

## Footpath Oswald von Wolkenstein



<b>Starting point</b>	the roundabout of Siusi
<b>Lenght of the walk</b>	2 hours
<b>To see</b>	Ruins of the Castle Salego- and Castelvecchio
<b>Recommended map</b>	Tabacco Alpe di Siusi Altipiano dello Sciliar 1:25000
<b>Difficulty</b>	easy
<b>Height difference</b>	m. 220 uphill, m. 220 downhill
<b>Signs</b>	2 - 3

The Sciliar-Catinaccio Nature Park offers, as well as its beautiful landscape, its richness of species and its geological peculiarities, also many elements of great historical interest. In the protected area findings from the Bronze Age up to the Middle Ages have been found; amongst them the two ruins of Salego and Castelvecchio, particularly renowned for the exploits of the minstrel Oswald von Wolkenstein.

In addition to preserving the landscape, the goal of the park administration is also to reveal the historical-cultural peculiarities of this territory. The path has two aims: on the one hand to introduce the visitor to the local history and on the other hand to underline the fundamental role of a South Tyrolean Nature Park, which is to preserve the „cultural landscape“, a product of the interaction between man and nature.

The forest of Castelvecchio with its two castles is a good example and testimony of such a relationship.

The 15 stations along the path not only provide information about the minstrel himself, but also

about the period, which was dominated by myths and fables. The hierarchical structure of society in those days, life at court and medieval figures, such as knights and damsels, are described along the stops of the path, as well as the strict rules of the table manners. We also find the portrayal of surreal characters, such as the little dragon Dlawso (the mascot), who guards a mysterious treasure of gold and silver, to this day never discovered. With a little luck you can even see a unicorn...!

The visitors can enjoy a journey through the Middle Ages, a period that even today leaves a lot of room for the imagination. The path offers a very interesting amusement for families and school parties that want to broaden their historical horizon

The route: Follow the main road for a short while in the direction of Fiè and then turn left into the Kohlstatt road. After about 50 m turn right following the path which, after crossing a small bridge, takes you to the valley station of the **„Alpe di Siusi aerial cableway“ (gondolas)**. At the second big bend under the gondolas footpath No.2 leads off to the right and brings you to the **Hotel Salego**. Here starts the proper itinerary. Take the footpath marked No. 3, walking slightly uphill, round a few bends, through the woods until you reach the **Ruins of Salego** (1119 m). Stay in the woods of Castelvecchio and it is an easy walk up to the **Ruins of Castelvecchio** (1222 m), once the home of the poet and minstrel Oswald von Wolkenstein. The above mentioned ruins are the highest point of this route. You now head the direction of the **Bagni di Razzes** (Baths) through a wood of Larch trees until you reach a little forest road where you turn back towards the Ruins of Castelvecchio. Before getting to the ruins take the footpath on the right (always marked No. 3), down to Siusi, and at a junction keep left and it is an easy walk back to the starting point at the Hotel Salego.