

# LA CRUSC

## SANCTUARY OF S.CROCE



Start	Ütia Lé
Trail No.	<b>7</b>
Duration	40 minutes (one-way, on foot)
Max Elevation	2.045 m
Min Elevation	1.850 m
Difficulty	<b>EASY</b> suitable for families, with bike and stroller (for experienced users)

Starting from our refuge, follow the dirt road to the right of the **La Crusc 2** cable car. Proceed along **trail No. 7**, following the **Via Crucis** through the **forest**. The trail is a bit steep in the last stretch, but it is worth reaching the top to enjoy **brehtaking views** of the **Dolomites** and the **spectacular view of the 16th-century sanctuary and church** at the foot of the **majestic Sas dla Crusc**, the **most famous mountain range in Alta Badia**.

*Tip: For those who prefer, you can also take the **La Crusc 2 cable car** located to the left of our refuge, which will take you within 100 meters of the sanctuary. From there, take the path on the right of the cable car and you will soon see the historic sanctuary emerge from behind the trees.*

## **History of the “Santa Croce” church**

*The “Santa Croce” church is the heart of La Crusc. Hidden behind the walls of this popular pilgrimage site is an exciting, centuries-old history.*

*Long before Badia was settled, Santa Croce was likely a place of pagan worship. Poor living conditions probably motivated Christians to erect an empowering shrine at this location. For many years, the only documents associated with the existence of this pilgrimage site originated from the year 1511.*

*Later, two parchments were uncovered to support the earlier existence of the church. The first described a church dedication, the second told of the history of “Morellus de Caninis,” who travelled to Rome in 1500 to ask for indulgence for the church. As a result, the priest decided to hold six masses in the Santa Croce church every year. This devotion has been celebrated ever since on the first Sunday of every year as well as with many processions during the summertime.*

*Countless relics are protected at the church altar, like for example those of Saint Leonhard (to whom the church Saint Leonard in Badia is consecrated), Saint Hippolitus, Saint Virgilius (Bishop of Salzburg), Saint Maria Magdalena, Saint Agnes and Saint Barbara.*

## **The legend**

### Construction of the church

*Many hundreds of years ago, the residents of Badia wanted to erect a chapel on the “Col d’Alvi”, a hill on the north side of San Leonardo/Badia. During construction, village residents repeatedly injured themselves with splinters of wood. According to legend, white birds are said to have brought the blood-stained splinters to the foot of the Santa Croce mountain.*

*The construction workers noticed this and followed the birds to find out where they were flying. When they saw this enchanting and mysterious place at the foot of the mountain, they decided to build their church here, as they seemed to recognize the will of God.*

### The legends of Ottwin

*Ottwin, Duke of Lurn and the Val Pusteria valley, made a pilgrimage to the holy land. During his return journey, Arion seized him and he had to agree to return home with his non-believing priests. Some time later, Ottwin regretted this decision and moved to the foot of the Sasso Santa Croce massif to pay penance. Here, he erected a chapel as a symbol of his belief.*

### The modern “Santa Croce” church

*The church continues to be a favoured destination for pilgrims from around the world. Processions to holy sites originate from nearby villages and are followed by church services. Three different paths, each a “Way of the Cross,” lead to the church. One starts at the nearby mountain station of the “Santa Croce” chairlift, one is located at “Trail no. 15” which starts from San Cassiano, and the other follows the “Trail no. 13” which starts from Castalta.*