



Villages of Tuscany

General information

Name of the village	MONTECATINI ALTO
Province	Pistoia
Tourist information	Tourist Information and Reception Office Address: Viale Giuseppe Verdi, 68 – 51016 Montecatini Terme (PT) Phone: 0572 772244 E-mail: info@tomontecatini.com This office is not located in Montecatini Alto, but in Montecatini Terme, in the lower town, near the thermal baths and the funicular departure station

TESTED BY: [Handy Superabile Social Promotion Association](#) in 2026

Please note The following information refers to the date of verification shown at the bottom of each sheet. **The Association** is not responsible for any significant changes made by the property after the visit.

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Description

Montecatini Alto is the ancient original nucleus of Montecatini Terme and stands on a hill at about **290 meters above sea level**, dominating the Valdinievole with a wide view of the Tuscan hills. Before the development of the renowned spa town, it was an important fortified village of medieval origin, born in a strategic position for the control of the territory and communication routes. Even today it retains the charm of its original urban layout, characterized by paved alleys, stone buildings, ancient walls and suggestive panoramic views.

Despite its small size, Montecatini Alto preserves a historical and landscape heritage of great value. The alleys, ancient fortifications, squares and viewpoints tell over a thousand years of history and offer visitors an authentic experience, in which the charm of the Middle Ages is combined with the tranquility of one of the most characteristic villages in Tuscany.





How to reach MONTECATINI ALTO

BY CAR	Montecatini Alto is easily accessible by car along the panoramic road that climbs from Montecatini Terme. For those coming from the A11 Firenze-Mare motorway , it is necessary to exit at Montecatini Terme , follow the signs for the city center and then those for Montecatini Alto . The connecting road, entirely paved and with numerous hairpin bends, leads in a few minutes to the medieval village.
BY PLANE	Florence "Vespucci" Airport (43 km) www.aeroporto.firenze.it Pisa "Galilei" Airport (48 km) www.pisa-airport.com
Assistance service for people with disabilities	Complete assistance is ensured, on departure/arrival, thanks to the staff in charge who is available to accompany the passenger with disabilities, during the delivery of the luggage, up to the boarding gate, or for baggage claim
Embarkation/disembarkation of passengers with reduced mobility	with courtesy chair and ambulift/finger
Tactile paths for the blind and visually impaired	YES
Toilet room accessible with grab handles	YES
BY TRAIN	
Nearest station	The nearest station is Montecatini center, a short walk from
Assistance service for people with disabilities	It is equipped with raised platforms: assistance service for passengers in wheelchairs carried out without the use of a forklift and after checking the compatibility of the train. For assistance in stations, you can contact the Blue Rooms of the Italian Railway Network (RFI) at the toll-free number 800906060 (from a landline) or at the national number 02323232 (from a landline or mobile)
Blue Hall Reference	Florence
In local toilet station accessible with grab bars	YES
BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TRANSPORT	





Nearest bus stop	located in Via Vittorio Veneto , about 80 meters from Piazza Giuseppe Giusti and the upper station of the funicular. The stop is served by the Autolinee Toscane line 808 , which connects Montecatini Alto with Montecatini Terme and the neighboring municipalities.
Presence of adapted buses with ramp	Call the Autolinee Toscane toll-free number 800 14 24 24,
Presence of taxis with adapted ramp	NO

Parking

Public parking	The free parking called Fedeli is located in via Bustichini, 300 m from the lower funicular station that allows you to reach Montecatini alto
Public parking fund	asphalt
Parking space reserved for people with disabilities	free

