

Bergamo Trails

Hikes in the province of Bergamo



Bergamo

on the Orobic Alps trails

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Bergamo Trails

This guide proposes routes in the mountains in the province of Bergamo with the hope of contributing to raise awareness about nature, the landscape and mountain refuges in the Orobic Alps. Some of the hikes are classics, others less well known, but they all take hikers through a surprising variety of environments, from the gently rolling green hills at the foot of the Alps to the world of rock and ice on the highest peaks.

The Lombardy mountains are interesting for an infinite number of reasons and hiking is one of the best ways to get to know them better. First of all, with passion, because hikes can be a great way to appreciate their beauty, but also to learn more about the fragility of their nature and be encouraged to respect and take care of it. Then with attention, making sure you are prepared in terms of equipment and knowledge, thanks also to the many tools available to help hikers plan their excursions in the best way possible. These include the REL (Rete Escursionistica della Lombardia - Lombardy Hiking Network) promoted by the Lombardy Regional Authorities as a census of trails in Lombardy and presented in this publication; a very useful resource in our opinion.

We would like to thank the enthusiastic connoisseurs of the Lombardy mountains who work for the ERSAF (Regional Agency for Services to Agriculture and Forestry), the Bergamo CAI and the Assorifugi Lombardia mountain refuge association who contributed to writing this guide and we hope it gives readers new ideas for fabulous days out in the Orobic Alps.

Regione Lombardia



The Orobic area and the Bergamo Orobic Alps Regional Park

The Orobic Mountains are a vast range comprising very different elevations and environments: the main chain, the Orobic Alps, groups together the highest peaks on the border with Valtellina. In the eastern sector especially, below the '3000' peaks of the massif (Coca, Redorta and Scais), there are still some small glaciers and truly wild spots. Further south, the Bergamo or Orobic pre-Alps wind their way between Valsassina and Val Camonica, characterised by a more modest altitude and shapes that are often slender and elegant due to the mainly limestone composition of the rock. The differences in terrain, climate and morphology in the Orobic Alps have resulted in extraordinary contrasts in terms of vegetation, above all in the border areas between the Alps and the pre-Alps, which feature an exceptional variety of flora. This diversity is also linked to the fact that the highest pre-Alpine peaks, such as Arera and Presolana, were not completely covered by ice at the time of the great glaciations and became a refuge for floral species that, after long forced isolation, not only managed to survive, but also acquired specific characteristics that make them unique the world over, in other words endemic. On the subject of endemic species, the fauna, especially smaller examples, also have some extraordinary aspects. Hypogean invertebrates are tiny animals that live underground, often in rock fractures,



and no fewer than 37 endemic species have been found between Presolana and Sponda Vaga, making this one of the most important areas in the Alps from this point of view, a fact unknown to most. It was also in order to protect these extraordinary peculiarities that the Bergamo Orobie Alps Park was created in 1989. Covering almost 70,000 hectares, it is one of the largest protected areas in Lombardy, extending from the border with Valtellina to include most of the Brembana, Seriana and Scalve valleys. It is home to a wealth of wildlife, and also offers rural landscapes, historical trails and countless other signs of the past. It has an abundance of water that creates an infinite number of lakes, streams and waterfalls, including those on the Serio, the highest in Italy, reined in for most of the year by the Barbellino dam. In a certain sense, these waterfalls symbolise a magnificent surprising nature, even if 'surrounded' by man's activities; nature just waiting to be explored, appreciated, and experienced, even better if on foot.



Correct behaviour in the mountains

10 recommendations

In the mountains, nothing is obvious and nothing can ever be repeated enough.

1. RESPECT NATURE and let everyone enjoy the mountain environment. So don't litter (waste collection at high altitude is not easy...), don't approach animals and don't pick flowers.

2. TAKE A HIKING MAP WITH YOU (scale 1:25,000 or 1:50,000): even if you think you know the area you are hiking in, it is always important to have a complete overview of the trails that only a paper map can give you. This is also very useful for those who normally use apps that, while always being more accurate and easy to follow, do not always give you an overview of the area you are in.

3. PLAN YOUR HIKE, YOU NEED TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING: carefully study your route, other trails in the area, the position of refuges and reference points and their opening hours, trails, reference refuges. It is essential to plan your excursion.

4. BEST SET OFF IN THE MORNING, to take advantage of the light and not be surprised by thunderstorms that, especially in summer, are usually concentrated in the afternoon. Remember that bad weather in the mountains means: lower visibility, low temperatures, greater risk of slipping, and the possibility of landslides. Always check the weather forecast!

5. BETTER ALONE THAN IN THE WRONG COMPANY? IT DEPENDS. But should you plan to hike alone, remember to inform someone about your route (and don't change it, if possible).

6. CALL 112 IF YOU NEED HELP, for yourself or others, and provide the following information:

- surname and first name of the person requesting assistance;
- exact time and location of the accident;
- type and dynamics of the accident: fall or slip on path, fall on snow, fall from wall, sudden illness;
- number of persons involved;
- presumed condition of the injured person/s;
- weather conditions and visibility at the accident site.

If there is no telephone coverage to contact help, which happens often in the mountains, get to your nearest refuge or place with a landline.

7. IN YOUR RUCKSACK

One-day hike or multi-stage route? In the mountains, your backpack should be chosen and prepared according to your plans. 30-35 litre backpacks are ideal for day trips, larger ones are suitable for carrying what you need for several days. When choosing your rucksack pay attention to the shoulder straps: they are what will help you balance the weight. When choosing clothing, follow the layers rule: better thinner and one on top of the other, to add or taken off depending on the temperature. Gloves, hat and a windproof/rainproof jacket are all essential, as are a head torch, water bottle or thermos, sunscreen and sunglasses. If you are staying in a refuge, remember to bring a towel and a sleeping bag liner with pillowcase. When the route requires it, take suitable equipment with you: for via ferratas, a via ferrata kit comprising an energy absorber with dedicated length of rope, two suitable karabiners, harness and helmet; for crossing snowfields, a pair of crampons (and not micro-spikes) may prove indispensable.

8. CHECK YOUR SHOES!

Shoes with a good sole (such as Vibram) guarantee excellent grip on any kind of terrain; choose a soft lightweight shoe for hill walking, while high mountain hikes call footwear that guarantees excellent protection for the foot and grip. Choose shoes that are water-resistant, but also breathable: blisters are more likely to form when your feet are wet...

9. EAT THE RIGHT THINGS, DRINK A LOT

A balanced diet and proper hydration are always important, with mineral salts and supplements as necessary (as a guide, you need at least three litres of water on a summer hike of 6-8 hours).

10. ASSESS YOUR LEVEL OF PHYSICAL FITNESS AND PREPARATION

Before setting out, choose a route suited to your ability. During your hike, do not hesitate to change itinerary or turn back if the route is too hard for your physical fitness levels or technical preparation.

LIFE IN THE RIFUGIO

Refuges are the main shelters in the mountain. A rifugio means hospitality, support, socialising, rest, and sharing.

On the days when the rifugio is your home, make an effort to learn and follow its rules: respect for those who work there and for the other guests, plus a little spirit of adaptation, are very important for making the most of your stay in the mountains.

Advice

- Remember to book any overnight stays and indicate your arrival time so that your rifugio hosts can make sure you enjoy your stay.
- Refuges are usually equipped with blankets or duvets, pillows and mattresses. Bed linen, towels and toiletries are not always provided: remember to check this.
- Remember that people sleeping in a rifugio very often wake up early: respect your fellow guests and limit your noisiest socialising to mealtimes.
- Four-legged friends are not always allowed in refuges: check before you leave.
- Trail and mountain conditions, walking times: if in doubt, always ask your rifugio host!

IN THE MOUNTAINS WITH CHILDREN

For children, the mountains are a great adventure packed with challenges, satisfaction and surprises... but above all they are a very valuable educational experience.

For those with children in tow, the important thing is to pay extra attention to hazards that they are not able to assess, the characteristics of the routes and walking times.

If children get bored of walking, the secret is to keep them interested in their surroundings: flowers, animals, rocks and peaks with unusual shapes, curious facts about the mountains.

WARNINGS REGARDING THE ROUTES IN THIS GUIDE

Although carefully checked by several people, the routes and information detailed in this guide may not be up to date because of changes due to landslides, new roads, route modifications or closures for safety reasons. The level of difficulty of the hikes may change depending on environmental and weather conditions.

It is important to understand that the excursions described take place in an uncontrolled natural environment, one with objective hazards. Experience and the ability to assess risks and your technical and physical fitness are therefore always required when tackling any hike. When in doubt, it is always advisable to enquire at the mountain refuges, and if you do not feel up to taking on a particular route, it is always a good idea to hire the services of a professional mountain guide. Each route must be carefully assessed according to your real capabilities and those of any other hikers with you. The routes are described concisely, providing the user with the necessary information to discover new hikes while avoiding lengthy internet searches. This guide gives heights in metres (m) above sea level and orientation is given according to the direction followed and with geographical orientation (N= north, E= East, S= south, W= west). This guidebook should however be used in conjunction with a topographical map, which, as already mentioned, is a must on any excursion.

Key



Altitude above sea level



Can be reached on mountain bike



Disabled access



Beds



Dining capacity



Route duration



Winter location

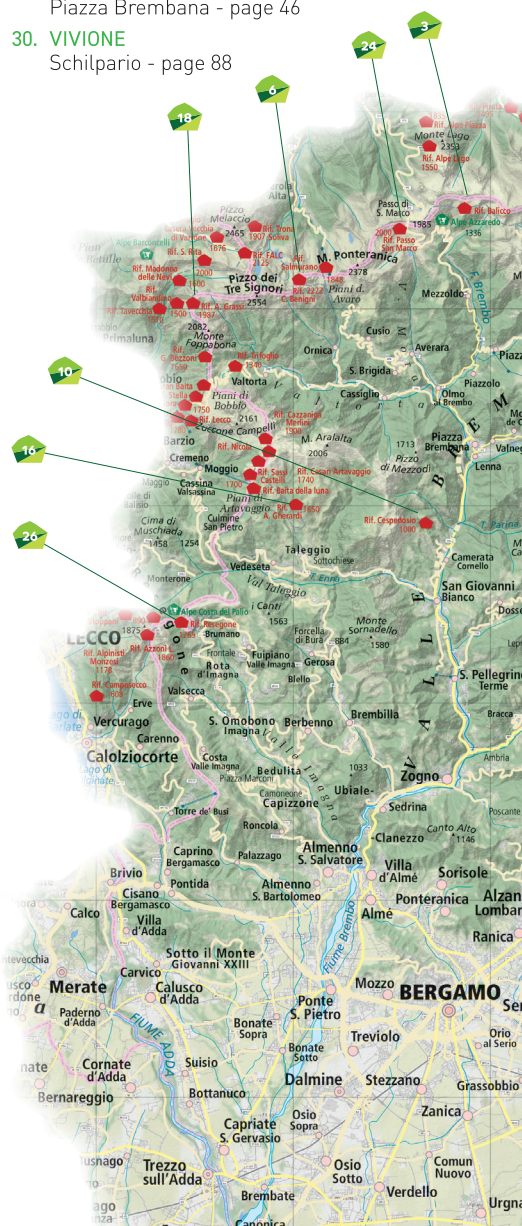
USEFUL NUMBERS: Single European emergency number **112** - Fire service **1515**



Mountain refuges in the province of Bergamo

1. **ALBANI**
Carbonera - page 80
2. **ALPE CORTE BASSA**
Valcanale - page 48
3. **BALICCO ALL'AZZAREDO**
Fraccia - page 16
4. **BARBELLINO**
Valbondione - page 52
5. **BARONI AL BRUNONE**
Fiumenero Valbondione - page 56
6. **BENIGNI**
Cusio - page 18
7. **CAMPEL**
Lizzola - page 62
8. **CAPANNA 2000**
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9. **CARLO MEDICI AI CASSINELLI**
Passo Presolana - page 60
10. **CESPEDOSIO**
Camerata - page 22
11. **CIMON DELLA BAGOZZA**
Fondi - page 82
12. **COCA**
Valbondione - page 64
13. **CURÒ**
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14. **F.LLI CALVI**
Carona - page 24
15. **F.LLI LONGO**
Carona - page 32
16. **GHERRARDI**
Pizzino - page 34
17. **GIANPACE (Ristoro)**
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18. **GRASSI**
Valtorta - page 36
19. **LAGHI GEMELLI**
Carona - page 38
20. **MAGNOLINI**
Rogno - page 77
21. **MONTE POIETO**
Aviatico - page 78
22. **OLMO RINO**
Castione della Presolana - page 72
23. **PARAFULMINE**
Colonia Monte Farno - page 74
24. **PASSO SAN MARCO 2000**
Mezzoldo - page 40

25. **PIAN DE LA PALÙ**
Rogno - page 76
26. **RESEGONE**
Brumano - page 12
27. **TAGLIAFERRI**
Ronco - page 84
28. **TERRE ROSSE**
Carona - page 44
29. **VALLE DEL DRAGO**
Piazza Brembana - page 46
30. **VIVIONE**
Schilpario - page 88





In the mountains with guides



Alpine and mid-mountain guides are the professionals you should turn to when taking on difficult ascents or gentle hikes in the Orobie Alps. Hikes taking one or more days, via ferrata and climbing routes, snow shoes and Alpine skiing: the many options on the official website include something for everyone at every level and in every season, whether in groups or alone.



Discovering the Bergamo area



Hiking is one of the best ways to enjoy nature and the vast open spaces in the mountains, but it is also an excellent opportunity to start to get to know, and understand, an area as a whole. Every valley in the province of Bergamo has its own I.A.T tourist information office, providing useful details to help you plan your stay in the Orobie Alps in the best way possible: lists of accommodation, public transport timetables, suggestions for discovering local art, history and traditions, and calendars of cultural events, festivals and sporting events.

Check out the I.A.T. offices

www.visitbergamo.net

Resegone from the Solitari ridge



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Resegone, 1264 m asl
 Finish: Punta Cermenati, 1875 m asl
 Elevation gain: 620 m
 Duration: 2 h (one way)
 Difficulty: EE (grade I passages)
 Recommended period: summer / autumn
 Reference mountain refuges: Rifugio Resegone, Rifugio Azzoni

Sights worth seeing

This hike follows a ridge that is never too difficult and leads to the summit of Resegone on a little-used and very enjoyable route, suitable for those wanting trails with rocky stretches. Recommended for the experienced and fit, the Solitari ridge winds its way between Valle Imagna and the Lecco area, with great views of the Alps, pre-Alps and plains. The route ends at Rifugio Azzoni, just below Punta Cermenati, at an altitude of 1875 m.

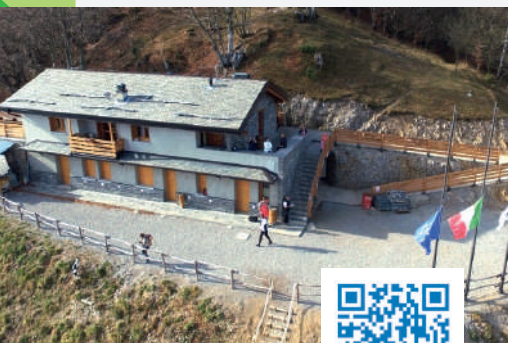
Access to the refuge

From Brumano, park in Piazza Carlo Vitari, near the aqueduct. Take trail 587 towards Passata-Resegone, which initially runs alongside an uphill road, allowing you to cut out a few of the

hairpin bends. Having carefully followed the trail signs you will reach the edge of the pastures at an altitude of 1020 m, where the path heads west through the wood and in less than an hour reaches the hairpin bend of the road just below the refuge, just a few minutes' walk away.

