Home
Via geoalpina: leg 1 cursolo ? refuge of pian vadà
Utilization
Hiking
Official itinerary
No

Lenght
19.40 km

Tempo
7 hours

Stage
1

Ascent elevation gain
1630 m

Descent elevation loss
800 m

Difficulty
Hiking

Informazioni

Region
Piemonte

Country
Italy

Address

Cursolo
28827 Valle Cannobina VB
Italy

Coordinates

POINT (8.56812 46.09788)
Altitude
850 m
Arrival address

Rifugio di Pian Vadà
28812 Aurano VB
Italy

Arrival coordinates

POINT (8.5643 46.04294)
Arrival altitude
1703 m
Access

Cursolo, in the municipality of Cannobina Valley, can be reached by car from Domodossola or Cannobio

Descrizione

The departure from Cannobina Valley allows the cross-border connection of the itinerary. Start from Cursolo, from the square of the Town Hall and, along an easy trail through a broadleaf forest, climb up to Monte Vecchio, the historic alpine pasture of the village of Orasso. You can descend to Orasso along a mule track through one of the most representative chestnut forests in the province of Verbania, with big chestnut trees, now abandoned and gradually swallowed up by the forest. From Orasso, along a flat mule track, go back to Cursolo and, without entering the village, go past the Eira stream (with interesting geomorphological features) and immediately after an old mill, take the mule track on the left that goes down to the hamlet of Aretta. From here, go towards Finero for about 600 m along SP 75 of Cannobina Valley until you find the trail on the left that descends steeply to Ponte Teia, over the Cannobino stream, in a deep and suggestive gorge deriving from the river erosion. The trail continues in the gorge, among forests of linden and alder, it crosses a tributary of the Cannobino and then it goes back to Gurro, climbing a slope of about 350 m. Upon reaching the village, with the parish church behind you, keep to the left, take via Falmenta and reach the small valley located in the south of the village by keeping again to the left on a flat track. After a chapel and leaving the last houses, the trail ascends and reaches Passo della Mergugna, climbing a slope of about 200 m. From Mergugna the trail, losing about 300 m of elevation, descends to Falmenta and reaches the village just above the church of San Lorenzo. After reaching the church square, walk along the first segment of Via Roma and turn left, going down towards the Town Hall and going out of the village. From the Town Hall, take the trail that goes down to the valley, up to the bridge over the Falmenta stream, becoming a steep and twisting staircase; the trail continues on the opposite side, climbing up the valley to Crealla, with an easier slope in the last segment at 600 m altitude and coming out in the square of the church dedicated to St. Peter. From the centre of Crealla, the itinerary goes in the direction of Monti Barro, along an old mule track, which branches to the left and climbs up through a steep beech forest, slightly touching the left edge of the pastures, until it reaches a pass from which you can see Monte Zeda. From here, continue on the left and gain elevation up to the meadows of Ortighedo (1401 m). Leave Ortighedo and follow the trail that runs along the north-eastern side of Monte Vadà, going past the head of the valley of Crealla with numerous ascents and descents. After a short segment through the beech forest you arrive at the eastern ridge that descends from Vadà, close to a water collection basin (1430 m). Take the right and go up the ridge along trail VBAR19, on a clearly visible and steep track, first through pastures, then on difficult but not dangerous passages on rocks, until you reach the last hairpin bend of the Cadorna military road that connects Passo Folungo to Pian Vadà. Here the itinerary continues along the military road to Pian Vadà (1711 m). In Pian Vadà you can stay overnight in a non-managed closed refuge or in a bivouac. Both facilities belong to the Park Authority. The refuge provides 14 beds in a large room, it is heated with a wood-burning stove and has electricity produced by a photovoltaic system. For the overnight stay, reservation is required at No. 0324-87540 of the Park Authority. The bivouac, unattended and always open, provides 3 beds on wood flooring and it is not heated. In the pertinent area of the buildings there is a water fountain.

Public transport access
No

Recommended period

Spring
Summer
Fall
From May to October

Accessible to people with disabilities

No

Support points

bivouac and Refuge of Pian Vadà

Interest points

In Gurro there is the geological museum/workshop of the Valley. Between Cursolo, Orasso, Spoccia and Gurro, there are three hiking routes of geological interest, along which you can carry out, throughout a day, specific observations with the help of didactic panels. From Alpe Monte Vecchio you can reach Monte Torriggia (geological route no. 3 of Cannobina Valley) and the cross-border connection along the Alpe Pluni (VBAS14) - Alpino (VBAS18) - Swiss border (VBAM22A) - Camedo route. The Cursolo-Monte Vecchio segment also belongs to the itinerary called Sentiero Chiovini that, from Fondotoce to Switzerland, runs again along the trails used by the partisans to escape the Nazi-fascist attack of June 1944 in Val Grande. The Cursolo-Monte Vecchio-Orasso-Cursolo hiking ring shows a lot of testimonies of rural civilization, enhanced by the thematic route known as Circuito di Monte Vecchio. The Cursolo-P.te Teia-Gurro section belongs to the geological route no. 2 of Cannobina Valley. The Orasso – Cursolo-P.te Teia – Gurro – Falmenta-Crealla routes belong to the itinerary called Circuito San Carlo, which runs again along the old merchant road of the valley (12th century), later called Strada Borromea (in memory of the pastoral visit of Cardinal Borromeo, Bishop of Milan, which took place in 1574) and identifies and enhances valuable architectural and artistic structures (churches and chapels, often frescoed) together with the evidence of the working activities that once took place in the valley (hemp processing, forest care, terraced agriculture, ...).

Devotional relevance
: No

Historical relevance
: No

Dettagli

Code
: VGP

Classification
: Provincial - Mid and Low Altitude

Province
: Verbania

Cell phone coverage

Partial

Climbing type (other)
Hiking

Ultima data di aggiornamento
15/12/2023

Altre info
Accommodation facilities
Belvedere
Monte vecchio

Itinerary index
No

Province names
Verbania