

120° CONGRESSO DELLA SOCIETÀ BOTANICA ITALIANA XI INTERNATIONAL PLANT SCIENCE CONFERENCE



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EXCURSION

September 6, 2025

08:30–14:00

A field trip on the Flora and Vegetation of Mount Sabotino



The venue

Monte Sabotino/Sabotin

Mount Sabotino (609 m) lies on the border between Italy and Slovenia, just north of Gorizia/Nova Gorica. It is known both for its natural features—limestone slopes with mixed forests, dry grasslands, and rich biodiversity—and for its historical importance during the First World War, when it was a key battlefield.

Today, the area is part of the Sabotin Peace Park, offering hiking trails, war remains such as trenches and tunnels, and panoramic views over the Isonzo valley, the Julian Alps, and the Adriatic Sea.



Program and Trail

September 6, 2025

08:00 – Departure by bus from the congress venue,
Auditorium della Cultura Friulana

08:45 – Arrival at *Sabotin – Park Miru Visitor Centre* and

9:00 – 12:45 – Botanical walk

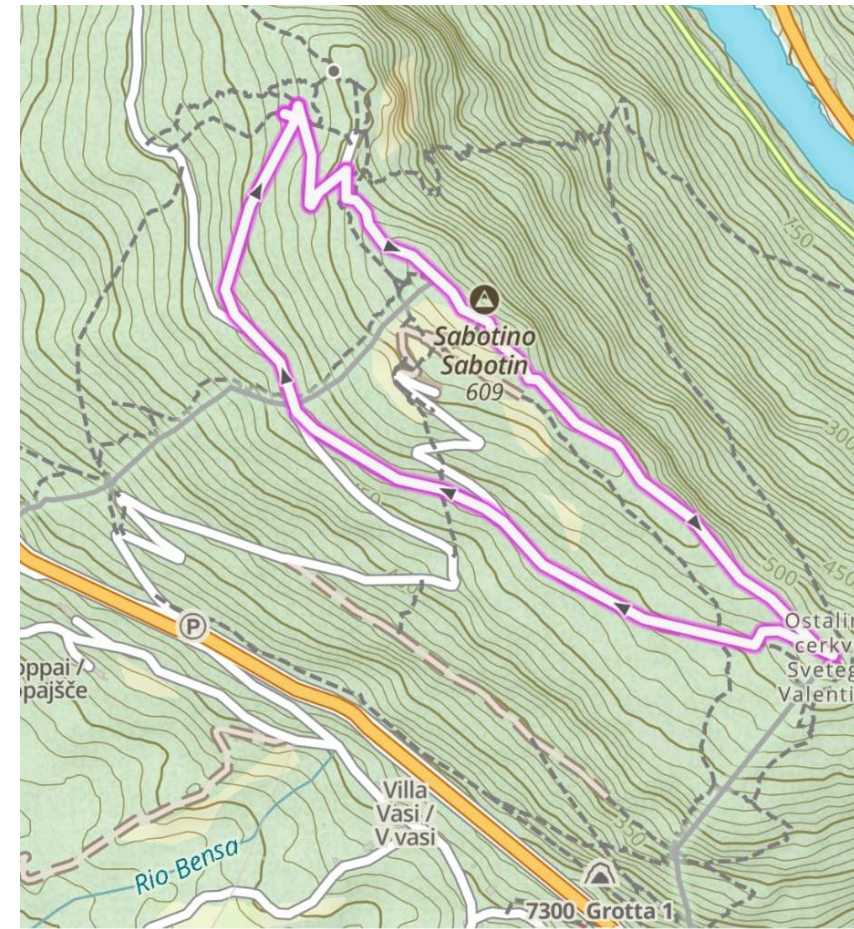
13:45– Departure from *Sabotin – Park Miru Visitor Centre*

14:30 – Arrival at the *Auditorium della Cultura Friulana*

The botanical walk follows a circular route of **3.56 km** with a total elevation gain of **152 meters**. The starting point is at the **Sabotin – Park Miru Visitor Centre** parking area. From there, the trail leads to the summit of **Mount Sabotin (609 m a.s.l.)**, then continues along the ridge to reach the **Church of St. Valentine**. The return to the parking area follows a comfortable forest track, completing the loop.

Practical Information for Participants

The trail is not particularly demanding; however, some sections are narrow, and **hiking shoes highly suggested**. At the starting point, there is a **bar-restaurant** open from 11:00 onwards.