Route

From Rifugio Resegone, take trail 590 to "I Solitari" and Rifugio Alpinisti Monzese. The route immediately enters the broadleaf wood and, rising constantly, it takes you up 200 m in altitude in about 30 minutes. The last section opens out onto a steep pasture and reaches the watershed in another 10 minutes. Once below the summit of I Solitari (1667 m asl), stay on trail 571, on the right and marked



1264 m 26 0,50 h YES 60 NO YES

Rifugio Resegone

Access: Brumano

Telephone: 035.0667666

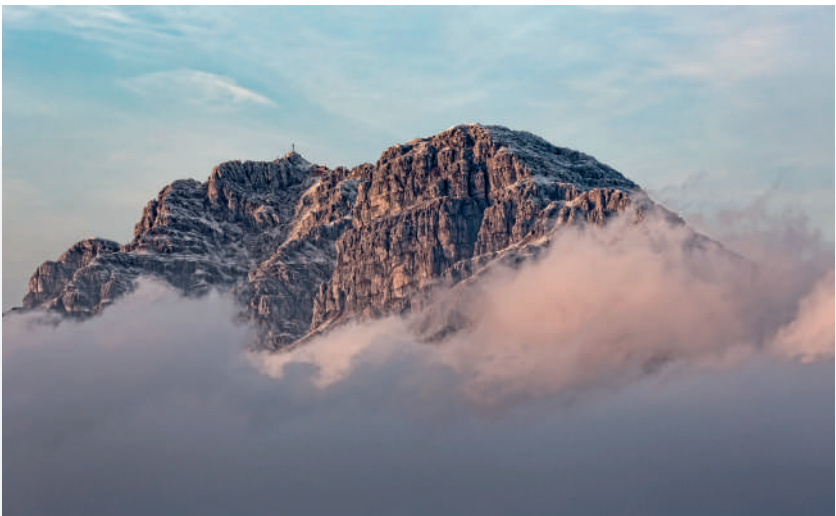
Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/resegone

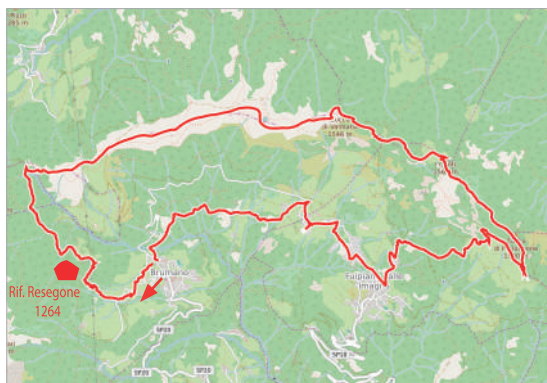




with the new 'Sentiero delle Cresse' signs. From here, the trail alternates between steep stretches and crossings without ever wandering too far from the ridge, skirting first Pizzo Brumano (1,851 m asl), then Pizzo Daina (1864 m asl) and Torre di Valnegrà (1,852 m asl) until it reaches Rifugio Azzoni, perched a few metres below Punta Cermenati, the highest peak on Resegone. The descent is along trail 571 until it meets up with trail 587, the DOL (Dorsale Orobica Lecchese-Lecco Orobic Ridge); from here, a right turn takes you back to Rifugio Resegone.



Wide ridges in Valle Imagna



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Resegone, 1264 m asl
 Finish: Brumano 939 m asl
 Elevation gain: 500 m
 Duration: 5 h
 Difficulty: E
 Recommended period: all seasons
 (also feasible in winter with snowshoes)
 Reference mountain refuges: Rifugio Resegone

Sights worth seeing

Valle Imagna Valley is one of the Bergamo valleys that best preserves the remains of local pastoral and agricultural activities from the past, and despite not being far from the city of Bergamo, it is a haven of peace and quiet. Brumano and Fuipiano are the two most convenient villages for setting off towards Resegone and the Palio ridge, but the area offers many other easy routes, either on foot

or by mountain bike. The best times to visit the valley are spring, during the flowering season, and autumn, for the bright colours of the beech woods.

Access to the refuge

From Brumano, park in Piazza Carlo Vitari, near the aqueduct. Take trail 587 towards Passata-Resegone, which initially runs alongside an uphill road, allowing you to cut out a few of



the hairpin bends. Having carefully followed the trail signs you will reach the edge of the pastures at an altitude of 1020 m, where the path heads west through the wood and in less than an hour reaches the hairpin bend of the road just below the refuge, just a few minutes' walk away.

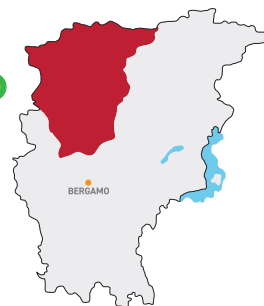
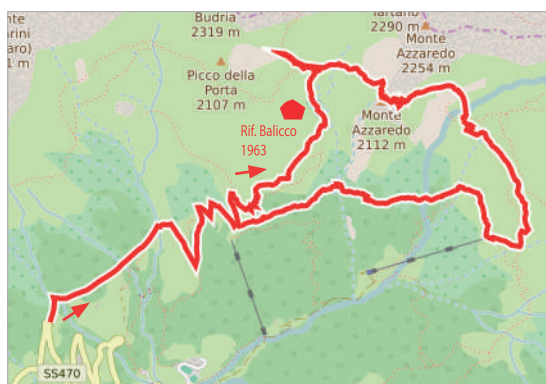
Route

From Rifugio Resegone, continue for about 20 minutes along trail 587-DOL until you come to a fork (signs). Take the path on the right that leads to Bocchetta di Palio, leaving behind the 578 that continues up to Monte Resegone. Before arriving at the notch, we recommend you come out of the forest to enjoy the panoramic views of Palio ridge, a wonderful large pasture at around 1,400 m in altitude. When you reach the notch, follow trail 571, sections of which are on the wide grassy ridge. Dropping down to Passo Valbona, you will then come to Zuc di Valmana (1545 m asl - 2 h 30 min from the refuge). From the summit, head east downhill towards Bocca di Grassello (1390 m asl) and then up towards Canti (1563 m asl), the highest point of this route. Now, still on trail 571, continue towards Zucco di Pralongone (1501 m asl), dropping about a hundred metres to I Tre Faggi, an ideal place to stop and enjoy the view over the valley. From here, having picked up trail 579 A, continue first on the level, skirting the meadows of Baita Torre, then downhill as you enter the woods until you come to the forest road that leads to Fuipiano. Just above this you will meet an asphalt road (trail signs 579 - Via Milano), which you follow downhill to its end and then keep to the right for Arnosto (via Resegone), the architectural jewel of the valley, which you will reach in 5 minutes' walk. Then continue on to Galzaniga on sections of mule track and road following trail signs 579, which in this section follows the route of the Sentiero dei Giganti (Giants' Path), a loop also used by horse-riding tourists. Continue for a stretch in the direction of "Orso" until you

reach a fork (signs) where the above-mentioned trails divide: leave the 579 on your left and continue along the easy Sentiero dei Giganti forest road that drops into Brumano.



The basin of Azzaredo



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Balicco, 1963 m asl
 Finish: Conca di Azzaredo, 2100 m asl approx
 Elevation gain: 150 m
 Duration: 1 h (round trip)
 Difficulty: E
 Recommended period: summer / autumn (route not recommended with snow).
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Balicco

Sights worth seeing

Rifugio Balicco is surrounded by wide expanses of pastures and grasslands dotted with "barek", ancient stone pens for livestock, and embellished with small wetlands, with interesting traces left by the glaciers that shaped the Azzaredo basin. Further down, beautiful Azzaredo-Casù Regional Forest covers the mountainsides with spruces and firs all the way down to the stream in the valley bottom. The ascent to the refuge is a pleasant hike with many naturalistic sights and beautiful views of the nearby limestone peaks of Pegherolo and Monte Cavallo. Continuing to little Lake Cavizzola is an option that results in a longer loop trail.

Access to the refuge

Drive to Fraccia along the road to Passo San Marco in Val Brembana and park near hairpin bend no. 9, at about 1600 m asl. From here trail 124 A branches off to the right. The first section, on the level, continues through pastures and woodland, passing several streams. After about 20 minutes you will reach a sign for "Sentiero delle Casere - Madonna delle Nevi" and here you turn left and begin to climb, first through the woods and then through meadows, following hairpin bends that lead to an altitude of 1800 m. Once past the Arletto pasture, the trail becomes less steep and continues to the easy-to-spot entrance to the basin where the refuge is located on the edge of a delightful meadow (1 h 30 min from the car park and 480 m elevation gain).



1963 m 11 1,20 h YES 25 YES NO

Rifugio Balicco

Access: Fraccia

Telephone: 035.0667343

Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/balicco

Route

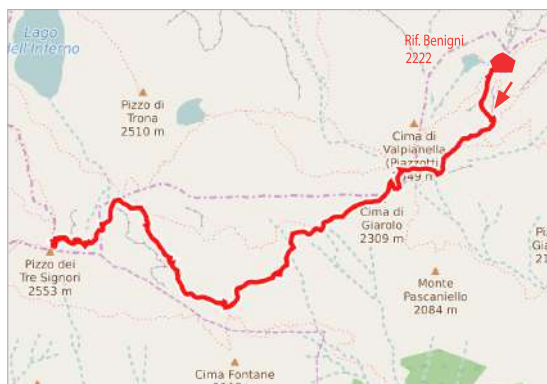
From the refuge we recommend you visit the beautiful basin of Azzaredo: you start by heading toward the large cairn of stones, an ancient topographic cippus from the 1700s, located west of the Zamboni herdsman's shelter and probably at the centre of a sacred area dating back to prehistoric times. Then, following trail 101 eastward, you will come to valuable wetlands and plenty of evidence of glaciers in the area: mounded rocks, a perfectly preserved frontal moraine, and, above all, the very interesting wreck of a by now extinct "rock glacier". Those not wanting to retrace their steps can climb over the easy-to-spot saddle of Bocchetta di Piedevalle (2095 m asl) and reach little Lake Cavizzola, just below which trail 111 A takes you at length across the slope to meet the ascent route again just below 1800 m asl (2 h from the refuge).

Other hikes

to Passo della Porta (2028 m asl) in 25 min
to Lake Cavizzola (1900 m asl), 1 h
to Passo San Marco (1985 m asl), 2 h



Pizzo dei Tre Signori, a symbol of the Orobie Alps



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Benigni, 2222 m asl
 Finish: Pizzo dei Tre Signori, 2554 m asl
 Elevation gain: 600 m
 Duration: 3 h 10 min (one way)
 Difficulty: EE
 Recommended period: summer
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Benigni

Sights worth seeing

The ascent to Pizzo dei Tre Signori is one of the most popular hikes in the Orobie Alps: the isolated location of this mountain, its fame, relative ease of access and, not least, the magnificent view from its summit have made it a traditional, almost must of a destination for every hiker in Lombardy. Situated on the ancient border between the Duchy of Milan, the Republic of Venice and the Grisons, the peak can be easily reached from the many refuges on each slope. Where the Roman roads linked to iron mining and trade once passed, and later the famous Via Mercatorum (supplanted in turn by Via Priula), today a dense network of trails connects Valsassina, Bergamo and Valtellina. The route proposed here goes up

from Rifugio Benigni, set in a charming position on a small plateau, and offers exceptional views of the Rhaetian Alps, often in the company of large herds of ibex.

Access to the refuge

From Cusio in Val Brembana, drive up to Piani dell'Avaro (ticket), parking at Sciocc (1508 m asl). The ascent follows trail 108 and reaches the pastures of Casera Valletto (1650 m asl), where cheese and ricotta can be purchased in summer, and continues to the San Carlo spring (1775 m asl). Ignoring the "variante dei Vitelli" or "calves variant" (trail signs 108 A), an alternative route to the refuge, continue uphill on the right side of the valley toward Passo di Salmurano, but before you reach it



2222 m 20 2 h NO 45 YES NO

Rifugio Benigni

Access: Cusio

Telephone: 0345.89033

Complete info on website:

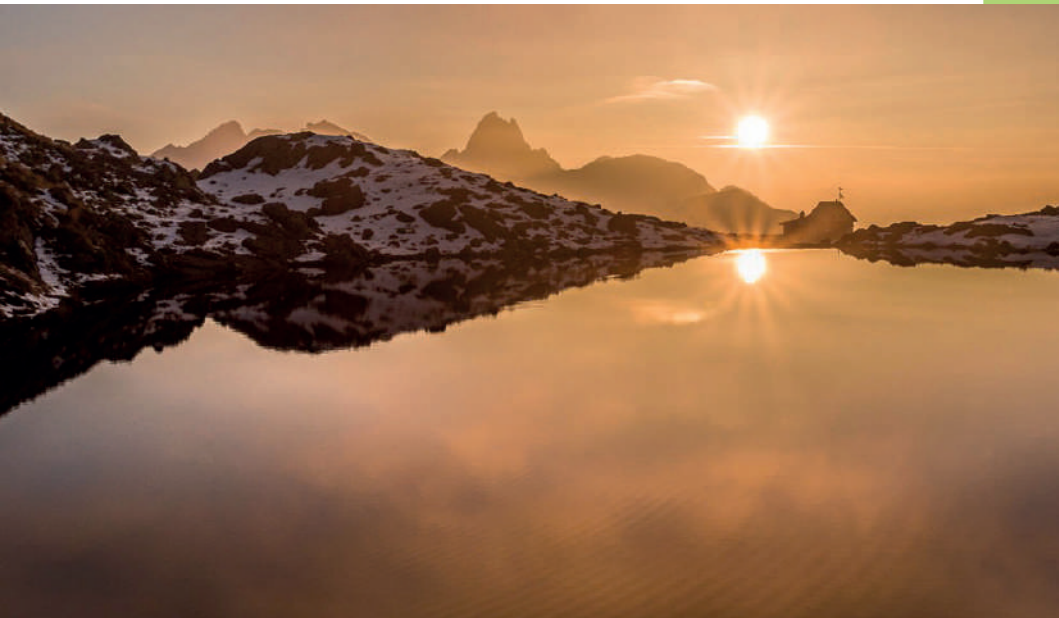
rifugi.lombardia.it/benigni

join trail 101 and go up the fun characteristic rocky "gully" that will bring you out onto the plateau of Rifugio Benigni refuge (2222 m asl - 2 h).

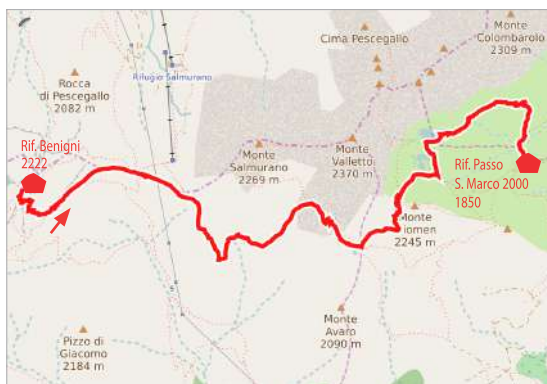
Route

From the refuge, take gently sloping trail 101 towards Bocchetta di Val Pianella through rocks and pastures. Once past it, you will soon reach Bocca di Trona, which offers a view of the Zancone lakes (among the most beautiful, if not the most beautiful, in the Orobie Alps) and of Trona. You then drop steeply down into Val d'Inferno, skirting Cima Fontane, from which trail 106 rises steeply with views of the unmistakable silhouette of the Sfinge, or sphinx, and brings you to Bocchetta d'Inferno (2306 m asl).

From Bocca di Trona there is a trail that lets you stay on the ridge without having to go down and up again but it is not particularly advisable. The route is marked with red and white signs and cairns and goes through a beautiful rocky environment that, despite a few exposed passages, finally brings you to the summit quite easily. Retrace your steps for the return journey.



The splendid basin of the Ponteranica lakes



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Benigni, 2222 m asl
 Finish: Rifugio Passo San Marco 2000, 1850 m asl
 Elevation gain: 350 m
 Duration: 4 h
 Difficulty: E
 Recommended period: summer/autumn
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Benigni, Rifugio Passo San Marco 2000

Sights worth seeing

This beautiful scenic hike, immersed in nature, follows the fifth stage of the Western Orobic Alps Trail, on the ridge that separates the Bergamo area from Valtellina. Long stretches of the route go through wide expanses of *Carex curvula*, a characteristic species with a curved stem, the "queen" of the Alpine grasslands. Very beautiful and characteristic are the Ponteranica lakes below Mount Valletto, the destination of this route.

Access to the refuge

See page 18 Rifugio Benigni or Rifugio Passo S. Marco.

Route

From the refuge, after dropping down through the famous "canalino" or gully, take trail 101 eastwards to Passo di Salmurano, where there are ruins of military fortifications. Still following the same trail signs, which mean you avoid going down along trail 108, along the watershed ridge you will reach the grassy plateau of Passo dell'Avaro. From here, after a lengthy crossing, you then walk down into a valley on the Bergamo side where you come to a herdsman's hut, then around a waterhole and a saddle out of which the wide grassy ridge of Monte Avaro juts. A little further on, through the meadows, pick up the trail that



leads uphill to Bocchetta di Triomen (2205 m asl). Once at Bocchetta, a short downhill stretch will bring you to the beautiful Ponteranica lakes, above which looms the elegant rock face of Monte Valletto, a delightful setting often frequented by marmots and ibex (2 h walk from the refuge). From the second lake, take the track that, first on the level then downhill, leads back to the Orobie Alps trail, with an isolated herdsman's hut on your right. When you reach the fork, turn left towards Passo San Marco, crossing the eastern slopes of Monte Ponteranica until you come to

a plateau below Passo di Verrobbio, the Piana dell'Acqua Nera. All that remains is a short climb up to the easy-to-spot building that is the San Marco workmen's house. By road or, better yet, along the historic mule track, you will finally arrive at Passo San Marco (about a 2-hour walk from the lakes).

