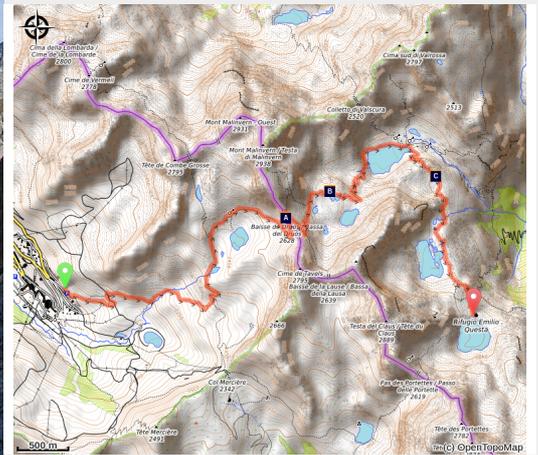




GTM - Stage 10 : Isola 2000 - Refuge Questa

Vallée moyenne Tinée - Isola



Le "Laghi superior di Valscura" dans le "Parco Naturale delle Alpi Marittime", en début d'automne (François Breton - PNM)

The itinerary goes through some small cirques, almost virgin territory, like that of the Terre Rouge lakes. Baisse de Druos, located between Cime de Tavel and Mont Malinvern, the highest summit in this chain, denotes the beginning of the descent into Italy.

86km from Nice (airport).

Head up the Var valley on the RD6202 to La Mescla. Turn right into the Tinée valley (RD2205) until you reach Isola-village.

Take the right fork (RD97) and head along a winding road some 18km long to reach the upper hamlet of the Isola 2000 station.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 5 h

Length : 10.1 km

Trek ascent : 766 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Longer treks

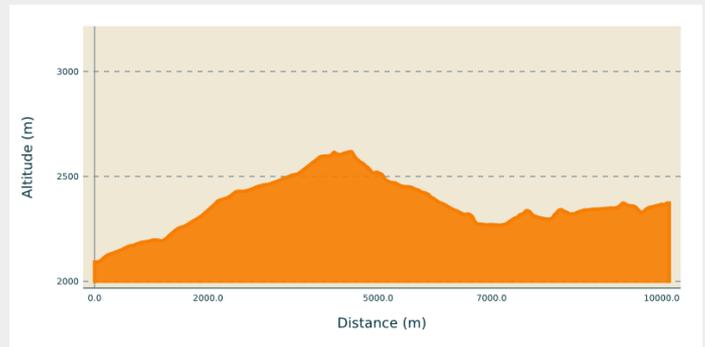
Trek

Departure : Isola 2000

Arrival : Questa refuge

Cities : 1. Isola
2. Valdieri

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 2092 m Max elevation 2618 m

From the top of the Isola 2000 station (m.90), take the small Hôtel Diva road where, 300m further along, you will find the path towards Lacs de Terre Rouge on your left.

Head uphill along the slope which is scattered with larch trees until you come out onto a track (m.91).

Continue opposite, heading between a few boulders and fording the Terre Rouge brook, all the while overlooking the earth dam which, in winter, ensures that the ski slopes remain covered in snow. At marker 92, take the military path down the Col Mercière and continue along it due north to reach the glacial rock bar (m.93) and discover the smaller lakes and the larger Lac de Terre Rouge (2452m).

Continue along a section which turns towards the west and head up a few hairpin bends, coming out at Baisse de Druos (2628m - m.94).

On the slope on the Italian side, you will discover a magnificent rocky cirque with the Valscura lakes and, to the north, the summit of Malinvern (2938m).

