



## CHURCH OF S. MARIA COL PORTICO (ST. MARY WITH THE PORTICO)\*

\* building totally or partially in ruins

You can find this point of interest in Ossuccio - Path 1 - Stage 4

### INFORMATION

**Location:** the ruins of the church are on the Island's crest.

**Paving:** the footpath which runs alongside the church is grassy, and small rocks surface here and there.

**Architectural barriers:** information on accessibility is available in the description of Stage 4.

**Access:** it is an archaeological site, it is therefore advisable to observe it from the outside.

**Services:** -

**Leisure and food:** the surrounding green plateau is equipped with benches and a small wooden table for anyone wishing a break. A bar and a restaurant are available on the Island.

### DESCRIPTION

(Drawn from the descriptive panels on site and in the *Antiquarium*)

«The building is a single hall with a semicircular apse facing East (exterior measurements 30 x 9.70 m). A rectangular room identified as a portico ran across the flattened rocky surface in front of the church. The ruins of many of the walls can still be seen. The floors are made of grey Moltrasio limestone.

Excavation revealed the existence of an earlier apsed building, perhaps a small chapel built during the Early Christian era (fifth century).

Thanks to fragments of frescoes found among the rubble, the most recent church has been dated to the Romanesque period (eleventh-twelfth centuries)».

«During excavation some graves came to light behind the apses of both the earlier and later church».

«The archaeological data, tied together with twelfth century archive evidence led to the identification of the ruins of the Romanesque building as those of the church of S. Maria col Portico cited in a legal act of 1145».