Other excursions

to Rifugio Grassi in 3 h

to Bocchetta di Trona in 45 min



Great views above the village of Tasso



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Cespodosio, 1085 m asl
 Finish: Monte Venturosa, 1999 m asl
 Elevation gain: 900 m from the Boffalora bird blind
 Duration: 2 h 40 min (one way)
 Difficulty: E
 Recommended period: spring/autumn
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Cespodosio

Sights worth seeing

Located in the lower Val Brembana, Cespodosio is a tiny village at the foot of the beautiful Venturosa and Cancervo limestone mountains. From the refuge, in the village and accessible by car, easy hikes lead to mountain pastures and peaks in a green and relaxing environment. Not far away and definitely worth a visit is Cornello dei Tasso, one of the best-preserved medieval villages in Lombardy, an ancient thoroughfare on the Via Mercatorum and home to a museum that has captured and preserves the ancient splendour of the local Tasso family. At the time of the Venetian Republic, the Tasso family were responsible for setting up the Compagnia dei Corrieri, which transported correspondence

between the Serenissima and major cities in Italy and, later, Europe. This tiny village was therefore the birthplace of the first postal system on the continent and it saw the beginnings of the fortune of what was to become a powerful family known for centuries throughout the European kingdoms.

Access to the refuge

Follow the Val Brembana state road SS 470 to Camerata Cornello; from here a narrow road winds its way up the mountain to the village of Cespodosio.

Route

This hike starts in the car park near the Boffalora bird blind (sign). The first part winds



1085 m 8 1,30 h YES 40 NO YES

Rifugio Cespodosio

Access: Camerata

Telephone: 349.6472491

Complete info on website:

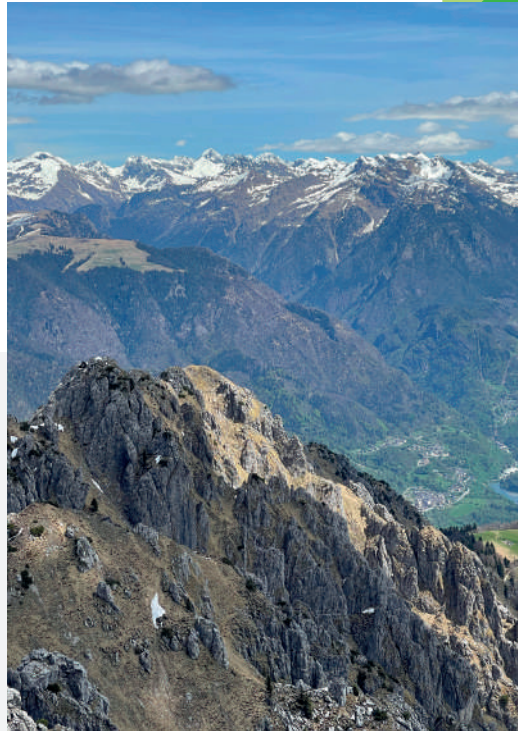
rifugi.lombardia.it/cespodosio

through deciduous forests and rises about 500 metres in elevation to Passo di Grialleggio (1707 m asl), following trail signs 136. Two trails start at the pass: the one on the left takes you up Monte Cancervo, while the one on the right is the one given here to Monte Venturosa. Initially following trail 102 you will come to Baita Venturosa (1850 m asl) and from here an easy-to-spot, rather steep trail leads to the summit over a wide ridge in less than 30 minutes. From the summit, despite the not particularly high altitude, the views are truly extraordinary.

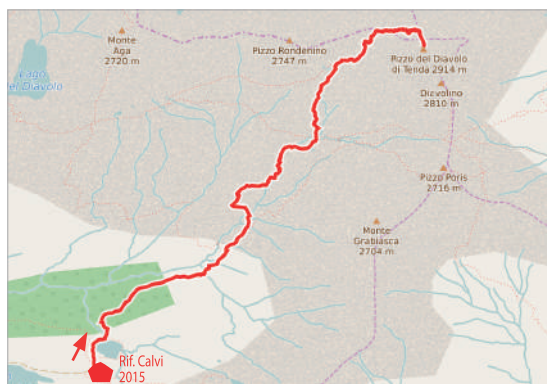
Other excursions

to Baita Campo (1442 m asl)

to Baita Maffenoli (1370 m asl)



The perfect pyramid



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Calvi, 2015 m asl
 Finish: Pizzo del Diavolo di Tenda, 2916 m asl
 Elevation gain: 900 m
 Duration: 3 h 20 min (one way)
 Difficulty: F
 Recommended period: summer
 Reference mountain refuges: Rifugio Calvi and Rifugio Longo

Sights worth seeing

Pizzo Diavolo di Tenda is a beautiful mountain and one of the most challenging peaks in the area, as the normal route is a borderline climb between hiking and easy mountaineering, with I- and II- passages. It should only be tackled if you are quite familiar with high mountain routes.

High above the basin of Rifugio Calvi, this peak has an unmistakable pyramid shape, flanked by a second similar but smaller peak: Diavolino. Like all isolated mountains it offers spectacular views, but the approach is also of great scenic interest, as it takes in a series of charming lakes and ponds. Also of great interest is the possibility of finding Sanguisorba

dodecandra, or *Salvastrella orobica*, a plant endemic to the Orobic Alps. Rather common in some valleys on the Valtellina side, it is decidedly rarer on the Bergamo side, where it is only found in certain areas.

Access to the refuge

From Carona in upper Val Brembana, continue along Via Carisole to a hairpin bend, where there is a paid car park. This is the starting point for the forest road closed to private traffic (trail 210) that leads to the refuge, via beautiful Valsambuzza waterfall and Lake Fregabolgia. Alternatively, the ascent can be made from the hamlet of Pagliari on trail 247, also known as the summer trail.



2015 m 86 2,30 h YES 70 8 YES

Rifugio Calvi

Access: Carona

Telephone: 0345.77047

Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/f-lli-calvi

Note: In the summer months there is a jeep shuttle service for the Calvi and Longo refuges; information at Carona Pro Loco office.

Route

From Rifugio Calvi take trail 225 going slightly downhill to Lake Rotondo. Then, skirting the western shore of the lake, start climbing again until you come to trail 246 to the Longo hut, but ignore this and continue in the direction of Rifugio Brunone. On a boulder on the other side of the river, signs for Pizzo Diavolo will guide you to the Bocchetta di Podavit notch (2624 m asl, 2 h 30 min from the refuge). After the notch, the route becomes more technical with a series of easy passages that must be climbed with great care, especially if there is still snow on the ground. The final part of the ridge is reached over ledges, gullies and scree, and then boulders lead to the cross at the summit (3 h 20 min total, very well-marked route).

Other excursions

to Rifugio Longo (2026 m asl) in 2 h 30 min
to Rifugio Laghi Gemelli (1961 m asl) in 4 h
to Passo Portula (2273 m asl) in 50 min



Lakes and small lakes below Pizzo del Diavolo di Tenda



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Calvi, 2015 m asl
 Finish: Lake Cабianca, 2153 m asl
 Elevation gain: 310 m
 Duration: 3 h (round trip)
 Difficulty: E
 Recommended period: summer/
 autumn
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio
 Calvi

Sights worth seeing

The beautiful basin of Rifugio Calvi, dotted with lakes and not far from the headwaters of the Brembo River, is one of the most popular and frequented places in the Bergamo mountains, especially in summer. We therefore recommend visiting the area in late spring or autumn, when the peace and quiet lets you to fully enjoy the refuge's surroundings, with their wealth of naturalistic sights and a wide range of hikes of varying lengths. Two

typical Alpine lakes not far from the refuge are the small hidden Lake Curiosi and the better-known Lake Cабianca, overlooked by the mountain of the same name. Both lakes are surrounded by interesting flora with an abundance of Pinguicola, one of the carnivorous plants most commonly found in the Alps.

Access to the refuge

See Rifugio Calvi page 24.

Route

From the refuge take trail 210 A, which follows a westward slope in a long arc and crosses a stream. Past the latter, slightly uphill, you will come to another marked fork. Here, leave trail 210 A to climb to the left and in a few minutes you will reach some waterholes and finally, along a non-obligatory path, clearly visible Lake Curiosi (2112 m asl) offering a beautiful view of Pizzo del Diavolo di Tenda, Diavolino and Monte Aga. From the lake you retrace your steps to the fork with trail 210 A, and continue along this to Lake Cабianca. In this empty environment you will encounter more waterholes and a small pond that is not marked on many maps. The trail then proceeds slightly uphill, bypassing a rocky promontory on the right and then drops down again to a stream. You will soon come to Lake Cабianca, also surrounded by other small pools



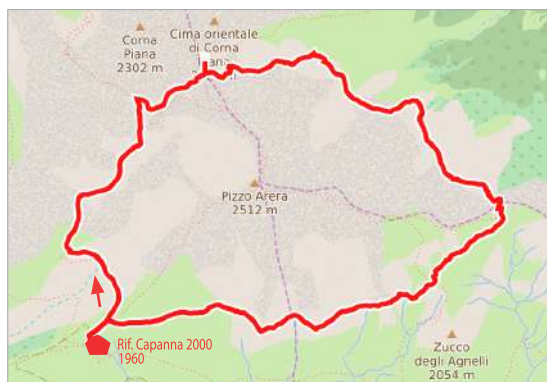
(2153 m asl, 30 minutes from Lake Curiosi). In late summer, large expanses of *eriophorum*, also known as "common cottongrass" or "bog cotton," often grow in the shallow waters of the lake. Once you have admired the lake you can either return to Rifugio Calvi, or go directly down to the Fregabalgia dam in about 20 minutes, on a steep but not difficult trail. On the other hand, if you want to extend your hike you can also visit nearby Lake Zelto (2007 m asl) on trails and a path that is not very easy to spot, but is fairly intuitive.

Other excursions

to Rifugio Longo (2026 m asl) in 2 h 30 min
to Rifugio Laghi Gemelli (1961 m asl) in 4 h
to Passo della Portula (2273 m asl) in 50 min



Right around Pizzo Arera



Technical data

Start and finish: Rifugio Capanna 2000, 1960 m asl
 Elevation gain: 800 m
 Duration: 5 h 30 min
 Difficulty: EE
 Recommended period: summer / autumn
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Capanna 2000

Sights worth seeing

The route that goes right around Pizzo Arera is one of the best known trails in the province of Bergamo: it is a loop that starts and finishes at Rifugio Capanna 2000, offering a chance to get to know all the slopes of this mountain and its many varied environments, gentle and green or rocky and dolomitic.

The first part follows the famous "Sentiero dei fiori" (Flower Trail), which, especially in early summer, when the flowers are in bloom, offers a truly magnificent spectacle. The second is a beautiful crossing in a rocky environment below the sheer cliffs on the north side of Arera. The last section returns to the southern slope of the mountain through wide pastures in relaxing bucolic surroundings.

Access to the refuge

To get up the refuge you can park your car in Plassa, a hamlet in Zambla (1200 m asl) or, in the summer, at the high Plassa paid car park (1600 m asl), which takes an hour off the hike. From here take trail 221 to Rifugio Capanna 2000, which you can either follow around the hairpin bends or opt for the path and cut them out (2 h).

Route

The loop around Arera begins just above Rifugio Capanna 2000, where you follow a section of the "Sentiero dei fiori" (Flower Trail) with its many information panels. This first part of the trail has two numbers (244 and 218) but once you can see Corna Piana, after a semi-level



1960 m 25 2 h YES 80 NO NO

Rifugio Capanna 2000

Access: Plassa

Telephone: 0345.95096

Complete info on website:

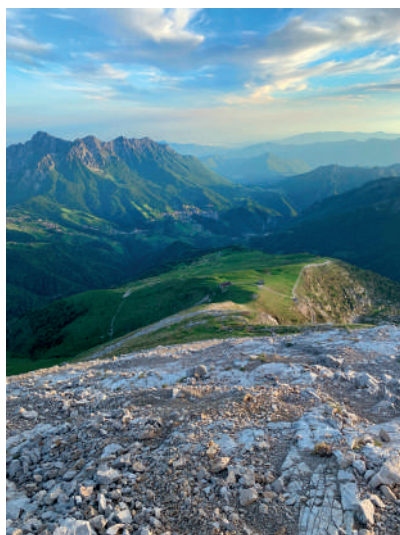
rifugi.lombardia.it/capanna-2000

section, you leave trail 218 on your left and take trail 244, staying on it to complete the entire loop, up to Passo Corna Piana (2133 m asl). After a short descent, keeping to the right you will skirt the north face of Pizzo Are-
ra at length (there may be snow here in early summer) in a beautiful dolomitic environment until, over a roped section of scree and easy boulders, you go right up Forcella di Valmora, 1966 m asl. Back on the vast grasslands of the south slope, the trail then leads you uphill and down to Rifugio Capanna 2000.

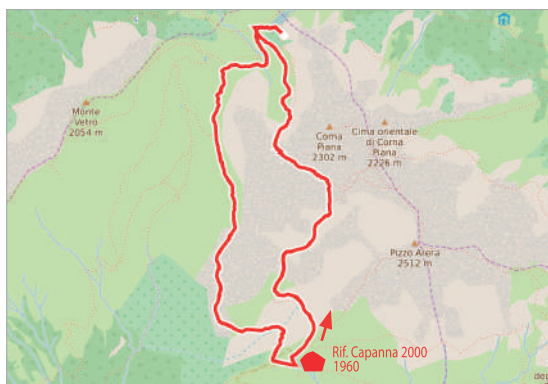
Other hikes from the refuge

to Lake Branchino in 2 h

to Rifugio Alpe Grem in 3 h 30 min



The Flower Trail to Pizzo Arera



Technical data

Start and finish: Rifugio Capanna 2000, 1960 m asl
 Elevation gain: 800 m
 Duration: 3 h
 Difficulty: E
 Recommended period: summer / autumn
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Capanna 2000

Sights worth seeing

Winding between Val di Vedra, Passo Branchino and Val d'Arera, the famous "Sentiero dei Fiori" (Flower Trail) is a chance to discover the most interesting species of flora found in the

Orobic limestone mountains, with certain endemic examples of extraordinary naturalistic value. Easily accessible from Rifugio Capanna 2000, this route is suitable for moderately fit hikers and, although it is feasible throughout



the summer and a good part of the autumn, it is especially recommended when in full bloom between late May and early July. Along the route you will go through an incredible variety of scenery, from gentle meadows to rugged barren landscapes of scree and rock walls, an environment that favours the establishment of plants with different needs, all equally spectacular. To better understand and appreciate such a variety of vegetation, we suggest you take a guide to Alpine flora with you, a valid ally for identifying some of the more beautiful and distinctive species in this area.

Access to the refuge

See Rifugio Capanna 2000 page 28.

Route

The first section of the trail, which starts next to the refuge, is the same as for the previously described Arera loop. When you reach the fork stay on path 218, which rises very gently to Bocchetta di Corna Piana (2078 m asl, not to be confused with nearby Passo Corna Piana). A short sharp descent then takes you to Branchino Pass (1821 m asl), just above the pretty little lake of the same name. From the pass, trail 222 climbs up to Passo Val Vedra (1849 m asl) and then continues on the level back to Rifugio Capanna 2000, basically running parallel to the upwards trail but lower down, in an area of exceptional botanical interest with info provided on a number of panels. For flower lovers, we cannot but recommend a detour to Monte Vindiolo, along a varied trail through the meadows starting from Passo Branchino. From early to mid-July this area is a riot of amazing blooms!

Other hikes/climbs from Rifugio Capanna 2000

to Lake Branchino in 2 h

to Rifugio Alpe Grem in 3 h 30 min



Monte Aga, ridges and views



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Longo, 2026 m asl
 Finish: Monte Aga, 2720 m asl
 Duration: 2 h 30 min (one way)
 Difficulty: EE
 Elevation gain: 750 m
 Recommended period: summer / autumn
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Longo

Sights worth seeing

Valle del Sasso, where Rifugio Longo stands, is a side valley of the upper Val Brembana over which Monte Aga towers, a must-see scenic destination straddling Valtellina and the Bergamo area. Initially dedicated to the Calvi brothers, the refuge today commemorates the brothers Giuseppe and Innocente Longo who died tragically in 1934 on the Matterhorn. The ascent to the summit of Monte Aga is only for experienced hikers who do not suffer from vertigo; others can end their excursion safely at Passo della Cigola, which still offers an excellent view. The ascent from the pass to the summit includes some rather difficult scree, but effort and perseverance are amply rewarded by the vast, very interesting views.

Access to the refuge

Access to Rifugio Longo is simple thanks to a forest road that is also suitable for mountain bikes. In Carona, park your car as you did for Rifugio Calvi and take the dirt road (trail signs 210) to Lake Prato, at an altitude of 1634 m. An easy-to-spot detour, signposted on the left before you come to the lake guides you to the Sentiero delle Orobie Occidentali (Western Orobie Alps Trail), a dirt track with trail signs 224, which, in about an hour, following the righthand side of the valley, goes up 300 metres in altitude to your destination. From the refuge there is a splendid view of Val Brembana.