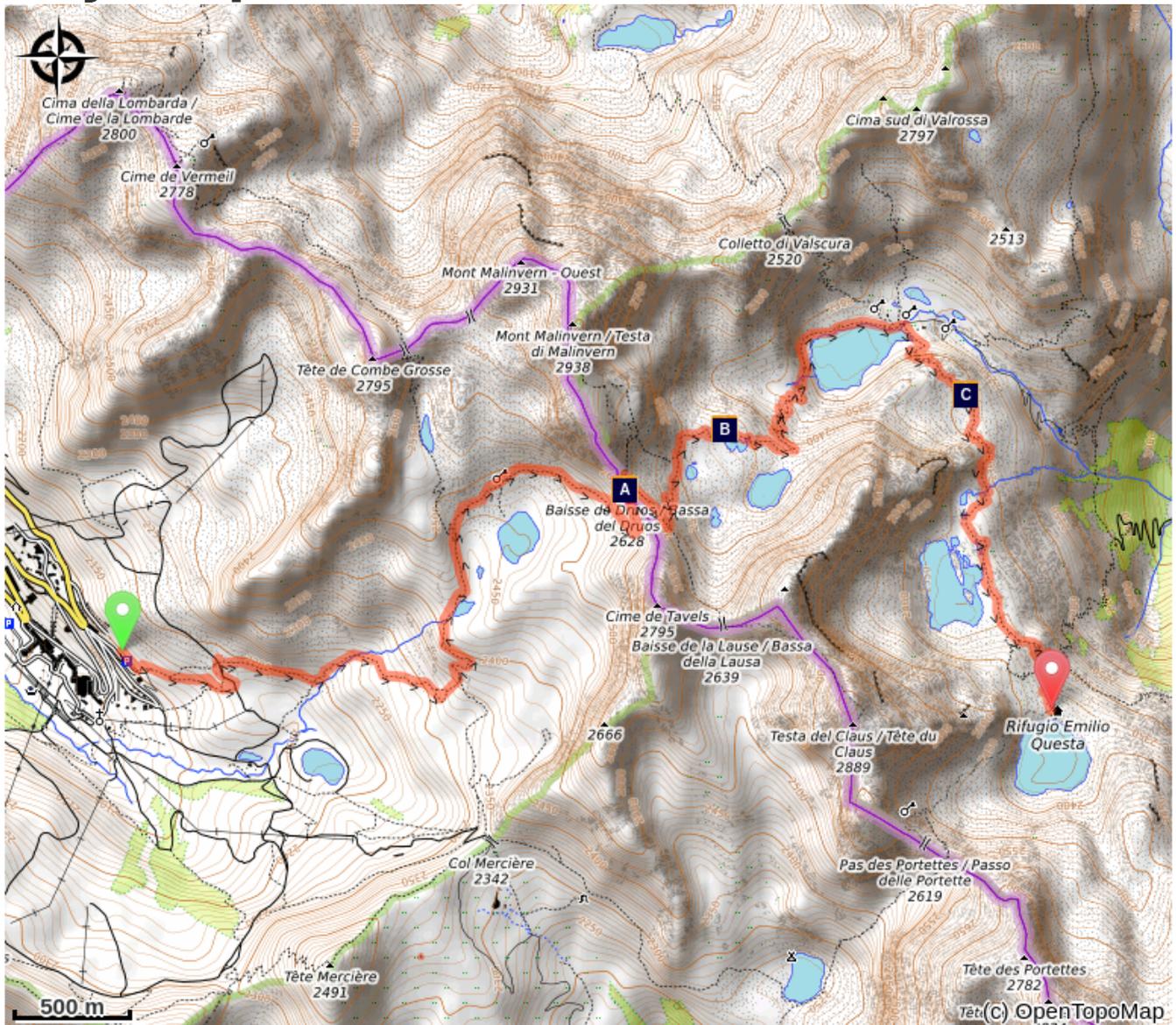
Head downhill towards the former barracks and the lakes until you reach the spillway of the latter (2265m), where there is the intersection with the path for Col de Valscura and the Malinvern refuge.

Turn right (south-east) along the magnificent paved path which rises gently towards Lago del Claus, alternating between grassy and paved sections, which were installed by soldiers to help the King of Italy travel along more easily.

Reach the spillway from Lac de Claus (2344m) which you need to go around via the east; further down the valley, you will have a bird's eye view over Victor Emmanuel II's former hunting lodge, which has recently been renovated as a refuge.

Continue heading uphill at the foot of the northern face of Tête de Claus before leaving this good path to head for the Questa refuge (2388m) which sits amid the boulders on an ancient moraine.

On your path...



-  The Druos Artillery Battery (A)
-  The former military mule track "Valscura Barracks - Fremamorta Shelters" (C)

-  The Massimo Longà Barracks (B)

All useful information

Advices

Before heading off on a hike, ensure that you have studied the safety advice. If you are setting off on this hike in the early part of the season, you will need to take particular care as patches of snow can still be present in higher areas.

How to come ?

Access

86 km de Nice (aéroport).

Remonter la vallée du Var par la RD 6202 jusqu'à la Mescla. Prendre à droite la vallée de la Tinée (RD 2205) jusqu'à Isola-village.

Bifurquer à droite (RD 97) et gagner par une route sinueuse de 18 km le hameau supérieur de la station Isola 2000.

On your path...



The Druos Artillery Battery (A)

Near the Bassa del Druos there are the ruins of a shelter and the Druos Battery, a defensive military gun emplacement in a cave of the Vallo Alpino. The artillery battery, realized with minimum investment in the mid-thirties, consisted of 4 100/17 howitzers captured from the Austrians in WWI. The guns were positioned in the cave without any shielding whatsoever: there wasn't even a command room inside. Two of the 4 galleries where the cannons were placed can still be seen clearly, but the entrances to the other two have been obstructed by landslides.

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj



The Massimo Longà Barracks (B)

The barracks are named for Massimo Longà, Captain of the Alpine Corps, who died on Monte Ortigara on 10 June 1917 (to be precise, on an Army Corps of Engineers map, the Rifugio's name is indicated as Massimo Mongà, differently from the inscription on the plaque over the main entrance). The barracks building is an imposing structure, built, according to documents of the Engineering Corps, in 1903. Other sources give the date of its construction as between 1916 and 1917, thanks to the forced labor of Austrian prisoners captured on the Eastern front, but if the Engineering Corps documents can be believed, it is more probable that the barracks were only restructured during the WWI years.

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj



🕒 The former military mule track "Valscura Barracks - Fremamorta Shelters" (C)

The portion of the route that runs from Lower Lake Valscura to Lake Claus follows the former military mule track that linked Valscura and Fremamorta. The mule track is one of the best-preserved examples of the old military roads that ran through the Valle Gesso, as well as a true masterpiece of engineering. Realized sometime around the very first years of the nineteenth century, a decade prior to the start of the second world war, in 1929, it was preventively upgraded by the Dronero Battalion and maintained in perfect condition.

Over 10 km long, it never dips below an altitude of 2,000 meters and has a maximum incline of 18%. Portions of the road were skillfully paved with flagstones, still in place today.

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj