

Eremo di Sant'Onofrio Serramonacesca (Majella) Abruzzo



The wild mountains of the Majella (Abruzzo) – dark, cold, rainy even in June.



“eremos” Greek – inhabitants of desert

Image of St. Onofrio – 4th Century – inspiration for the “eremitic monasticism” movement – begun in Italy with St. Benedict at the Sacro Speco in Subiaco in 497. Pietro dal Morrone, founder of the Celestine Hermits was Pope for one year in 1292 (Celestino V) before resigning to return to his mountains.

The Trail to Eremo di Sant'Onofrio – 11th Century Eremo Rupestre – visita 2 giugno 2013



Arriving at the Eremo





Professoressa Barbara with her pilgrim's staff arriving at the Eremo.





Interior – typical “Eremo Rupestre” of Celestino’s era in the Majella – carved from cliff – remote and beautiful natural setting.





Saint Onofrio – “clothed” only with his hair and beard – wood carving – venerated by the people of Serramonacesca – pilgrimage site of great natural beauty. (Modesty scarf added by unknown local church-lady.) We were happy to learn that Onofrio lived in Syria where it is much warmer and less rainy than in the high Abruzzo mountains.





Pug “Jane” carried up steepest parts of trail by CFW

Further Reading – Sweeney, John M., [The Pope Who Quit: A True Medieval Tale of Mystery, Death, and Salvation](#), Random House, 2012.

Micati, Edoardo, [Eremi d’Abruzzo: Guida ai luoghi di culto rupestri](#), Edizioni CARSA, Pescara, 2000.