2026 m 29 2,20 h YES 35 YES NO

Rifugio F.lli Longo

Access: Carona

Telephone: 0345.77070

Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/f-lli-longo

Note: In the summer months there is a jeep shuttle service for the Calvi and Longo refuges; information at Carona Pro Loco office

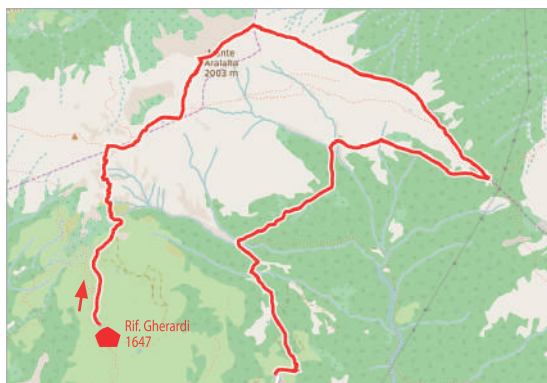
Route

From the refuge, take trail 253, which, once you arrive at Lake Diavolo (Devil's Lake), climbs up to Passo di Cigola (2486 m asl, 1 h 20 min), overlooking remote Val d'Ambria, on the Valtellina side of the Orobie Alps. From the pass, intuition and the few available signs will take you up an often snowy gully to the crest, which after scree and a few easy climbing passages leads, ever more easily, to the summit (2720 m asl, 2 h 30 min from the refuge, wonderful views).

Other peaks that can be reached from the refuge are Monte Masoni, which is certainly "easier" but still satisfying, and the not too distant prestigious Pizzo del Diavolo di Tenda, whose ascent Route follows the one indicated that starts at Rifugio Calvi on page 24, to which it is connected by a trail that cuts across the slopes of Monte Aga through Passo Selletta.



On the peaks of Val Taleggio



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Gherardi, 1647 m asl
 Finish: Pizzo Baciarmorti, 2009 m
 Elevation gain: 480 m
 Duration: 3 h 20 min
 Difficulty: EE
 Recommended period: all year round
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Gherardi

Sights worth seeing

Val Taleggio is a gently rolling valley in the Bergamo area, where the harmonious and well-kept landscape, with its clusters of Alpine herdsman's huts scattered among pastures and woods, conjures up a feel of times gone by. Just a few kilometres from Bergamo, this somewhat secluded location offers easy walks and also more complex itineraries, where visitors can have fun on adventurous rocky paths. This valley is very famous for its cheeses and boasts, besides taleggio of course, other excellent products such as stracitunt, roccolo and stracchino all'antica.

Access to the refuge

The refuge can be reached on foot from Capo Foppa in about an hour. From Pizzino, a road turns right towards Arighiglio, S. Antonio, Retaggio and Capo Foppa, where there is a car park (1284 m asl) and where, on the left, trail 120 leads to the refuge (335 m elevation gain, 1 h walk). Managed by the Mato Grosso association, Rifugio Gherardi is located on a vast expanse of gently rolling scenic pastureland.

Route

The uphill route to Pizzo Baciarmorti allows you to discover a mountain that is still inhabited, where the old sheep-tracks are still used today for the transhumance of cattle, and where the meadows and pastures play an im-



1647 m 60 1 h YES 80 YES NO

Rifugio Gherardi

Access: Pizzino

Telephone: 0345.47302

Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/gherardi

Bergamo Trails • Val Brembana

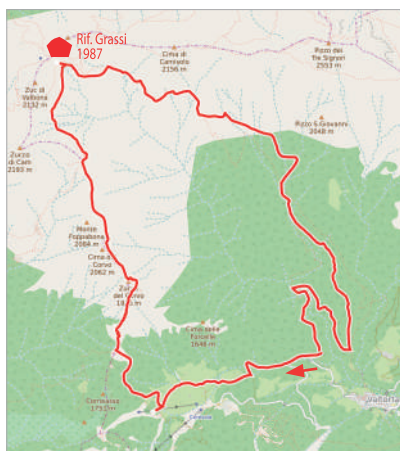
portant role in the life of the community. From the hut, head north towards the now disused Rifugio Cesare Battisti and beyond this, continue in the direction of Bocchetta di Regadur, which is reached by crossing trail 101. Having set foot on the watershed ridge, proceed east to Baita Cabretondo and then take the easy-to-spot track on the left that leads to the crest of Monte Aralalta (1 h from the hut). When you reach the summit (2006 m asl), continue along the ridge until you come to Pizzo Baciarmorti, 2009 m, from which you can enjoy wide open views.

You can retrace your steps for the return journey or you can go down in a SSE direction, keeping to the ridge towards Baita Rudera and Passo Baciarmorti. From here, turn right and follow the easy-to-spot trail on the ridge (trail 153) towards Baita Baciarmorti. After this,

proceed until you reach the hairpin bend in the road that leads to Baita Parafulmine and the Gherardi hut; a short descent will finally bring you to Capo Foppa in about 15 minutes (a total of 1 h 20 min descent).



The Lecco Orobic ridge from Valtorta to Rifugio Grassi



Technical data

Start and Finish: Valtorta, road to

Baite Ceresola, about 1100 m asl

Elevation gain: 1200 m

Duration: 6 h 30 min

Difficulty: EE

Recommended period: spring,
summer, autumn

Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Grassi

Sights worth seeing

The Lecco Orobic Ridge, or DOL, is a multi-day route conceived in the mid-1990s that runs along the border mountains between Valsassina and the Bergamo area and offers many historical and scenic insights into the section of the Orobic Alps closest to Lake Como. In addition to the main route, there are numerous variants that can easily be covered in a day, including the one proposed here, in the Pizzo dei Tre Signori area, with its wealth of evidence of this area's ancient mining activity. The route can be tackled more easily by spending the night at Rifugio Grassi.

Route

From Valtorta, continue by car towards the Piani di Bobbio-Valtorta ski lifts. When you reach the first hairpin bend, park inside on the left (limited parking). Follow the provincial road for 150 metres until you reach the first bend to the left, where you will find a mule track going uphill near an aqueduct outlet that goes to Baite Barresi (1374 m asl) and, a little further on, Baite Ceresola (1391 m asl), near the ski lifts. Making sure to stay on trail 104 B, continue west towards the last houses and back into the woods, climbing up to Passo di Gandazzo (1660 m asl), where you will find si-



1987 m 24 3 h YES 48 YES NO

Rifugio Grassi

Access: Valtorta

Telephone: 348.8522784

Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/grassi

gns for the Lecco Orobic ridge; just below, on the Valsassina side, is Rifugio Buzzoni. Now turn right and continue along the ridge on trail 101 towards Passo del Toro, which you will come to along an easy passage with cables. From here, the going is easier, with lovely views of Pizzo dei Tre Signori. The nearby peak of Monte Foppabona is a pleasant panoramic detour towards the Grigne, continuing then through the meadows to Rifugio Grassi at Passo di Camisolo, among the remains of ancient mines.

The descent along trail 104 heads down towards Valtorta, past Baite Caserone and Baite

Cavallero, beyond which, after dropping still further, you will come to the detour marked 104 A, the "Antica Via del Ferro" (Old Iron Road). Here you turn right towards Falghera (1,135 m asl), and continue over a slope until you reach the abandoned iron mines (1140 m asl) near your starting point.

Hikes/climbs from Rifugio Grassi

to Pizzo Tre Signori (2554 m asl) in 2 h

to Rifugio FALC (2120 m asl) in 2 h

to Lake Sasso (1922 m asl) in 1 h 30 min



Pizzo del Becco, the "little via ferrata" above the Gemelli Lakes



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Laghi Gemelli, 1968 m asl
 Finish: Pizzo del Becco, 2507 m asl
 Elevation gain: 522 m
 Duration: 2 h (one way)
 Difficulty: EEA
 Recommended period: summer
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Laghi Gemelli

Sights worth seeing

Pizzo del Becco is certainly one of the most beautiful mountains in the central Orobian Alps and its characteristic wide rock face dominates the basin of the Gemelli Lakes.

Ascent to the summit is via a beautiful rocky gully, with a short section fitted with cables, easy but not to be underestimated and giving the route an adventurous feel. The truly panoramic views and the almost guaranteed presence of large herds of ibex near the wall do the rest, making this a must-hike.

Access to the refuge

The refuge can be reached on trail 211, which starts from Bar Pineta in Carona. The way is well signposted and will bring you to the refuge in just over 2 hours. Another more interesting and decidedly less busy route starts in Branzi, near San Rocco, and goes into Val



1968 m 70 3 h NO 70 YES NO

Rifugio Laghi Gemelli

Access: Carona

Telephone: 0345.71212

Complete info on website:

rifugio.lombardia.it/laghi-gemelli

Borleggia up a constantly quite steep slope, until you come to the Pian delle Casere reservoir, from where you will reach the refuge in just under 3 hours, mainly on level ground.

Route

From Rifugio Laghi Gemelli, go past the dam and take the dirt road that leads to Lake Colombo (trail signs 250). When you have also passed the dam of this lake, walk along the shore until you come to a large boulder with signs for Pizzo del Becco. The path then turns to the left, briefly taking you below the south face of the mountain, where the trickiest (and most enjoyable) part of the hike begins: a short gully with cables leads to the ridge, and from here over boulders, you reach the summit, with its extraordinary views. Retrace your steps for the return journey; less experienced hikers are advised to equip themselves with a via ferrata set. Helmet recommended... for everyone!

Other hikes/climbs from Rifugio Laghi Gemelli

to Passo di Aviasco (2289 m asl) in 2 h
to Passo Gemelli (2139 m asl) in 1 h 30 min
to Rifugio Calvi (2015 m asl) in 4 h
to Rifugio Alpe Corte (1410 m asl) in 2 h



A loop around Pescegallo



Technical data

Start and Finish: Rifugio Passo San Marco 2000, 1850 m asl
 Elevation gain: 540 m
 Duration: 6 h 30 min
 Difficulty: EE
 Recommended period: summer
 Reference mountain refuges: Rifugio Passo San Marco 2000, Rifugio Salmurano

Sights worth seeing

The hike from Passo San Marco to Passo Salmurano is a classic in the Orobic Alps and it follows a stretch of the famous long Cadorna Line, or Northern Frontier. This colossal system of fortifications, built during the Great War to defend Italy from a possible attack by the Austrian army via Switzerland, still offers the chance to see many emplacements and trenches. At the end of the route you will also come across the old tollgate of the Republic of Venice, built in the 1500s, possibly one of the oldest 'refuges' in the Alps: an important transport route that connected the Serenissima to the Grisons avoiding the customs duties imposed by the Duchy of Milan, the Via Priula in fact went through Passo San Marco. The en-

tire route straddles Valtellina and Val Brembana, offering sweeping views of the Rhaetian and Orobic Alps.

Access to the refuge

Rifugio Passo San Marco 2000 is easily accessible in summer thanks to its position on the road from Bergamo to Morbegno via Passo San Marco.

Route

The excursion starts from the refuge in a northerly direction: cross the road and take a dirt track that on the level reaches the former customs and excise point of the Serenissima, today Rifugio Ca' San Marco. Once past the latter, take trail 161 towards Lake Pescegal-



1850 m 25 1,30 h YES 110 NO YES

Rifugio Passo San Marco

Access: Mezzoldo

Telephone: 0345.86020

Complete info on website:

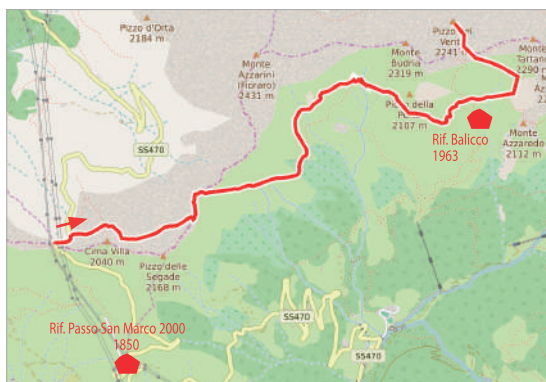
rifugio.lombardia.it/passos-s-marco-2000



lo, which, after initially sharing the same path as trail 101, begins to climb up steep hairpin bends to Passo Verrobbio (2026 m asl), with remains of the Cadorna Line. Beyond the pass, you cross Val Bomino into Valtellina and then go up to the narrow notch of Passo del Forcellino (2052 m asl), which offers a beautiful view of Lake Pescegallo. You will soon come to the lake, then continue to Rifugio Salmurano, on the slopes of the Val Gerola ski resort. From the slopes of the Val Gerola ski resort. From the refuge, continue southwards up to Passo Salmurano (2017 m asl), which gives excellent views of both Val Gerola and Val Brembana. The wilder part of the route now begins as it winds its way east (trail signs 101) at high altitude between Alpine meadows and small lakes. For a good distance it follows the route described for the Ponteranica lakes, without reaching them however and ends up by returning to the junction with trail 161, not far from Passo San Marco.



Pizzo del Vento, a balcony over the Valtellina valley



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Passo San Marco 2000, 1850 m asl
 Finish: Pizzo del Vento, 2235 m
 Elevation gain: 420 m
 Duration: 2 h 30 min (one way)
 Difficulty: EE (E up to the Budria pass)
 Recommended period: summer
 Reference mountain refuges: Rifugio Passo San Marco 2000, Rifugio Balicco

Sights worth seeing

This lovely high-altitude route goes through vast Alpine meadows and is well signposted and suitable for everyone except for the last part of the ridge after the Bocchetta di Budria, which requires attention and no fear of heights. Less experienced hikers are advised to stop at the notch, or possibly go up Monte Tartano, via an easier ridge.

Access to the refuge

Rifugio Passo San Marco 2000 is easily accessible by car in summer, along the road from Bergamo to Morbegno via Passo San Marco.



Route

From Rifugio Passo San Marco 2000, head to the pass itself, and then east following trail 101 (Sentiero delle Orobie Occidentali-Western Orobie Alps Trail). Passing below the summit of Pizzo delle Segade, you go from the Valtellina side to the Brembano side and, still on a gently rising slope, reach Baita Colomber (2101 m asl). If you look closely, near the herdsman's huts, there is a track on the left that allows you to avoid going as far as Passo della Porta, in order to cut directly across the meadows to the watershed ridge and finally to Bocchetta di Budria (2216 m asl - 30 minutes from Baita Colomber). The notch is located between Monte Fioraro (or Azzarini) and Monte Tartano, but on some maps it is erroneously indicated as being east of Monte Tartano: in any case, it is easy to recognise as it is a very narrow and evident notch. From here, you go downhill slightly in a north-north-west direction, following a track that leads towards the easy-to-spot crest of Pizzo del Vento. Al-

though simple and short, this section is very exposed and requires a great deal of attention and steadiness of foot until you reach the summit, which juts out towards Valtellina. From the notch it is also possible, on a longer but slightly easier route, albeit with some exposed sections, to reach the summit of Monte Tartano (2290 m asl), which is also very scenic. Retrace your steps for the return journey.



Corno Stella, amazing views



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Terre Rosse, 1817 m asl
 Finish: Corno Stella, 2621 m asl
 Elevation gain: 820 m
 Duration: 2 h 40 min (one way)
 Difficulty: EE
 Recommended period: summer
 Reference mountain refuges: Rifugio Terre Rosse

Sights worth seeing

A very interesting excursion from a scenic point of view to the summit of Corno Stella, an isolated peak straddling Val Brembana and Val Cervia. The view embraces a large part of the Orobic and Rhaetian Alps, with particularly beautiful panoramas towards Bernina and Disgrazia, and on a clear day even as far as Adamello, Ortles, Monte Rosa and the Oberland, as well as the Apennines. Despite the presence of ski lifts in the lower part of the valley, from Lake Moro to the summit the route is pleasant and you may well see herds of ibex.



1817 m 36 1,30 h YES 95 YES YES

Rifugio Terre Rosse

Access: Carona

Telephone: 346.5078276

Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/terre-rosse

Access to the refuge

Rifugio Terre Rosse can be reached from Carona in about an hour and a half from the chairlift car park. The trail starts to the right of the lift, and winds its way up around hairpin bends to meet the dirt road at an altitude of 1750 m, from where you will soon reach the refuge (trail signs 207).

Note: in the summer months there is a jeep shuttle service to some of the refuges in the Foppolo basin; information in loco.

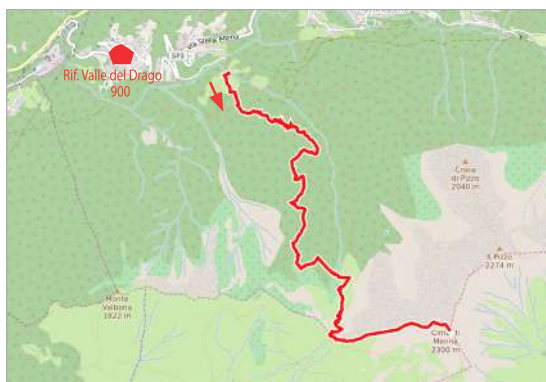
Route

From the refuge, follow the dirt track that leads into Val Carisole until you reach Passo della Croce (1953 m asl). From here, follow the ski slope to the right that leads to Monte Bello, the top station of the chairlift that comes up from Foppolo. A wide path (trail 204) will take you slightly uphill to Lake Moro, then climb up the steep slope with some rocky sections towards a clearly visible promontory. On reaching the promontory, the path becomes less steep and you will already be able to spot the summit of Corno Stella (40 minutes from the lake). Now begins the most delicate part of the ascent, on

an enjoyable, sometimes exposed, path that runs below the ridge, high above Lake Corno Stella, on the Brembano side, to the last ramp before you get to the summit (2621 m asl). Re-trace your steps for the return journey.



Where calcareous rock rules supreme



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Valle del Drago, 900 m asl
 Finish: Cima di Menna, 2299 m asl
 Elevation gain: 1300 m from Costa di Roncobello
 Duration: 4 h 30 min (one way)
 Difficulty: E
 Recommended period: summer-autumn
 Reference mountain refuges: Rifugio Valle del Drago

Sights worth seeing

The northern slope of the Cima di Menna is a vast, fascinating limestone amphitheatre, surmounted by a long ridge. The steep, rather monotonous ascent from the south does not let you fully appreciate its beauty, complexity and many important naturalistic aspects, which can instead be admired on the Roncobello side. From a botanical point of view, on this uphill hike you will come across some of the most beautiful and valuable species of Orobian Alpine limestone flora.

Access to the refuge

Rifugio Valle del Drago is located in Baresi, on the road leading from Piazza Brembana to Roncobello and is accessible by car. It is a

good starting point for excursions in the area of Pizzo Arera, Cima di Menna and the basin of the Gemelli Lakes. Open all year round, it enjoys a panoramic sunny position.

Route

The ascent to Cima di Menna from Roncobello is rather demanding even though it does not present any particular technical difficulties: the considerable difference in altitude and some elementary climbing passages, together with a few sections that are not perfectly signposted, mean this route, otherwise very beautiful, is only recommended for those with mountain experience and good fitness levels. From Rifugio Valle del Drago, drive or walk to the hamlet of Costa di Roncobello. From the



900 m 24 1,30 h YES 50 NO NO

Rifugio Valle del Drago

Access: Piazza Brembana

Telephone: 0345.84099

Complete info on website:

rifugio.lombardia.it/valle-del-drago



small church here, go down to the meadow and take the mule track that leads into the woods (trail signs 235/270). Go below the easy-to-spot Corna Buca boulder and you will come to the plateau where the Baita dello Zoppo (1380 m asl) is located. Continue until you come out of the woods and enter the valley. The path now climbs around regular hairpin bends to a spring at an altitude of 1706 m; still on rather steep ground, it finally reaches the Menna Pass (2002 m asl - 3 h 30 min from the

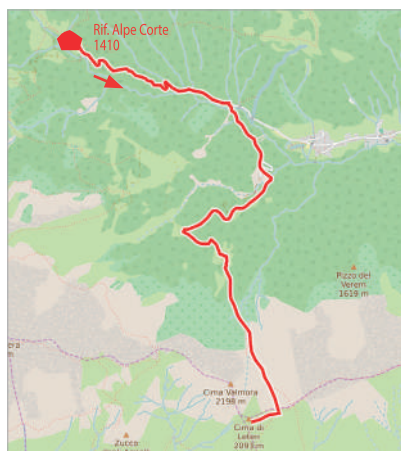
refuge). From the pass, turn left and, still on trail 235, you tackle the western crest of the Menna; at an altitude of 2150 m asl, drop down about fifty metres on the southern slope, taking care as you cross a number of channels. You will soon come to the base of the peak, over gravelly slopes in about an hour from the pass. From the summit there is a beautiful view of nearby Pizzo Arera and a good part of the central Orobie Alps, and on clear days you will even easily see the Apennines, Monte Rosa and the Rhaetian Alps. Retrace your steps for the return journey.

Other excursions from the refuge

To Monte Corno via the Sentiero dei roccoli (Bird blind path) (1821 m asl) in 2 h
to Passo di Val Vedra (1849 m asl) in 2 h
to Monte Pietra Quadra (2356 m asl) in 3 h 30 min
to Monte Ortighera (1632 m asl) in 3 h



Dolomitic views from Cima di Leten



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Alpe Corte, 1410 m asl
 Finish: Cima di Leten, 2095 m asl
 Elevation gain: 800 m
 Duration: 2 h 40 min (one way)
 Difficulty: EE
 Recommended period: summer
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Alpe Corte

Sights worth seeing

Rifugio Alpe Corte nestles in an idyllic setting among the pastures and forests of Valcanale. Easily to reach by mule track, it is a recommended easy destination even in winter. A starting point for countless hikes, this mountain refuge stands at the foot of one of the most beautiful dolomitic walls in the Orsic Alps: the huge elegant wall that runs from Pizzo Arera to Monte Secco, surrounded by meadows in bloom.

Access to the refuge

Just beyond the village of Valcanale is a large

paid car park where you can leave your car. From here a wide mule track (trail signs 220) leads to the refuge through woods and clearings, with no risk of getting lost, in a beautiful fir forest.

Route

The hike to Cima di Leten is of definite interest due to the varied scenery along the way: between the Pizzo Arera massif and Cima del Pop, it has a steep, dolomitic slope towards the Valcanale, while to the south it is decidedly grassier and less conspicuous. From the refuge you have to skirt the long north face of



1410 m 31 1,20 h YES 80 NO NO

Rifugio Alpe Corte

Accesso: Valcanale

Telephone: 0346.35.090

Complete info on website:

rifugio.lombardia.it/alpe-corte-bassa

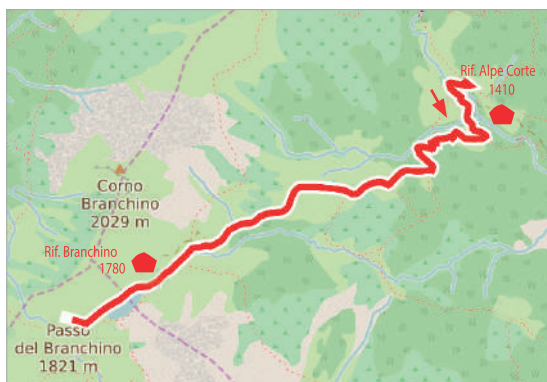
Arera, initially following trail signs 218, then 218 A to Baita GAN, and finally 266. From picturesque Baita di Vaghetto Bassa, finally, trail signs 243 lead to Passo del Re in beautiful dolomitic surroundings, with a few roped sections over rocky and unstable gravel terrain where care must be taken. Once at the pass, which overlooks the luxuriant pastures of the upper Val Dossana, a trail climbs the grassy ridge on the right—some exposed sections—to the summit of Cima di Leten, an excellent vantage point. Retrace your steps for the descent; from the Baita di Vaghetto Bassa you can drop directly down to the car park following the old disused ski lifts, without returning to the refuge.

Other hikes from the refuge

to Passo della Marogella Pass in 1 h 20 min
to Rifugio Laghi Gemelli (1968 m asl) in 4 h
to Lake Branchino (1784 m asl) in 1 h 10 min



Lake Branchino and the valley of the great wall



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Alpe Corte, 1410 m asl
 Finish: Passo Branchino, 822 m asl
 Elevation gain: 450 m
 Duration: 1 h 20 min (one way)
 Difficulty: E
 Recommended period: late spring/
 summer/autumn
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio
 Alpe Corte

Sights worth seeing

Lake Branchino is a picturesque body of water on the slopes of Corna Piana in upper Valcarnale. Easily reached from Rifugio Alpe Corte, it is highly recommended during the flowering season, when the numerous laburnums at the foot of Pizzo Arera colour the woods here a deep yellow and the meadows are given a bright blue tint by the gentians, all in a fascinating dolomitic setting. The low elevation

gain and the ease of the trail make this a hike suitable for everyone, including families.

Access to the refuge

See page 48 Alpe Corte.

Route

A few metres after Rifugio Alpe Corte, trail 218 takes you gently up to the Neel cabins, first through copses of trees then through



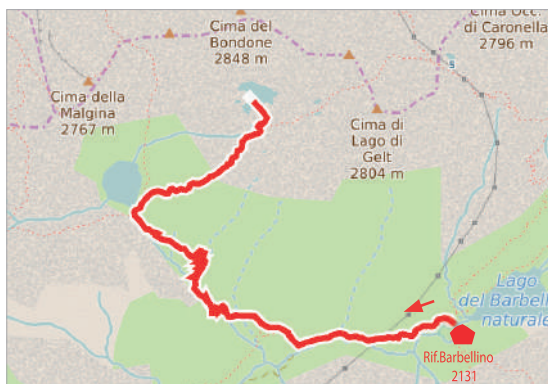
meadows and pastures; a short climb finally leads to Rifugio Branchino (1780 m asl), from which a further, very brief, ascent brings you to the lake. The extensive views from Passo Branchino make the few extra minutes of the trail worthwhile, also because it is entirely downhill.

**Other hikes from
Rifugio Alpe Corte**

to Passo della Marogella in 1 h 20 min
to Rifugio Laghi Gemelli (1968 m asl) in 4 h



Two jewels in Val Seriana



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Barbellino, 2131 m asl
 Finish: Lake Gelt, 2561 m asl
 Elevation gain: 450 m
 Duration: 2 h (one way)
 Difficulty: EE
 Recommended time: summer/autumn
 (if no snow is present).
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Barbellino

Sights worth seeing

The Barbellino region offers any number of hikes, many of which lead to characteristic lakes and ponds such as amazing Malgina and Gelt; the latter, thanks to its unusual "heart" shape, certainly one of the most surprising of all the Orobic Alps. The environment is typical of the high mountains, and the view of the hulking walls of the circle of peaks looming over the basin of the refuge alone is worth a visit.

Access to the refuge

See page 64 Rifugio Curò.

It takes about 30 minutes to walk from Rifugio Curò to Rifugio Barbellino on the small lake of the same name, 4 h 15 min from Valbondione.

Route

From Rifugio Barbellino, walk back towards Rifugio Curò until you meet trail 310, which you then follow through a wide valley to the spectacularly intense blue waters of magnificent Lake Malgina (2340 m asl). In an increasingly rocky environment, leave the path to Passo del Bondone on your left and continue to follow signs 310 along a trail that is difficult in places with boulders and scree. It will bring you to unmistakable Lake Gelt (2561 m asl), which is often, as its name suggests, frozen and set in a rocky environment of harsh beauty. For the return trip, as well as for the ascent, you can lengthen the route by climbing to Passo di Gelt (2723 m asl), go across the slope to Passo di Caronella (2612 m asl, two herds-



2131 m 70 3,30 h YES 60 NO NO

Rifugio Barbellino

Access: Valbondione

Telephone: 0346.466859

Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/barbellino



man's shelters on site) and continue downhill on trail 308 to the refuge. A circular hike with beautiful views and a few difficult sections, often snowcovered but easy overall.

Other hikes

to Passo Caronella (2612 m asl) in 1 h
to Pizzo del Diavolo di Malgina (2926 m asl)
in 2 h 30 min

to Rifugio Tagliaferri (2328 m asl) in 4 h
to Monte Gleno (2882 m asl) in 3 h



The solitude of the eastern Orobie Alps



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Barbellino, 2131 m asl
 Finish: Passo Grasso di Pila, 2512 m asl
 Elevation gain: 400 m
 Duration: 1 h 30 min (one way)
 Difficulty: E
 Recommended period: summer / autumn
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Barbellino

Sights worth seeing

The Passo Grasso di Pila is one of the most isolated places you can reach from the Barbellino basin and it affords particularly interesting views of Val Belviso and the Venerocolo group. The route to it is pleasant and dotted with small lakes and pools, and it runs entirely below Monte Torena, the easternmost peak in the Orobie Alps that towers 2900 m above sea level.

Access to the refuge

See page 52 Rifugio Barbellino.

Route

From Rifugio Barbellino you skirt the pretty lake of the same name on trail 324. This rises steadily to the first pools and a few small lakes at an altitude of around 2400 m. Finally, you will come to the last uphill stretch leading to the pass (2510 m asl), marking the border with Valtellina and from where you can reach Rifugio Tagliaferri.



Other hikes

to Passo Caronella (2612 m asl) in 1 h
to Pizzo del Diavolo di Malgina (2926 m asl)
in 2 h 30 min
to Rifugio Tagliaferri (2328 m asl) in 4 h
to Monte Gleno (2836 m asl) in 3 h
to Monte Torena (2911 m asl) in 2 h
to Pizzo Strinato (2836 m asl) in 2 h



Pizzo Redorta, a prestigious climb



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Baroni al Brunone, 2297 m asl
 Finish: Pizzo Redorta, 3038 m asl
 Elevation gain: 800 m
 Duration: 2 h 45 min (one way)
 Difficulty: F (short section on glacier and passages on I/II grade rock)
 Recommended period: summer
 Note: easy mountaineering route; crampons required for glacier crossing; harness and a 25-30 m rope recommended for the final section, for which a helmet is also recommended.
 Reference mountain refuge: Baroni al Brunone

Sights worth seeing

A stopping place on the Orobic Alps Trail, this refuge is located in remote charming Fiumenero valley and is one of the most rewarding and scenic destinations in Val Seriana. The historic building dates back to 1894 and is named after one of the pioneers of mountaineering on the Orobic Alps, the guide Antonio Baroni. It is an essential reference point, not only for hikes and crossings of varying duration and difficulty but also for the ascent to Pizzo Redorta, a prestigious "3000" summit offering extraordinary views.

Access to the refuge

The hike to the refuge starts from Fiumenero cemetery (790 m asl), where trail 227 climbs

the entire length of the valley of this refuge, first on the right bank of the stream, then, from an altitude of 1100 m onwards, on the opposite side. The ascent is constant and encounters several gullies, often snow-covered at the beginning of the season, up to Piano di Campo (1360 m asl), where the Salto and Aser valleys meet. The latter is a rather demanding climb until you meet trail 225 coming from the Calvi refuge, which you follow to the right and to the now nearby Rifugio Brunone, with magnificent views of Pizzo del Diavolo di Tenda.

Route

The difficulty of the climb to Pizzo Redorta varies greatly depending on the conditions encountered, but it is in fact the most chal-



2297 m 45 4 h NO 50 YES NO

Rifugio Baroni al Brunone

Access: Fiumenero Valbondione

Telephone: 0346.41235

Complete info on website:

rifugio.lombardia.it/baroni-al-brunone

lenging of those detailed in this guidebook. It is an ascent at a considerable altitude, with sections over glacier and rock, for which crampons are generally a must, and where it may prove helpful to be roped up (in which case you should take a harness and a length of rope with you), especially for the descent. Helmet recommended.

From the refuge you follow trail 302 for a short distance, soon leaving it for 252 (signs on a "Redorta" boulder). The path takes you between boulders, first to a basin at an altitude of 2540 m and then heads up through a steep gully to the Vedretta di Scais, a glacier now much reduced.

Having donned crampons, you can carefully make your way up to the glacier leading towards the Scais notch, which separates the summit of Scais from Pizzo Redorta, at an altitude of 2905 m. Depending on the conditions, you can now head towards a gully on the right that, if snow-covered, allows for steep but

easy ascent (ice axe recommended); in the absence of snow, however, you need to tackle the rocky north ridge of Redorta, first over a dihedral up to the notch itself, then on an exposed section with loose rock, the most difficult of the climb; a short stretch usually has a fixed cable (check beforehand). An easy slope of rocks and gravel is the prelude to your arrival at the summit, one of the three peaks in the Orobic Alps that is higher than the famous "3000" and an exceptional viewpoint. Retrace your steps on the way back down and consider, especially along the ridge, the option of proceeding roped up.

Other excursions

to Passo della Scaletta (2530 m asl) in 45 min
to Rifugio Calvi (2015 m asl) in 5 h



Below the great walls



Technical data

Start: Baroni al Brunone, 2297 m asl
 Finish: Bivacco Frattini, 2125 m asl
 Elevation gain: 800 m
 Duration: 2 h (one way)
 Difficulty: EE
 Recommended period: summer
 Reference mountain refuge: Baroni at Brunone

Sights worth seeing

The high altitude crossing from Rifugio Brunone to Rifugio Calvi is one of the most beautiful hikes in the Orobic Alps, offering everchanging views of the rock faces overhead. Halfway between the two refuges, isolated and wild, stands Bivacco Frattini, in a beautiful position opposite Pizzo del Diavolo di Tenda: one of the "magical places" in the Orobic Alps.

Access to the refuge

See page 56 Rifugio Brunone.

Route

From Rifugio Brunone, trail 225 heads towards Rifugio Calvi, following the ridge high above the distant floor of Val Seriana. Near the Salto valley, to cross the stream (often with snow, especially at the beginning of the season), you abruptly descend to an altitude of 1900 m,



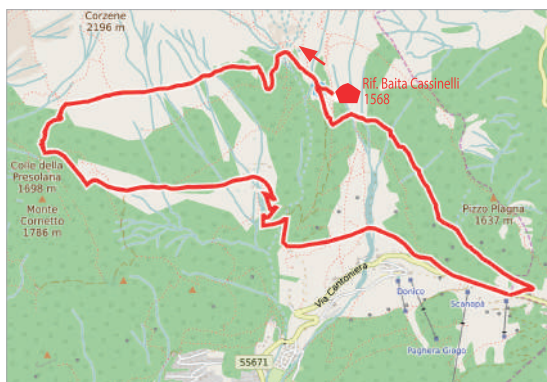
gaining altitude again once past it, reaching the grassy hump on which Bivacco Frattini stands at 21245 m asl, characterised by a truly unique view and atmosphere. For the return trip, as an alternative to retracing your steps, you can head to Rifugio Calvi refuge or, if you want to stay in Val Seriana, you can opt for the very long descent to Grabiasca. In both cases, you must reach Passo di Valsecca (2494 m asl), not far from the headwaters of the Brembo.

Other hikes/climbs

to Pizzo del Diavolo (2914 m asl)
to Diavolino (2810 m asl)
to Pizzo Poris (2712 m asl)
to Monte Grabiasca (2704 m asl)



A scenic loop on Presolana hill



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Carlo Medici ai Cassinelli, 1568 m asl
 Finish: Presolana Pass, 1698 m asl
 Elevation gain: 350 m
 Duration: 1 h 30 min (one way)
 Difficulty: E
 Recommended period: late spring/summer/autumn (if no snow is present).
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Cassinelli

Sights worth seeing

Rifugio Cassinelli enjoys a pleasant location in a green hollow on the edge of the forest, right opposite the south face of Presolana, and it is easy to reach from the pass of the same name. The unassuming peak of Cornetto is an excellent vantage point out over the complex, fascinating maze of walls, spires and channels of what is considered to be the most beautiful dolomitic peak in the Orobic Alps.

Access to the refuge

From Passo della Presolana, a very easy walk following trail signs 315, ideal for families, leads to the refuge, first on a little asphalt road, then a dirt road, and finally an easy path through the woods. After a clearing where

you can already admire the southern walls of Presolana, you continue on the left through meadows until you reach the refuge.

Route

This hike, ideal for admiring the dolomitic landscape of the Presolana massif, starts at Rifugio Baita Cassinelli, initially along the path to Bivacco Città di Clusone, but soon leaving it on the right at the first fork and talus where you follow trail signs 319 A for the "Sentiero delle Capre" (Goat Trail) until you come to the southern ridge of Pizzo di Corzene (about 1850 m asl). Here, a path on the left drops down until it reaches easy-to-spot Colle della Presolana (1695 m - 1 h 30 min from Baita Cassinelli), just below the summit of Cornetto.



1568 m 12 0,40 h YES 45 YES NO

Rifugio Carlo Medici ai Cassinelli

Access: Passo Presolana

Telephone: 339.5655793

Complete info on website:

rifugio.lombardia.it/carlo-medici-ai-cassinelli

From the Presolana Pass, trail 319 takes you back to the pass road in about 1 h 20 min, just below the starting trailhead and allowing for a nice loop.

Other hikes from Rifugio Cassinelli

to Passo Pozzera (2197 m asl) in 1 h 10 min

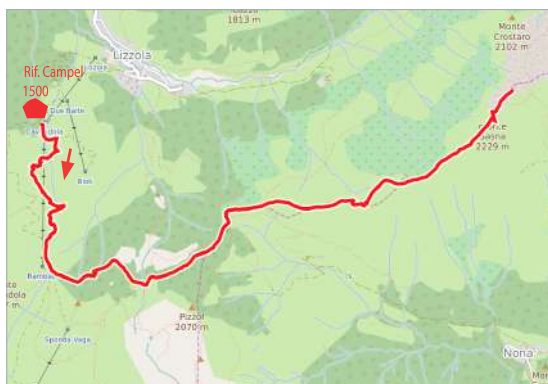
to Monte Visolo (2369 m asl) in 1 h 40 min

to Baita Cornetto in 40 min

to Rifugio Olmo Refuge in 2 h 30 min



Gentle ridges above Lizzola



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Campel, 1500 m asl
Finish: Monte Sasna, 2216 m asl
Elevation gain: 750 m
Duration: 3 h
Difficulty: E
Recommended period: summer/
autumn
Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio
Campel

Sights worth seeing

During the summer, Rifugio Campel in the Lizzola ski area is a beautiful destination for peaceful walks through the meadows and an excellent viewpoint over the spectacular Serio Waterfalls when they are open. The view from the refuge also embraces all the "3000" peaks of the Orobic Alps: Redorta, Scais and, of course, Pizzo di Coca, which, at 3052 m, is the highest in the entire chain. Of the many possible hikes, we propose the ascent to Monte Sasna, on the border with Val di Scalve, a very scenic and satisfying destination that can be reached in all seasons.

Access to the refuge

Rifugio Campel can be reached on foot, by bike and by chairlift. To walk up, start in Lizzola, at the chairlift car park or in the square near the ski school: the dirt road leading to the refuge starts from the hairpin bend of Via Quartiere Manina and continues to the refuge. There are no steep stretches, it is easy to follow, and takes about 40 minutes.

Route

From the refuge a trail leads to Baita Asta, at 1420 m asl, and you then continue on trail 307, heading to Passo della Manina. When you reach the ridge, turn right and you can visit characteristic little Manina Church (1798 m asl), high above a complex of mines that were



1500 m 44 0,45 h YES 100 NO NO

Rifugio Campel

Access: Lizzola

Telephone: 339 4948155

Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/campel

worked until the 1970s. For Monte Sasna, on the other hand, continue through the meadows on the wide ridge with beautiful views toward Presolana and, after a notch, you will come first to the foresummit and then the main summit, both with a cross. Retrace your steps for the return journey; from Baita Asta you can get to Lizzola directly without going back past the refuge.

Other excursions from the refuge

to Pizzo della Corna 2352 m asl, 2 h;

to Rifugio Albani in 4 h



A spot of rare beauty



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Merelli al Coca, 1891 m asl
 Finish: Lake Coca, 2108 m asl
 Elevation gain: 250 m
 Duration: 1 h (one way)
 Difficulty: E
 Recommended period: summer
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Merelli al Coca

Sights worth seeing

Rifugio Coca stands in a scenic location on a small promontory overlooking Val Seriana, in one of the most beautiful untamed valleys of the Bergamo Orobic Alps. Named after the famous mountaineer Mario Merelli, who passed away on these mountains in 1912, this is a very useful reference mountain refuge for climbs and crossings, including the decidedly noteworthy one to Vedretta del Lupo, an amazing small glacier nestled on the Valtellina side in a very remote landscape.

Access to the refuge

From Valbondione follow Via Beltrame to Sambughera (937 m asl). Then go immediately downhill to cross the Serio River, af-

ter which you begin to climb along trail 301 through a beautiful ash forest. You will pass a few small streams before you come to a fork, where you need to follow signs for the refuge and take a right and, again uphill, continue to the fork signposted for Maslana (1350 m asl). Ignore this detour and continue quite steeply uphill; the trail takes you past a waterfall and, fitted with steel cables, it continues until you finally come out of the woods. The steepest part of the ascent, up steps, brings you to a small herdsman's hut at an altitude of 1770 m. On an increasingly uneven and rocky track you then come first to a small reservoir and finally to the junction with path 303 for Rifugio Curò. The route continues to the left and after two footbridges, you will finally reach



1891 m 70 2,30 h NO 90 YES NO

Rifugio Coca

Access: Valbondione

Telephone: 0346.44035

Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/coca

your destination (1000 m elevation gain, 3 h 30 min walk).

Route

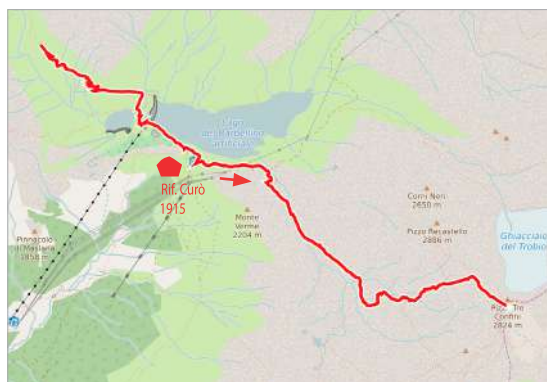
From the hut you set off along the path that for a long stretch is marked by the three trail signs 302, 323 and 325 and soon reaches a stone hut. Here the trail goes through increasingly harsher yet fascinating landscape and basically follows the course of the stream that springs from Lake Coca (2108 m asl), which you will come to in a little over 45 minutes. The lake is overlooked by the walls of the "3000" Orobian Alps: Redorta, Scais and Coca.

Other hikes/climbs from Rifugio Coca

to Rifugio Baroni al Brunone (2295 m asl), 5 h
to Passo di Coca (2645 m asl), 2 h
to Bocchetta dei Camosci (2719 m asl), 2 h 30 min



Great views from Pizzo Tre Confini



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Curò, 1,915 m asl
Finish: Pizzo Tre Confini, 2824 m asl
Elevation gain: 900 m
Duration: 3.40 h (one way)
Difficulty: EE
Recommended period: summer
Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Curò

Sights worth seeing

For visitors to the Orobic Alps, the hollow at Rifugio Curò is an essential starting point for hikes, mountaineering itineraries and crossings, but also a convenient "base camp" for quiet contemplative pauses on the shores of its two lakes. One of the easiest and most satisfying climbs in the area, ideal for familiarising yourself with the high mountain environment here, is the one to Pizzo dei Tre Confini: scenic, rich in naturalistic sights and certainly rewarding, but also quite long and strenuous, definitely one for hikers able to navigate difficult terrain, snow-covered in early spring and with some stretches that challenge orientation skills.

Access to the refuge

From Valbondione you reach the hamlet of Pianlivere. Following trail 332 you then cross the Serio and wind around hairpin bends to the beautiful village of Maslana (1150 m asl). Just after the houses of Piccinella (1192 m asl), you cross the Serio again on a small bridge and then a detour leaves trail 332 (the winter route to Rifugio Curò, steep and the last part fitted with ropes) and brings you onto classic scenic trail 305, which takes you to the refuge without any difficulty (3 h). Note: this route follows the ascent that passes through Maslana because the direct trail (305) from Grumetti is, at the time of going to press, closed due to a landslide on the first stretch.



1915 m 92 2 h YES 150 YES NO

Rifugio Curò

Access: Valbondione

Telephone: 0346.44076

Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/curo

Route

From Rifugio Curò follow the mule track that runs around Lake Barbellino to the confluence of Val Cerviera; here a sign indicates trail 321, which you take by crossing a small bridge. After a few hairpin bends you will be in the valley itself and continue to climb, dominated by the mass of Pizzo Recastello until you reach a pretty basin where a boulder bears signs for Recastello and Tre Confini. You now gain altitude quickly, leaving the trail for Pizzo Recastello (about 2570 m asl) on your left and continuing to the ridge that joins it to Pizzo Tre Confini. At an altitude of 2650 m the trail now turns in a southeast direction, towards your destination, remaining just below the ridge among boulders. The last few metres, finally on the ridge, lead to the summit. Beautiful scenery especially out toward Presolana and the peaks of Val di Scalve. Retrace your steps for the return journey or take the track leading to Passo Bondione and from here follow trails 321 and 321 VAR, which make a wider

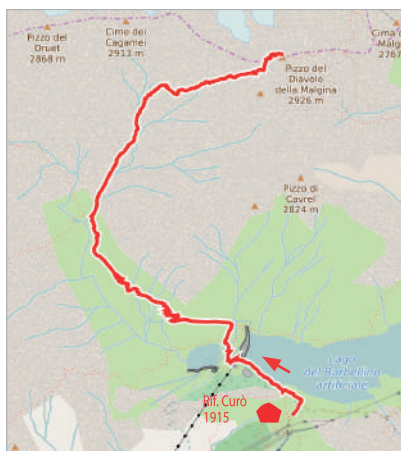
loop and skirt the beautiful Cerviera lakes. Still on the same trail, you drop down into the valley again to the mule track that quickly leads you back to Rifugio Curò.

Other excursions

to Passo Belviso (2518 m asl) in 4 h
to the Val Cerviera lakes in 2 h
to Passo della Manina (1795 m asl) in 3 h 30 min
to Passo Caronella (2804 m asl) in 2 h 30 min



One of the best hidden peaks in the Orobie Alps



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Curò, 1915 m asl
Finish: Pizzo del Diavolo di Malgina, 2926 m asl
Elevation gain: 1030 m asl
Time: 3 h 40 min (one way)
Difficulty: EE
Recommended period: summer
Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Curò

Sights worth seeing

The hollow of Rifugio Curò is overlooked by many of the highest peaks steeped in the history of mountaineering in the Orobie Alps: Gle-

no, Recastello, Tre Confini, and Torena, as well as the long, impressive sequence of peaks that stretches from Pizzo di Coca to Pizzo del Diavolo di Malgina, via through the Druet



summits that, on the Valtellina side, are still custodians to a number of small glaciers and unexpected wild spots. The summit of Diavolo di Malgina, in its simplicity, is one of those "old-fashioned" climbs: uncrowded, varied and hugely satisfying, it offers unusual and fascinating views of nearby peaks, for discovery or rediscovery of mountains hidden and forgotten by most people.

Access to the refuge

See page 66 Rifugio Curò.

Route

80 metres in altitude. On the east shore of the lake you will then find trail 323 that, to the right, leads to Valle di Valmorta. Now go up the grassy slope, which turns away from the crowning wall of Barbellino dam to proceed in a northwest direction, with some stretch-

es fitted with chains. After about 30 minutes you will enter the untamed valley of Valmorta, following a mid-slope route to a basin. After a short descent you will reach the small lake of Valmorta, at an altitude of 2148 m. Leaving trail 323, proceed along tracks following the few signs and many cairns in this detrital valley that drops down from the summit, aiming for the obvious notch on the west ridge of Pizzo del Diavolo. With an easily circumvented keep on your left follow signs to the small notch at an altitude of 2850 m. From here, on the right, follow the detrital ridge up to the summit with its above-mentioned truly fabulous views.

Retrace your steps for the return journey, or, follow the east ridge down, which poses no particular orientation problems, to Passo della Malgina, where you will come to trail 335. Over scree, proceed to Lake Alto della Malgina (2520 m asl, often not shown on maps) and then to Lake Malgina (2340 m asl). From here take the easy-to-spot trail back to the Curò and Barbellino refuges.

Other hikes from the refuge

to Passo Belviso (2518 m asl) in 4 h
to the Lakes of Val Cerviera in 2 h
to Passo Manina (1795 m asl) in 3 h 30 min
to Passo Caronella (2804 m asl) in 2 h 30 min



From Val Sanguigno to the lakes of Valgoglio



Technical data

Start: Ristoro Gianpace, 1331 m asl
 Finish: Valgoglio, 970 m asl
 Elevation gain: 800 m
 Duration: 5 h 30 min
 Difficulty: E
 Recommended period: summer / autumn
 Reference mountain refuge: Ristoro Gianpace

Sights worth seeing

Ristoro Gianpace is located in beautiful Val Sanguigno, with its many water features and characterised, as its “bloody” name suggests, by bright red rocks. Not too busy, the valley is dotted with countless small waterfalls, ponds and small lakes and, in the central part, by a series of ponds and peat bogs of exceptional naturalistic value. The wide plateaus above Valgoglio, on the other hand, have been intensively exploited for the creation of artificial reservoirs, but still reserve interesting rocky spots and some beautiful natural pools, as well as many glimpses of the mountains that, on the Brembano side, crown Rifugio Calvi.

Access to the refuge

From the car park at the Aviasco Enel power station (970 m asl), immediately after the village of Valgoglio, follow trail 232, climbing up through a beautiful beech wood and finally entering Val Sanguigno next to the noisy foaming river. Having crossed this on a small bridge after a semi-level section, you will finally come to the beautiful clearing where the refuge is located (1 h 20 min, 400 m elevation gain).

Route

From Val Sanguigno a long scenic crossing takes you to the Valgoglio lake region. From Ristoro Gianpace a short level stretch leads into the valley, then meets up with trail 267 which you follow past Baita Salina di Mezzo (1595 m asl). It goes to



1331 m NO 1 h YES 50 NO NO

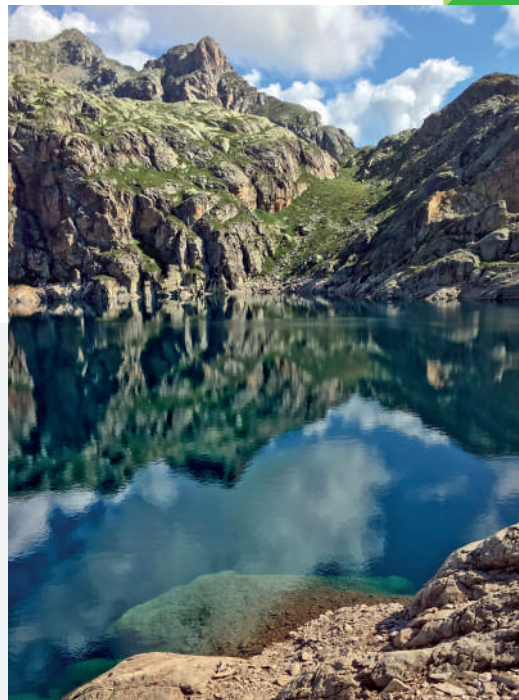
Ristoro Gianpace

Access: Valgoglio

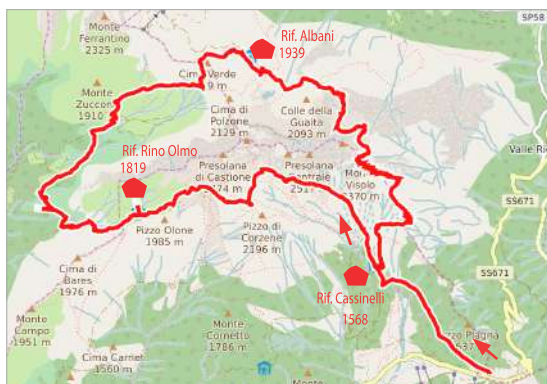
Telephone: 347.2191628



the Madonnina shrine on the scenic hillock of the Costa di Corna Rossa. A long ascent halfway up the hillside, overlooking the village of Valgoglio, then leads to Baita Corna and finally, after a short downhill stretch, Lake Nero dam and the refuge of the same name (2013 m asl). Again downhill, past small lakes, you reach Rifugio Giulia Maria, from which a good trail (228) takes you to the hamlet of Bortolotti and finally, on an asphalt road, back to the car park again.