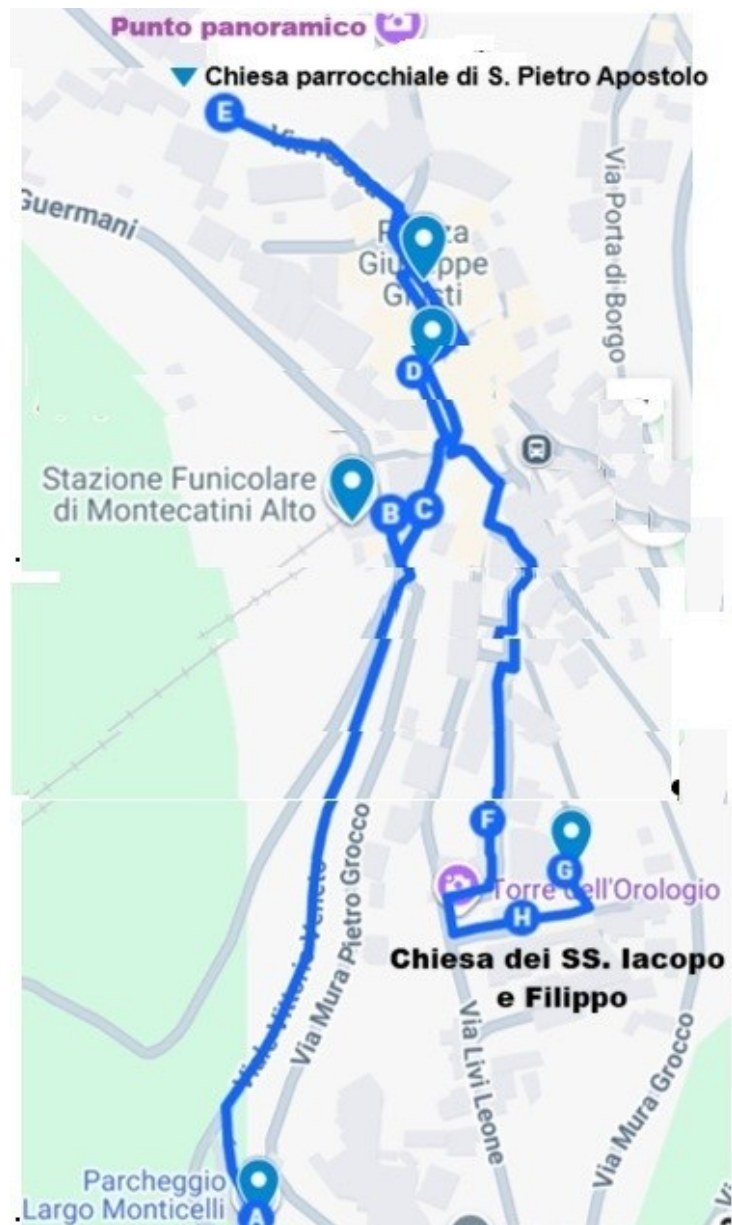


Figures 1 Fedeli Parking





Description of the itinerary



- A** Parcheggio Largo Monticelli
- B** Stazione Funicolare di Montecatini Alto
- C** Via Enzo Ballerini, Montecatini Alto, PT
- D** Via Antonio Mordini, Montecatini Alto, PT
- E** Chiesa parrocchiale di San Pietro Apostolo ...
- F** Via Castel Lemmi, Montecatini-Terne, PT
- G** Torre dell'Orologio
- H** Chiesa dei Santi Jacopo e Filippo, Via Ser Ni.

Length	1500 meters
Along the itinerary there are maps and tactile signs for the blind	NO





Route from the car park to the upper station of the funicular through

The village is connected to Montecatini Terme by the historic **Funicular**, inaugurated in **1898**, which still represents one of the symbols of the city and is an evocative experience to reach the historic center through a panoramic route surrounded by greenery. The climb takes about eight minutes and allows you to admire views of the Valdinievole and the surrounding hilly landscape.

Unfortunately, at the date of the check, the station was being renovated and in any case had 3 steps at the entrance to the lower station and a difference in height to enter the carriages with reduced internal space. The operating regulations provide for the transport of a passenger in a wheelchair per trip, but it is necessary that the chair is foldable and that the person is able to walk some steps at the mountain station, where it was not possible to build a wheelchair-accessible ramp due to the slope of more than 15%. For this reason, we have chosen as a parking lot, near the village, the one located in Largo Monticelli, even if there are no parking spaces reserved for people with disabilities





Figure 2 parcheggio largo Monticelli

Route from the Largo Monticelli car park along Viale Vittorio Veneto to the upper funicular station and Via Enzo Ballerini

Route from the Largo Monticelli car park along Viale Vittorio Veneto to the upper funicular station and Via Enzo Ballerini After parking in Largo Monticelli, cross Viale Vittorio Veneto. For approximately 200 metres, the avenue has pavements, while the final 50-metre section has no pavement. Along this last section, on the left, there is the wide gated entrance to the Montecatini Alto Funicular Station.

The avenue has a level or moderately sloping asphalt surface. From Viale Vittorio Veneto, turn into Via Enzo Ballerini and continue for approximately 50 metres. This section has an average gradient of around 9%. The surface consists of rectangular stone slabs with a generally firm finish. However, some uneven areas, joints and differences in level between the slabs may cause vibrations for wheelchair users and require additional care from people with walking difficulties



Figure 3 Viale Vittorio Veneto





Figure 4 Viale Vittorio Veneto



Figure 5 Vie Enzo Ballerini



Figure 6 da via Ballerini a via Mordini





Route from Via Enzo Ballerini to Piazza Giuseppe Giusti

From Via Ballerini, turn left into Via Mordini and continue for approximately 25 metres, with an average gradient of 8%. Then turn right and, after approximately 15 metres, you will reach Piazza Giusti. The square is level and has the same stone-slab paving as Via Ballerini.