Vegetation and Flora Overview

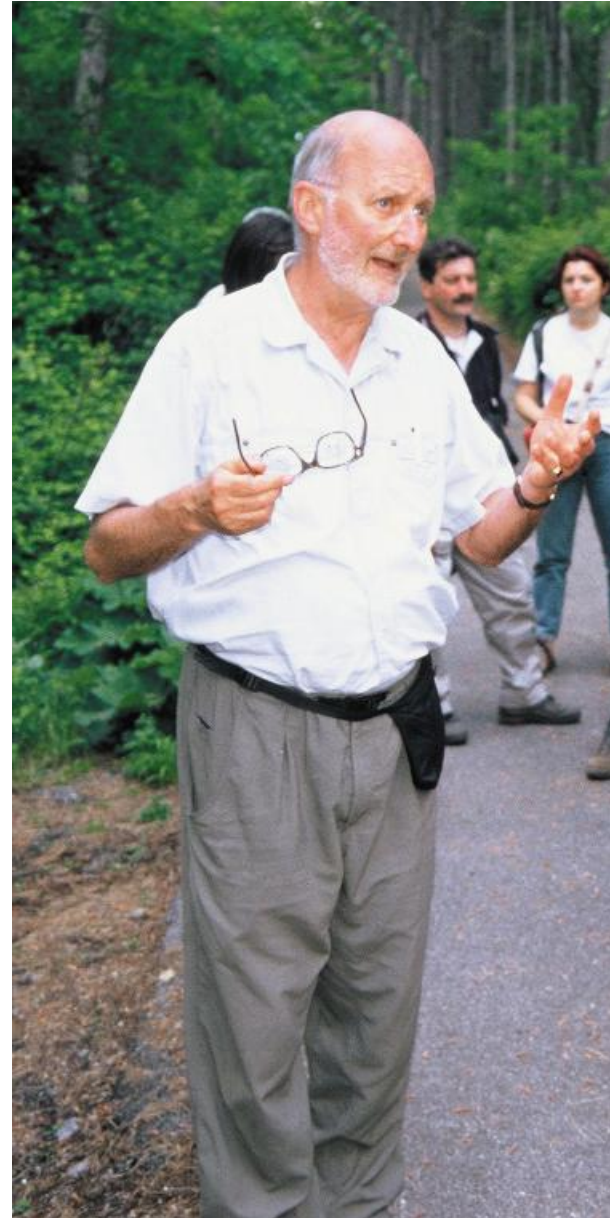
A brief overview of an insightful talk given by Professor **Livio Poldini** in 2005 during a conference on the naturalistic importance of Mount Sabotino.

«Mount Sabotin (609 m) represents a unique meeting point between northern Alpine and Illyric–sub-Mediterranean flora, hosting over 680 recorded species. The mountain’s NW–SE orientation creates a striking contrast between its shaded, cool north slope and its dry, warm south slope, resulting in a rich variety of habitats.

The north slope features mesophilic, prealpine vegetation with fresh forests dominated by hornbeam (Carpinus betulus) and hop-hornbeam (Ostrya carpinifolia). Here, alpine and subalpine species such as Primula auricula, Paederota lutea, and Campanula cochleariifolia reach their southernmost range. Pioneer plants colonize the more eroded slopes, adding to the diversity.

The south slope is warmer and drier, with thermophilous, Illyric and sub-Mediterranean vegetation. Downy oak (Quercus pubescens) dominates, accompanied by Ostrya and Pistacia terebinthus. Dry grasslands and pastures—some now becoming shrubby—support species like Stipa bromoides, Satureja montana, and Rubia peregrina. Karstic ridges host Genista sericea and Sesleria juncifolia subsp. kalnikensis, which occurs only here in Italy.

Characteristic flora reflects both post-glacial Alpine descent (Asphodelus albus subsp. delphinensis) and Mediterranean/Illyric northward expansion (Satureja montana, Stipa eriocaulis subsp. austriaca).» Poldini 2005



Excursion Guides



Francesco Boscutti is an Associate Professor of Applied Botany at the University of Udine, within the Department of Agricultural, Food, Environmental and Animal Sciences. His research focuses on plant biodiversity, the ecology and distribution of plant communities, the impacts of climate change, and the dynamics of invasive alien plants.

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Fabrizio Martini is a former researcher and lecturer in Evolutionary Botany at the Department of Life Sciences of the University of Trieste. Over the years, his teaching and scientific work has focused mainly on floristics, phytogeography, plant systematics, and taxonomy.

Literature

- Martini, F., Bertani, G., Boscutti, F., Bruna, A., Danelutto, A., Pavan, R., & Peruzovich, C. (2023). *Flora del Friuli Venezia Giulia. Repertorio critico diacronico e atlante corologico*. Udine: Forum Editrice Universitaria Udinese. pp. 1008. ISBN: 978-88-3283-385-0; 978-88-3283-469-7
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- Poldini, L. (2009). *Guide alla flora – IV. La diversità vegetale del Carso fra Trieste e Gorizia. Lo stato dell'ambiente. Le guide di Dryades 5 – Serie Florae IV (F–IV)*. Trieste: Ed. Goliardiche. pp. 732.