The great Presolana loop



Technical data

Start and Finish: Passo della Presolana, 1289 m asl
 Elevation gain: 1st day 800 m, 2nd day 1450 m asl
 Duration: 1st day 4 h, 2nd day 8 h
 Difficulty: 1st day E, 2nd day EEA
 Recommended period: summer
 Reference mountain refuges: Rifugio Cassinelli, Rifugio Rino Olmo, Rifugio Albani

Sights worth seeing

Presolana is definitely the 'queen of the Orobic Alps': its imposing yet elegant mass brings to mind the Dolomites, especially from the area around Rifugio Albani. Famous for its climbing routes on its fantastic compact limestone, it is the ideal terrain for multi-day loop hikes. The route given here, doable in two days or more comfortably in three, including an over-night stay at Rifugio Albani, allows you to visit many places on this very beautiful mountain, unique in the Orobic Alps. It includes glaciers, walls, chins and towers and also gives you the chance to admire the wonderful flora on the limestone terrain and sometimes herds of chamois in the remotest valleys.

Access to the refuge

On the first day, you set off for Rifugio Rino Olmo from the Passo della Presolana, down along the provincial road towards Bratto and then, after the hotel, a dirt track on the right that soon becomes trail 315. At first through dense woodland that gradually becomes sparser, you soon reach Rifugio Baita Cassinelli hut, then continue in a northwest direction, still following trail 315 over meadows and gravel. You pass Bivacco Città di Clusone (2085 m - 2 h 20 min from the pass) and a final climb, now on trail 318, will bring you to Passo Pozzera (2122 m asl). A downhill stretch through meadows strewn with boulders finally takes you to Rifugio Rino Olmo, where you spend the night.



1819 m 13 2,30 h YES 40 YES NO

Rifugio Olmo Rino

Access: Castione della Presolana

Telephone: 0346.61380

Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/olmo-rino

Route

From Rifugio Olmo, go down trail 320 to the fork with trail 311 A, which crosses the slope, without losing too much altitude, into Valzurio on a beautiful route through enchanting woods and glades, until you come to Baita Bassa Pagherola. From here, you continue on trail 311 in the direction of Passo Scagnello, just below the Presolana peaks, in a magnificent position (2092 m asl). After passing Rifugio Albani on your way down, you go past Lake Polzone and take trail 402 towards Colle della Guaita, through an increasingly rocky fascinating environment. Near the pass, spectacular Sentiero della Porta (326/401) begins, its ledges and rocky slabs fitted with ladders, rungs and cables. Simple, but not to be underestimated, this via ferrata is rather exposed and tiring. Having reached the notch between rocky pinnacles at Passo della Porta (2215 m asl), you will soon come out onto the saddle between the summit of the Presolana Orientale and Monte Visolo, which you soon reach (2369 m asl). The descent is down the very scenic trail 316 to Rifugio Baita Cassinelli, which is clearly visible from the summit. From the refuge, retrace your steps to Passo della Presolana.

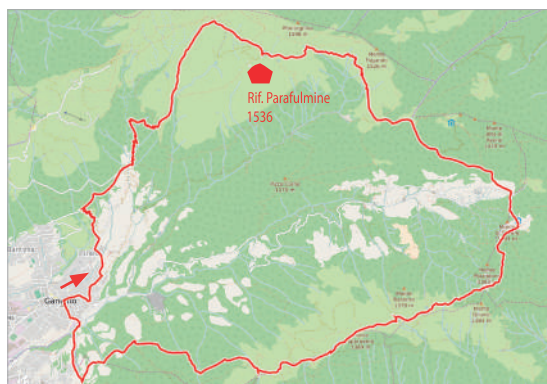
If you choose to complete the route over three



days, including an overnight stay at Rifugio Albani, you can make at least two detours of certain scenic interest: the ascent to the summit of Monte Ferrante, which offers one of the most beautiful views of the massif, and the one to the summit of the eastern Presolana, with a very exposed initial Alpine-style section, completed from the end of the Sentiero della Porta (Gateway Path).



In the Gandino mountains



Technical data

Start and Finish: Gandino, 512 m asl
 Elevation gain: 1st day 1050 m, 2nd day 250 m
 Duration: 1st day 3 h, 2nd day 3 h 30 min
 Difficulty: E
 Recommended period: spring, summer, autumn
 Reference mountain refuges: Rifugio Parafulmine

Sights worth seeing

A classic route for discovering the gently rolling pre-Alpine landscape of the Orobie Alps, where the signs of the mountain's history and agricultural past are most evident. This is a medium-altitude hike between Val Seriana and Lake Endine that takes in herdsman's huts, pastures and gentle scenic grassy ridges, definitely recommended before summer and in autumn, when the air is clearer. With this in mind, detours to the summit of Pizzo Formico, a magnificent panoramic balcony overlooking Presolana, and Monte Sparavera, with sweeping views of Val Cavallina and the lower Bergamo area, are highly recommended. The whole area was the scene of bloody

battles during the partisan struggles, as illustrated by the Malga Lunga Museum of the Resistance Movement.

Access to the refuge

The route starts in Via Opificio in Gandino with the first stretch allowing you to visit this town, via the Basilica Museum, and the hamlets of Cirano and San Gottardo. In Cascina Maccari you will then pick up trail 549, which winds steeply through the woods until it brings you to Bivacco Baroncelli (1257 m asl) and the large Shepherds' Cross. From here, the forest gives way to the immense flat pastures on the vast plateau with Baita Guazza, some cheese-making huts and finally, on a hillock, Rifugio



1536 m 16 1,15 h YES 40 NO NO

Rifugio Parafulmine

Access: Colonia Monte Farno

Telephone: 329.9634386

Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/parafulmine

Parafulmine. As mentioned above, a detour to the not too distant summit of Pizzo Formico is almost 'a must', where you will enjoy a beautiful view of Presolana.

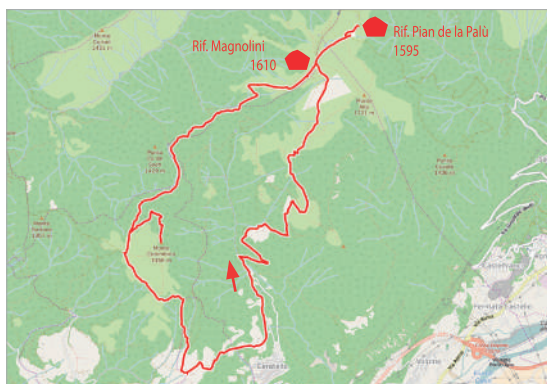
Route

From Rifugio Parafulmine, trail 545 leads you quickly to the wayside shrine called Santella dei Morti della Montagnina, from which, downhill, you will reach the beautiful pastureland of Campo d'Avena and a large bird blind. Still on trail 545, now a little road, you drop down slightly to Rifugio Malga Lunga, which is also a museum, where the Bergamo partisans took refuge during the Resistance, run by the ANPI of Bergamo and with plenty of exhibits that testify to the fighting that took place in this area (1 hour's walk from the refuge). From here, head south, still on the little road (trail sign 547) to Comunaglia and take a short detour to skirt the gentle summit of Monte Sparavera (1369 m asl, an excellent scenic viewpoint over Lake Endine and Val Cavalli-

na). Picking up trail 547 again, it will take you downhill to Cascina Rizzani, first by road, then by forest path until you finally come back to Gandino.



A loop around Monte Colombina



Technical data

Start and Finish: Cascina ai Ciar Restaurant, 850 m (Ceratello, Costa Volpino)
 Elevation gain: 850 m
 Duration: 5 h 30 min
 Difficulty: E
 Recommended period: autumn/summer
 Reference mountain refuges: Rifugio Pian de la Palù, Rifugio Magnolini

Sights worth seeing

An unusual route on trails and mule tracks in luxuriant Valle di Supine, overlooking Lake Iseo, on the southern slope of Monte Pora. Surrounded by a gently rolling pre-Alpine landscape, Monte Colombina is a panoramic destination easily accessible from several routes and offers a complete view of the Sebino.

Route

From Costa Volpino you reach the hamlet of Ceratello, where you can park near the Cascina ai Ciar restaurant. Head up trail 558 towards Rifugio Magnolini. This quickly gains altitude through meadows and woods, bringing you to the Casere di Monte Alto (2 h).

Now over more open, panoramic terrain you will come first to Rifugio Magnolini, which you can already see, and shortly afterwards, to Rifugio Pian de la Palù.

The refuges can also be reached from the opposite side, in about half an hour, going up by car to the Malga Alta di Pora car park from Castione della Presolana; in this case, of course, the time for the ascent to Monte Colombina is considerably shortened, but it must be considered that the return to the refuge involves a 450 m walk uphill.

From Rifugio Pian de la Palù hut, take trail 551 downhill until you come to Malga Ramello del Nedi and, shortly afterwards, the hamlet of Il Forcellino (1308 m asl). From here, trail 555



1595 m 17 2,30 h YES 80 YES YES

Rifugio Pian de la Palù

Access: Rogno

Telephone: 0346.65000

Complete info on website:

rifugio.lombardia.it/pian-de-la-palu

crosses the wooded slopes of Co de Soc and drops steeply down to the cart track leading to the meadows of San Fermo (1250 m asl). Just before reaching the hamlet, the path that branches off before leaving the woods (signpost on a tree, not very easy to spot) goes up to the lovely peak of Colombina (1458 m asl -

cross and Tibetan flags). Vast 'soothing' panorama. Back in the meadows, follow the mule track to Bossico as far as the Cinque Abeti holiday farmhouse, where a mule track on the east side of the building will take you back to Ceratello and Ciar.



1612 m 25 2,20 h YES 80 NO NO

Rifugio Magnolini

Access: Rogno

Telephone: 0346.65145

Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/magnolini



A quiet hike to Monte Poieto



Technical data

Start: Aviatico, 1010 m asl
Finish: Monte Poieto, 1375 m asl
Elevation gain: 380 m
Duration: 1 h 20 min (one way)
Difficulty: E
Recommended period: spring, autumn
Reference mountain refuges: Rifugio Monte Poieto

Sights worth seeing

Rifugio Monte Poieto is located in lower Val Seriana, on the Selvino plateau, and can be reached on foot along easy trails from the village of Aviatico or by cable car. The area is very scenic and is an ideal destination for more leisurely hikers.

Route

The hike starts from Aviatico, near the car park in Via Cornagera. Behind the car park, a signpost next to a flight of steps that reads "Cornagera" leads to the start of trail 537. Entering the wood, over gentle slopes, you will come to a small hut, which was once used as a stable. After a few minutes you then arrive

at a crossroads at an altitude of 1244 m. Deviating to the left, you will come to Monte Cornagera and the famous crag of the same name, located in a very unusual unexpected rocky environment, definitely worth a visit. Retracing your steps to the crossroads, turn left and continue uphill through the wood until you reach its edge. At an altitude of 1300 m, the panorama opens up and the path becomes less steep. Now follow the easy-to-spot signs through meadows for Monte Poieto. Paying attention to the signs, you go back into the wood and after a few minutes will cross the road, which is used as a downhill ski slope in winter. Continuing up the road, you soon come in sight of the refuge on a grassy knoll. You



1375 m 28 0,50 h YES 200 NO NO

Rifugio Monte Poieto

Access: Aviatico

Telephone: 035.779184

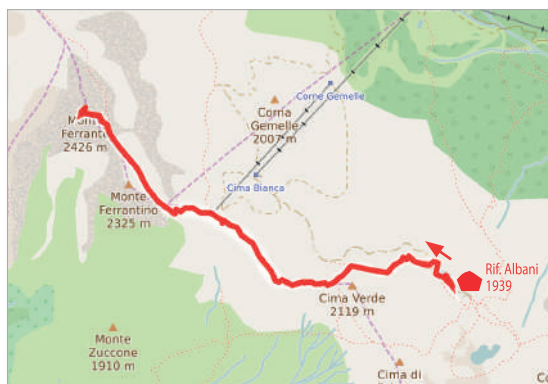
Complete info on website:

rifugio.lombardia.it/monte-poieto

can retrace your steps for the return journey or continue in a loop by going down the direct route to Aviatico, which goes under the chair-lift and shortly after brings you to the village.



Monte Ferrante, opposite Presolana



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Albani, 1939 m asl
Finish: Monte Ferrante, 2427 m asl
Elevation gain: 480 m
Duration: 1 h 30 min (one way)
Difficulty: E
Recommended period: summer
Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Albani

Sights worth seeing

The basin of Lake Polzone allows you to admire one of the landscapes most reminiscent of the Dolomites in Lombardy: the vast elegant mass of the northern slope of Presolana (2521 m) frames gently rolling pastures dotted with larch and fir trees, where the Albani mountain refuge stands. Also nearby are the former fluorite mines, abandoned in the late eighties, which were known as early as Roman times.

Access to the refuge

From the hamlet of Carbonera di Colere (1043 m asl – ski lift car park), go up along the forest road to Malga Polzone (trail signs 403) for about a kilometre. At the second cabin, leave the road and follow signs to the left for Rifugio Albani.

Now continue uphill on the trail through the forest to an altitude of about 1700 m, where you cross trail 406 up from Malga Polzone. Turn left and complete the final uphill stretch that leads to the cabins of the old fluorite mines; from here keep to the right and you will shortly come to Rifugio Albani (1939 m asl – 2 h 30 min, 900 m elevation gain).

Alternatively, you can reach the refuge using the ski lifts by taking the first section of chairlift to Malga Polzone (1550 m asl) and then following trail 406 (1 h 30 min, 380 m elevation gain). If you take the second chairlift stretch up to Cima Bianca (2072 m asl), you can reach the hut by following the road to the left towards Presolana (30 min, 130 m elevation loss).



1939 m 40 2,30 h YES 50 YES NO

Rifugio Albani

Access: Carbonera

Telephone: 0346.51105

Complete info on website:

rifugio.lombardia.it/albani

Route

From Rifugio Albani take the Sentiero delle Orobie (Orobic Alps Trail) trail in a northwest direction (trail signs 401). Just over half an hour of easy slopes will bring you to Passo dello Scagnello (2080 m asl), after which, heading north, you will come to the top ski lift station at an altitude of 2165 m asl. The

trail then follows the ridge, leaving it shortly to drop to the left and pass below Monte Ferrantino and to the saddle pass with Monte Ferrante (2280 m asl). This is where you leave the Orobic Alps trail to follow the steep ridge to the summit (2427 m asl - 1 h 30 min from Rifugio Albani, 500 m elevation gain).

Other hikes from this refuge

to Passo della Manina (1796 m asl) in 4 h

to Rifugio Curò (1895 m asl) in 7 h

to Rifugio Olmo (1819 m asl) in 3 h

to Monte Visolo (2369 m) via the Sentiero della Porta in 3 h (via ferrata)

to Corna Tonda (2095 m) via Lake Polzone in 1 h



Monte Campioncino, a balcony over Val Camonica



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Cimon della Bagozza, 1574 m asl
 Finish: Monte Campioncino, 2095 m asl
 Elevation gain: 600 m
 Duration: 2 h (one way)
 Difficulty: E
 Recommended period: summer, autumn
 Reference mountain refuge: Rifugio Cimon della Bagozza

Sights worth seeing

The Campelli basin is beautifully scenic, surrounded as it is by the Dolomite-similar peaks of the Concarena group and the Cimon della Bagozza, but also by the gentle ridges of the mountains around Passo del Vivione. This area is perfect for a variety of nature excursions and also suitable for families. Definitely worth a visit, with a short detour, is Lake Campelli, in its picturesque position on the edge of the forest, with magnificent views of the walls and scree above. Not far from the path there are also the now abandoned silver and lead mines, which tell of the recent history of Val di Scalve.

Access to the refuge

Rifugio Cimon della Bagozza is easily reached by car from Schilpario on the road to Passo Vivione.