Piazza Giuseppe Giusti is the historic heart and main meeting place of Montecatini Alto. It is named after the Tuscan poet Giuseppe Giusti, who spent part of his life in the area.

The square still retains the intimate atmosphere of the medieval village, characterised by stone buildings, shops, restaurants and cafés with outdoor seating that bring the area to life throughout the year.

Some of the most significant buildings in the medieval village overlook Piazza Giuseppe Giusti. On the left-hand side stands the Torre di Ugolino, the birthplace, in 1345, of Ugolino di Giovanni Caccini, known as Ugolino da Montecatini. He was a physician and scholar considered one of the first to scientifically analyse the local thermal waters, helping to raise awareness of their therapeutic properties.

On the opposite side, approximately 80 metres away, stands the Torre Tavarnelli, which houses the Cappella di Piazza. The chapel can only be accessed via two steps, varying in height from 7 to 15 cm. It is a small religious building dating back to the 15th century. Originally dedicated to the Virgin Mary, it contains a valuable fresco depicting the Madonna and Child flanked by Saint John the Evangelist and Saint John the Baptist. Today, the chapel serves as a memorial to the fallen.

Continuing towards the far end of the square, on the right, you will find the Teatro degli Accademici Risorti.

Accessibility information: the theatre is accessed across a 26-cm-wide threshold, with a 6-cm external step and a 3-cm internal step, followed by a second 38-cm-wide threshold with a 9.5-cm-high step.

The theatre was built in 1820 in an eclectic architectural style. On the lower floor is the historic Loggia del Parlascio, which once hosted public assemblies, community meetings and the village market, making it one of the main centres of civic and commercial life in Montecatini Alto.

Next to it stands the Palazzo del Podestà, the former seat of the local judicial administration. It is easily recognisable by the numerous medieval coats of arms carved in stone on its façade, bearing witness to the families and podestà who governed Montecatini Alto over the centuries.

Together with the square's intimate atmosphere and its picturesque panoramic views over the Valdinievole valley, these buildings make Piazza Giusti the historic, cultural and social heart of the village.





Figure 8 – Piazza Giusti with Ugolino Tower on the left



Figure 9 – Tavarnelli Tower with the Chapel of the Square



Figure 10 – Chapel of the Square





Figure 7 Teatro dei Risorti



Figure 8 inside of the Teatro dei Risorti



Figure 13 – Teatro dei Risorti and, on the left, the Podestà's Palace





Figure 14 – Podestà's Palace



At the centre of Piazza Giuseppe Giusti stands the Monument to the Fallen of the First World War (1915–1918), unveiled in 1925. It consists of a travertine pedestal topped by a bronze statue

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representing the Motherland as an allegorical female figure symbolising remembrance, protection and the nation's sacrifice.

The monument bears the names of the citizens of Montecatini Alto who lost their lives in the two World Wars and is one of the village's most important sites of historical remembrance.

Route from Piazza Giusti to the Church of San Pietro Apostolo, the Monument to Saint Barbara and the Ancient Fortress

From the heart of Piazza Giuseppe Giusti, the route continues along Via della Rocca, an old road with a continuous uphill gradient. Over the first 30 metres, the gradient ranges from 24% to 29%.

The final section, which leads to the Church of San Pietro Apostolo after approximately 50 metres, has a gradient of around 11%. The climb requires considerable effort for manual wheelchair users and people with reduced mobility. For some visitors, assistance from a companion may therefore be advisable.

The paving consists of natural stone slabs. The surface is generally firm but features joints and slight irregularities typical of historic routes.

The street is mainly reserved for pedestrians and retains its original historic layout, with stone buildings, panoramic views and remains of the castle's ancient fortifications.

Along the route, shortly before reaching the church, stands the historic house where the renowned Tuscan poet and writer Giuseppe Giusti (1809–1850) once lived. A commemorative plaque on the building recalls the poet's connection with Montecatini Alto, a village that helped inspire some of his works.

The route ends at the Church of San Pietro Apostolo, which can be reached via a ramp on the right-hand side, measuring **[length to be specified] metres**, with a gradient of **[percentage to be specified]** and **[paving surface to be specified]**.

Nearby are the Ancient Medieval Tower and the Monument to Saint Barbara.



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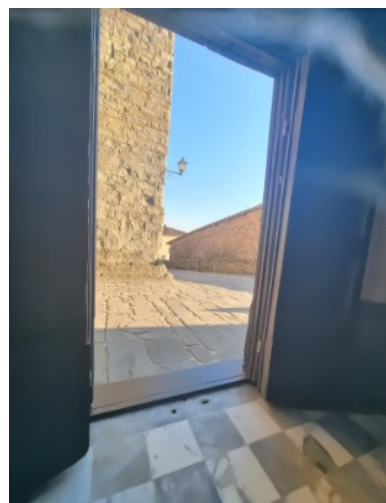




Figure 15 – Access ramp to the Church of San Pietro Apostolo, with the house where the poet Giuseppe Giusti lived on the left



Figure 9 Church of San Pietro Apostolo





The Church of San Pietro Apostolo has been documented since the 8th century and was rebuilt in the 12th century, when it became a parish church. Modified following the Florentine siege in the 16th century and subsequently renovated in the Baroque style, it still preserves important Romanesque features, a 14th-century wooden crucifix and other valuable works of art.



