Trou de la Bombe**; 1h05min). Red flashes show the best way to the hole itself, if you're brave.

Back at the Bocca di Velaco, follow 'BAVELLA PAR LA CHAPELLE', retracing your outgoing route. Just after crossing a stream, you are back at the sign for the Pianona detour. Go right, then, two minutes later, turn left, now following red and orange flashes to the **Chapelle de la Sainte Vierge** (1h50min) and on to **Bavella** (2h).

Trou de la Bombe (i Tafunu di u Compuleddu in Corse)