Route

From the refuge in its picturesque surroundings, little trail 428 leads to Malga Campelli di Sotto (1650 m asl), then to a beautiful clearing opposite Cimon della Bagozza, where a small shrine to the Virgin Mary has been placed on a boulder. From here, a short detour on the right along trail 417, takes you on a must visit to small yet wonderful Lake Campelli. Back on trail 428, continue uphill until you come to Malga Campelli Alta and, finally, Passo



1574 m 20 1 h YES 35 YES NO

Rifugio Cimon della Bagozza

Access: Fondi

Telephone: 0346.56300

Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/gruppo-alpinistico-cimon-della-bagozza

Campelli (1892 m asl), where beautiful views out over Bagozza and Concarena are complemented by majestic views of Adamello, Carè Alto and the mountains in Val Camonica. Just beyond the pass, following an intuitive route, you go up the grassy south ridge of the modest peak of Monte Campioncino, an excellent vantage point (2095 m asl). From the summit, it's then down to friendly characteristic Rifugio Campione for a rest, followed by Passo Campelli and, retracing your steps, back to the starting point.

Other excursions

to Cimon della Bagozza, 2409 m asl in 3 h



Monte Demignone and Sentiero Curò



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Tagliaferri, 2328 m asl
 Finish: Ronco, 1075 m asl
 Elevation gain: 350 m
 Duration: 5 h 15 min
 Difficulty: EE
 Recommended period: summer
 Reference mountain refuges: Rifugio Tagliaferri

Sights worth seeing

The ascent to Rifugio Tagliaferri, the highest in the Bergamo Orobie Alps, is one of the longest hikes in Val di Scalve, but it affords beautiful views and many views of waterfalls, lakes and wide open Alpine meadows. The recommended period for this hike is early summer, when magnificent blooms can be appreciated. From the refuge you can take a very scenic circular route back to the valley bottom, which in part follows the Antonio Curò Nature Trail. The route proposed can be covered in a day by fit hikers or, taking it easier, with an overnight stay in the mountains.

Access to the refuge

From Ronco di Schilpario, the mule track marked with trail signs 413 takes you into Valle del Vò. After a recommended detour to see a beautiful waterfall, the trail climbs up into the wood to the Baite di Venano di Mezzo (1650 m asl) and, a little further on, the Baite di Venano di Sopra (1850 m asl). A final series of hairpin bends on the opposite side of the basin reaches an altitude of 2202 m, from where, after a stretch that goes uphill and down, you will finally reach Passo Venano and Rifugio Tagliaferri (2328 m asl - 3 h 30 min walk).



2328 m 60 4 h NO 60 YES NO

Rifugio Tagliaferri

Access: Ronco

Telephone: 0346.55355

Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/tagliaferri

Route

From the refuge, take trail 416 eastwards, then go slightly uphill, towards Passo del Vò (2368 m asl), which you will reach in about 20 minutes.

From the pass, you can go up Monte Demignone by following the edge of the ridge. It takes about 30 minutes and requires care; at the summit there is a shrine to the Virgin Mary. You can then either retrace your steps for the return journey or choose a steeper route along the southeast ridge. Having picked up trail 416 again, follow it towards Passo del Demignone, 2485 m asl, which has some enjoyable stretches fitted with chains

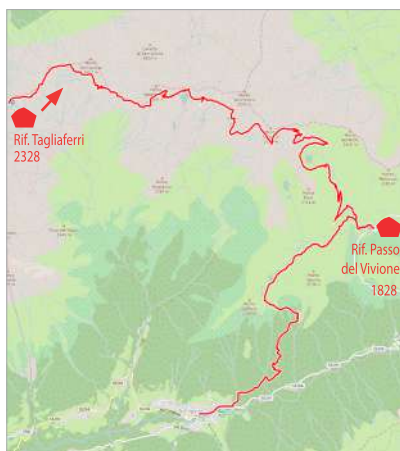
and footbridges, spectacular but not particularly difficult. After this, the path becomes easier and drops down to the Venerocolo lakes, where a little attention is required to locate signs for trail 414, which drops into Valle del Venerocolino and then through pastures and dense woods of Norway spruce brings you first to Paghera and then, along the valley bottom, to the small village of Ronco.

Other excursions from the refuge

to Passo Belviso (2518 m asl) in 45 min
to Rifugio Curò (1890 m asl) in 4 h 30 min
to Passo dell'Aprica (1172 m asl) in 4 h min
to Passo del Vivione (1820 m asl) in 4 h



From Rifugio Tagliaferri to Passo del Vivione and Schilpario



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Tagliaferri, 2328 m asl
Finish: Schilpario, 1137 m asl
Elevation gain: 350 m
Duration: 6 h 30 min
Difficulty: EE
Recommended period: summer
Reference mountain refuges: Rifugio Tagliaferri, Rifugio Vivione

Sights worth seeing

Like the previous route, this hike follows a section of the Curò Trail and, despite being long and demanding, it allows you to get to know some of the most beautiful places in the eastern Orobie Alps, in the presence of the soaring peaks of Cimon della Bagozza and Pizzo Camino.

Access to the refuge

See previous route page 84.

Route

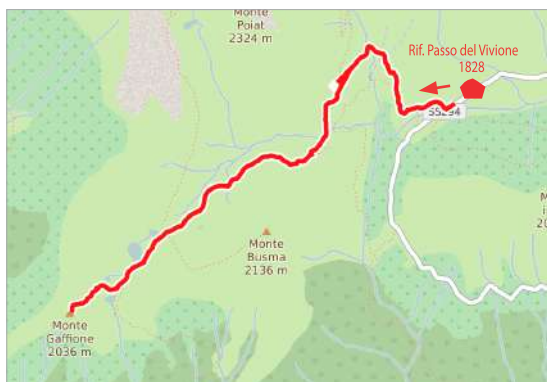
Follow the previous route (36) from Rifugio Tagliaferri to the Venerocolo lakes, from where you continue along trail 416 towards Passo del Vivione. Easy to spot, this trail goes past the pretty San Carlo lakes and proceeds slightly uphill to the characteristic Passo del Gatto (2415 m asl). After the pass, the trail continues over the mountainside for about 300 metres and then downhill with hairpin bends to the lake and finally Malga Valbona. You now drop down through the valley to Malga Gaffione (1,847 m asl), from where you can take a dirt road and easily reach Rifugio Vivione, at the pass of the same name, for a well-earned pause (1828 m asl, 4 h from Rifugio Tagliaferri).





From the pass, go back along the dirt road for about ten minutes until you come to signs for trail 415 for Schilpario. Slightly uphill and westwards, you will now come to the small lakes of the Valli and from the last of these you start to bear left and drop down sharply around hairpin bends towards Schilpario.

Tour of the Valli Lakes and Monte Gaffione



Technical data

Start: Rifugio Passo del Vivione, 1828 m asl
 Finish: Monte Gaffione, 2028 m asl
 Elevation gain: 300 m
 Duration: 3 h (round trip)
 Difficulty: E
 Recommended period: summer
 Reference mountain refuges: Rifugio Vivione

Sights worth seeing

Passo del Vivione separates Val di Scalve in the province of Bergamo, from Val Paisco and Val Camonica in the province of Brescia. The roads reaching it on either side are rather winding and narrow, and popular with motorcyclists and lovers of big bike climbs. The pass is surrounded by pastures and meadows crossed by old military mule tracks and numerous hiking trails. This route is accessible to all and is a good way to get to know nature in this area without going too far into the side valleys next to the pass.

Access to the refuge

The Rifugio Passo del Vivione is accessible by car from both Schilpario and Forno Allione, while the paths that lead to it start from Schilpario and Fondi.

Route

From Passo del Vivione, follow trail signs 415 towards Baita Gaffione along a wide mule track. At the height of the malga, ignore the path that to the right leads to Lake Valbona and stay on trail 415, which now goes slightly downhill. Stay on it also after it meets trail 427



1828 m 20 2 h YES 100 NO YES

Rifugio Vivione

Access: Schilpario

Telephone: 333.8984490

Complete info on website:

rifugi.lombardia.it/vivione

that comes up from Fondi di Schilpario. Slightly uphill and you will soon reach the area of the pretty Valli Lakes, dotted over a wide grassy terrace. At the foot of Monte Gaffione, leave the signposted trail, which now heads steeply downhill, and follow the track to the right that winds its way up the modest peak of Monte Gaffione (2028 m asl), offering excellent views. Retrace your steps for the return journey.



Discovering the Orobic Alps Trail



A great classic of Alpine hikes, the eastern Sentiero delle Orobie (Orobic Alps Trail) is a high-altitude refuge-to-refuge route over several days that crosses the Orobic Alps on the Bergamo side. The traditional route passes below the highest, most symbolic peaks in this massif, offering lots of different options for ascents, detours and variants. Linking Valcanale to Passo della Presolana, it takes in the Gemelli Lakes, the area of Pizzo del Diavolo di Tenda, the slopes of Pizzo di Coca (3052 m asl and the "roof" of the Orobic Alps), and the hollow of Rifugio Curò, finishing at the foot of the "Queen of the Orobic Alps".

With some stretches only for expert hikers, this famous high-altitude excursion is very popular and it takes you through some very wild, exciting landscape.

Definitely gentler are the surroundings along the western Sentiero delle Orobie (Orobic Alps Trail), which goes from Cassiglio to the springs of the River Brembo, first skirting Pizzo dei Tre Signori and then following the Valtellina border, among the peaks around historic Passo San Marco and the calcareous ones in upper Val Brembana.

Both conceived and created by the Bergamo CAI section and many of its subsec-



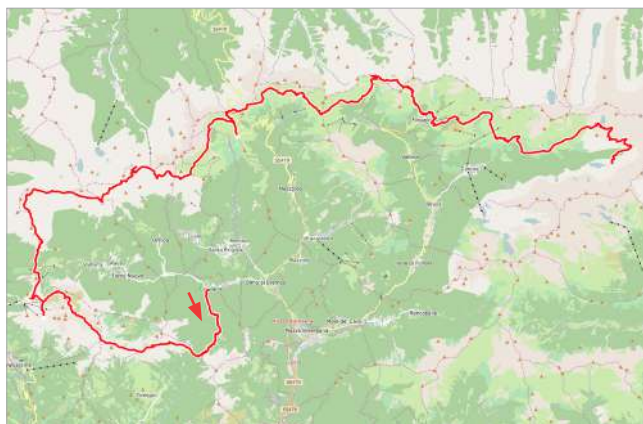
Discovering the Orobic Alps Trail

tions, these routes take hikers through some very different environments and connect some of the most popular and characteristic Lombardy mountain refuges, the aim being to improve knowledge and appreciation of the Bergamo mountains. While the western Orobic Alps Trail is practicable for many months of the year, given its relatively low altitude, the traditional eastern one should only be tackled

at the height of summer, when its trickier sections are no longer snow covered. For some years now, to enable hikers to complete a loop, the first and last stage of the traditional eastern Orobic Alps Trail have been modified so that it starts and finishes at the same point, in the village of Ardesio. This cuts out one of the most difficult (but also most beautiful) stretches, the Sentiero della Porta in Presolana trail.

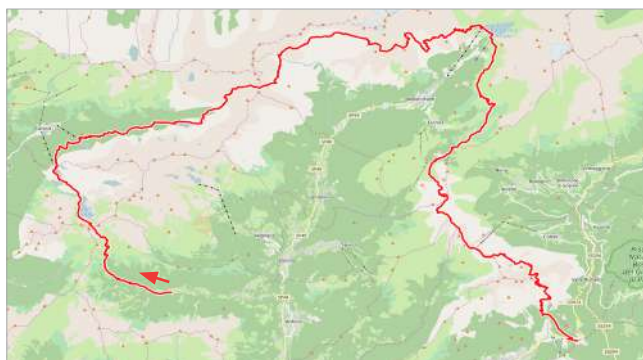


Discovering the Orobic Alps Trail



Stages of the western trail:

- 1st Stage:** Cassiglio - Baciamperti - Artavaggio - Rifugio Lecco - Piani di Bobbio
- 2nd stage:** Rifugio Lecco - Rifugio Grassi - Pizzo Tre Signori - Bocchetta di Trona
Rifugio Cesare Benigni
- 3rd Stage:** Rifugio Cesare Benigni - Alta Val Moresca - Rifugio Passo San Marco 2000
- 4th stage:** Passo San Marco - Bivacco Zamboni - Forcella Rossa - San Simone - Foppolo
- 5th stage:** Foppolo - Passo della Croce - Valcarisole - Valsambuzza - Rifugio Fratelli Longo
- 6th stage:** Rifugio F.lli Longo - La Selletta - Val Camisana - Rifugio F.lli Calvi



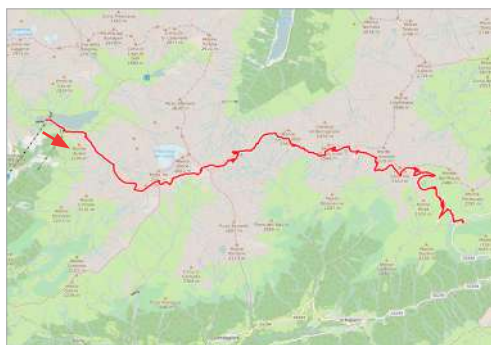
Stages of the eastern trail:

- 1st Stage:** Valcanale - Rifugio Alpe Corte
- 2nd stage:** Rifugio Alpe Corte - Rifugio Laghi Gemelli
- 3rd Stage:** Rifugio Laghi Gemelli - Rifugio F.lli Calvi
- 4th stage:** Rifugio F.lli Calvi - Rifugio Brunone
- 5th stage:** Rifugio Brunone - Rifugio Coca
- 6th stage:** Rifugio Coca - Rifugio Curò
- 7th stage:** Rifugio Curò - Rifugio Albani
- 8th stage:** Rifugio Albani - Passo della Presolana



EXPLORING NATURE AT HIGH ALTITUDES

The Antonio Curò Nature Trail



The Sentiero Curò trail in the western Orobie Alps is a fascinating high-altitude route between Val Seriana and Val di Scalve that links the refuge of the same name to Passo del Vivione. Feasible in two or three days, with a few exposed but well equipped stretches, it covers long parts of what remains of Strada Cadorna, with extraordinary natural and scenic sights. This itinerary is dedicated to Antonio Curò (1828-1906), famous naturalist, engineer and founder of the Bergamo CAI, who spent many years studying and raising awareness about the mountains.

The Lombardy Hiking Network (REL)

Who looks after the trails in Lombardy?

A trail that can be hiked without any problems, well signposted and in good condition is the result of the complex efforts of professionals and volunteers who monitor, plan and carry out small- and large-scale maintenance work, which often goes unnoticed by hikers themselves.

In order to organise all this and “keep a finger on the pulse” of the situation in a hiking area as vast as Lombardy, the first requisite is an official list of trails that must of course be kept up to date. This is the responsibility of the 'Rete Escursionistica della Lombardia' (REL), the Lombardy hiking network, established in 2017 with the aim of:

- promoting knowledge of the environmental, landscape and histori-

cal-cultural heritage of our region;

- developing the attractiveness of rural areas in the plains, hills and mountains;
- enhancing hiking and mountaineering activities;
- disseminating eco-friendly forms of tourism;
- maintaining the full usability of the trail network through funding for maintenance work.

The trails in the REL are archived and organised in the "Catasto regionale della Rete Escursionistica della Lombardia", the computerised regional register of the Lombardy hiking network, a tool that provides information about the condition of the trails, their classification and monitoring. Trails are proposed by the territorially competent bodies (management bodies of





protected areas, mountain communities, municipalities) and included if they have at least one of the following characteristics:

- they are included in the regional protected areas, Natura 2000 Network sites, local parks of supra-municipal interest (PLIS), the Lombardy portion of the Stelvio Park or in the territories that are part of the agro-forestry heritage of the Lombardy Region (regional property managed by ERSAF – the Regional Agency for Services to Agriculture and Forestry)
- they are of historical-cultural, religious, sporting or landscape-environmental interest
- they are functional for the realisation of the network system of routes.

To date, about 13,000 km of trails of all kinds through mountains, hills and plains, from tourist trails (T) to those for expert hikers with equipment (EEA), plus the vie ferrate (fixed-rope routes), sport-climbing crags, paths, and historical routes. The levels of difficulty are validated by the Collegio delle Guide Alpine (Board of Alpine Guides), while the routes shown on maps are verified to guarantee the smallest margin of error of no more than 10 metres. This tool is constantly updated with the inclusion of new trails because many organisations, realising the importance of the trail network for tourism, are requesting their inclusion, in this way increasing the information available to users. The register is in fact

designed with a strong management vocation, constituting a working tool for the bodies responsible for planning and carrying out trail maintenance: the register is therefore an indispensable tool for managing the complex system of the network of trails in Lombardy.

However the register is not only useful for those in charge of maintenance as it can be consulted by anyone who wants information and documentation, and is available for download thanks to two mapping services by the regional Geoportal:

Viewer 2D

www.cartografia.servizirl.it/rel/

Viewer 3D

www.cartografia.servizirl.it/rel3d/



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