Figure 17 – Uphill route to the Monument to Saint Barbara and the Fortress





From the area in front of the church, follow a short section with several steps to reach the monument dedicated to Saint Barbara. Immediately beyond the monument is the entrance to the fortress. A single entrance leads into the ancient parade ground, enclosed by defensive walls and dominated by the keep. This is the highest point in the village and offers extensive panoramic views over the surrounding area.

The Montecatini Alto Fortress is one of the most important surviving examples of the medieval village's ancient defensive system. Located at the highest point of the settlement, in a strategic position with panoramic views, it formed part of the imposing fortified complex that once protected Montecatini Alto. Sections of the defensive walls and the impressive keep still survive today, surrounded by greenery and cypress trees. The inner area, once used as a parade ground, retains the atmosphere of the ancient castle and is a place of particular historical and scenic interest.

The fortress also offers picturesque views over the village and the surrounding landscape. Following safety and restoration works, the site was reopened to the public and has once again become one of Montecatini Alto's main historical and cultural attractions.



Route from Piazza Giusti to the Church of Santi Jacopo e Filippo and the Clock Tower

From the Church of San Pietro Apostolo, return to Piazza Giusti and continue across Via Mordini on the right. After a few dozen metres, turn left into Via Mura Grocco. Continue for approximately 20 metres along a section with an 11% gradient until you reach Piazzetta Camisa, where there is a designated parking space for disabled visitors.





Figure 10 via mura di Grocco



Figure 19 – Piazzetta Camisa with a designated accessible parking space

From Piazzetta Camisa, turn right into Via Vivi Leon and continue for approximately 180 metres through one of the most characteristic areas of the medieval village of Montecatini Alto. The route follows narrow, stone-paved streets lined with historic stone buildings that retain the original medieval urban layout.

The route leads to the site of the former Castel Nuovo, also known as Castel Lemmi, which is reached via a ramp approximately 15 metres long with a gradient of around 18%. At the end of the 13th century, the Carmelite Convent was built here, incorporating the Church of Santi Jacopo e Filippo, which is currently closed to the public. The Torre dei Lemmi, also known as the Clock Tower, still survives from the ancient fortifications and features a historic six-hour clock installed in the 19th century.

The church was rebuilt in the Baroque style in the 18th century over an earlier medieval building founded by the Carmelites in 1296. It houses important works of art, including 17th-century paintings and ten life-size terracotta statues depicting Carmelite saints.

In terms of accessibility, the route follows historic stone paving that is generally firm but features joints, uneven sections and slight differences in level typical of medieval villages. The route is generally wide enough for a wheelchair. However, the gradients and uneven surface may make it more difficult to navigate, requiring additional care from people with reduced mobility and, along some sections, assistance from a companion.

Overall, the route offers an experience of considerable historical and scenic value, allowing visitors to discover some of the most picturesque and lesser-known corners of Montecatini Alto.



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Regione Toscana



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**Presidenza del
Consiglio dei Ministri**
Ministro per la disabilità



Figure 20 ascent to the Church of Saints Jacopo and Filippo and Clock Tower io





Figure 21 – Church of Santi Jacopo e Filippo and the Clock Tower





HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

Nearby hospitals	• SS. Cosma e Damiano Hospital, Via Cesare Battisti 2, Pescia (PT), with a 24-hour Emergency Department, approximately 12 km from Montecatini Alto. • San Jacopo Hospital, Via Ciliegiole 97, Pistoia (PT), approximately 20 km from Montecatini Alto. • Santa Rita Hospital, a private healthcare facility in Montecatini Terme, approximately 5–6 km from the village. For hospital emergency care, refer to the Azienda USL Toscana Centro healthcare network. In the event of a medical emergency, call the European emergency number 112, which will direct the patient to the most appropriate hospital.
Other healthcare facilities	• Azienda USL Toscana Centro – Montecatini Terme Health District, Via San Marco 40, Montecatini Terme, approximately 5–6 km from Montecatini Alto. • Out-of-hours Medical Service (Guardia Medica) –Via Daniele Manin 22, Montecatini Terme, approximately 6 km away. • Santa Rita Hospital, a private healthcare facility in Montecatini Terme, approximately 5–6 km from the village.

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