

HOW TO REACH MONTE SOLE

By train: from Bologna get the train to Porretta. Your stop is in Marzabotto. From there to the site of Monte Sole you need a bus. Please, feel free to contact the School that will provide the transportation from the railway station.

By car: highway A1 Bologna – Florence, get out Sasso Marconi and follow the direction to Marzabotto. From there follow always straight to Pian di Venola and turn left at the sign of the “Parco Storico di Monte Sole”.

THE PROMOTING PARTNERS OF THE “MONTE SOLE PEACE SCHOOL FOUNDATION”

*From the Deed of Partnership,
December 13th 2002, notary Rossi*

- Town Hall of Marzabotto
- Town Hall of Monzuno
- Town Hall of Grizzana Morandi
- Emilia Romagna Region
- Land Hessen of the German Federal Republic
- Province of Bologna
- Town Hall of Bologna
- Mountain Community of the Savena and Idice Valleys
- Mountain Community of the Upper and Middle Reno Valley
- Management Association of the Historical Park of Monte Sole
- Regional Committee for the Honors of the Fallen of Marzabotto
- University of Bologna
- Ferruccio Parri Regional Institute for the History of the Liberation Movement and of Contemporary Age in Emilia Romagna
- Institute for the History of the Resistance and the Contemporary Society in the Province of Bologna “Luciano Bergonzini”
- Coordinamento of the Associations for the Peace School of Monte Sole
- Center of Documentation for the International Pacifist Manifesto (CDMPI)
- Nexus Association – International cooperation and solidarity in Emilia Romagna
- Association for Peace
- Emilia Romagna School Office – General Direction



Peace School Foundation of Monte Sole

via S. Martino, 25
40043 Marzabotto
(Bologna) Italy
Tel - Fax: +39-051-931574
info@montesole.org
www.montesole.org

President: Vittorio Prodi

Director: Nadia Baiesi

SCUOLA di PACE MONTE SOLE

Fondazione

The Peace School Foundation of Monte Sole, created in 2002, has its registered office and its operating facilities in the Historical Park of Monte Sole, founded in 1989 by a law of the Emilia - Romagna Region. Its aim is to promote training and peace education projects, non-violent conflicts transformation, respect of human rights, for a peaceful living together among different people and cultures, for a society without xenophobia, racism and any other kind of violence towards human beings and their environment.

The place today

Monte Sole is a triangle of hills, approximately 10 miles south of Bologna, between the valley of the river Setta and the river Reno. Today approximately 60% of the territory is covered by woods and the rest is turned into meadows, pastures and, in small part, also used for agriculture. The way it looks today is just a pale trace of what it was possible to see at the end of the second world war, where houses and little villages were spread all around. The silence and the peacefulness of this apparently untouched place are the result of a terrible violence, a violence that it testified by the ruins one can find there, sign of what happened during the second world war.

The past

Between the 29th of September and the 5th of October 1944, when the front was a few miles from Monte Sole, the place was the theatre of a slaughter led by SS troops with the help of Fascist elements. In those days, more than 800 people, mostly women and children, were killed.

The violent actions against the civil population have to be seen as part of the "terror domination" that Nazis and Fascists of the Social Republic carried out after the armistice of the 8th of September.

The activities of partisan groups in the area are not enough to explain the size and the savageries of the massacre. As Enzo Collotti teaches us, the widespread form of violence, that were part of the conduct of the occupying troops have sometimes to be considered independent from a causal relationship with specific behaviour of the population.

The present

Today we ask ourselves about the reasons that made possible that system of terror, in Monte Sole and in other places, and that we can find in different ways and forms in other areas of the world and in other historical times.

The activities that the Peace School develops start from a consideration of those facts and from the knowledge of the mechanisms of violence that carried them out, through the memory of the witnesses and of the place itself as a dumb witness and a guardian of that past:

- the projects of educational experiences, in particular for young people, to encourage and promote the dialogue and the comparison among different human beings, people and cultures, even in the perspective of a possible reconciliation between who, either in the past or in the present, found or finds himself on different fronts (we underline in particular the peace camps among young Italians, Germans, Israelis and Palestinians or among women coming from ex-Yugoslavia);
- the activities of studying, analysis and collection of documents about the causes of the conflicts, their conditions and the good acts for peace;
- the managing of a point of contact and comparison for groups, public and private bodies, associations and people who wants to commit themselves in the defense and promotion of peace and of the values of freedom and justice, fundamental lines for the decentralized cooperation.