



# GTM - Stage 11 : Refuge Questa - Le Boréon

Parco Naturale Alpi Marittime - Saint-Martin-Vésubie



A gauche, la Pointe du Giegn, (2888 m), puis le Pas du Préfous, (2615 m) et les arêtes ou aiguilles du Préfous. (Guigo Franck - PNM)

*A cross-border stage which is notable for the passages over the cols of Fremamorte and Salèse, before reaching the La Haute Vésubie.*

On this hike, you can admire the imposing crystalline mountain of L'Argentera whose summit is at 3297m altitude and the Corno Stella, which is just as well known for its climbing routes.

## Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 7 h

Length : 20.6 km

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Longer treks

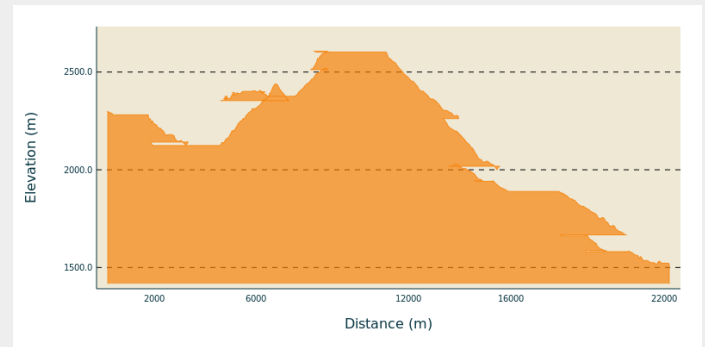
# Trek

**Departure** : Questa refuge

**Arrival** : Boréon

**Cities** : 1. Saint-Martin-Vésubie  
2. Valdeblore  
3. Valdieri

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 0 m    Max elevation 0 m

From the refuge, head downhill towards the east to reach the stone track, leaving the way to Le Pas du Préfouns to head away on your right.

After a long section, start heading up the climb towards Collet de Valasco via the Morta valley; you will reach the former, at an altitude of 2249m, via a series of hairpin bends. Do not take the path to the west which heads very steeply towards Collet des Bresses.

Once you have gone past the last lake on the left, the final steep slope allows you to reach Col de Frémamorte (m.271) 2615m. Enjoy the delightful panorama over the Argentera and the series of lakes either side of the border.

From this point, a very long descent will begin; it starts with a series of hairpin bends on the southern slopes of the col before reaching the fork for Camp Soubran (m.270) 2 270m. As you are going, admire the Swiss pines which are scattered over the different faces of Caïre Pouchu and go over the small glacial rock bar to cross the valley created by the spillway from Lac Nègre going down towards the hamlet of Mollières.

The path keeps winding downhill amid the rhododendrons and blueberry bushes. Go past the Agnellière ruins (m.269) before crossing the Mollières mountain stream via a footbridge which goes over it. Continue downhill along the old track which comes from Lac Nègre to reach the road leads to the hamlet of Mollières (m.268).

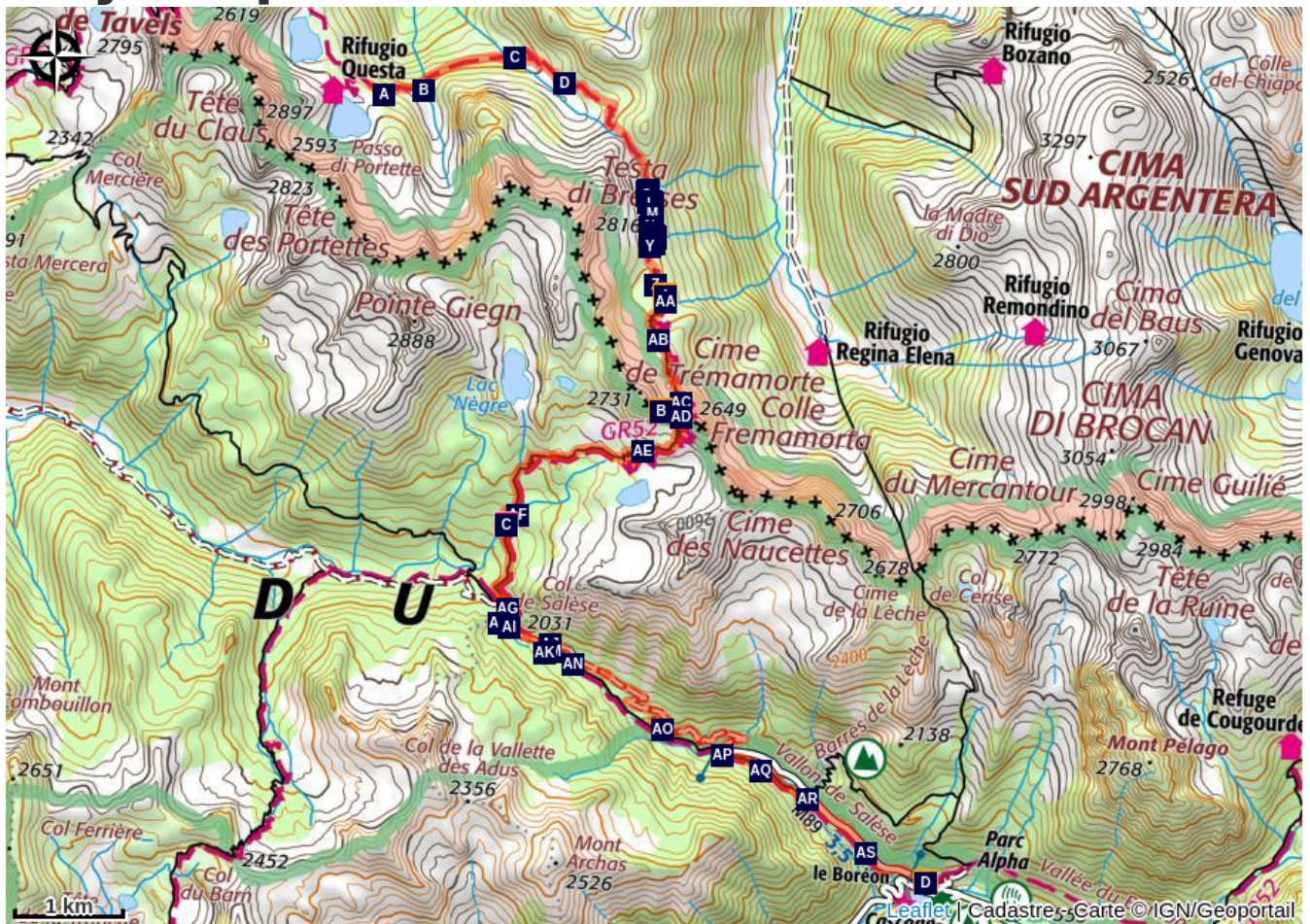
Go up the track and you will quickly reach the Col de Salèse (m.436). For 500m, follow the road along which runs GR52 and at (m.435), leave the road and head down to the bottom of the valley following the route of GR52 into a conifer forest.

Pass close to the cow barns at Salèse to reach (m.434) and the road, which you will leave very shortly afterwards to cross the valley (m.397).

Continue on the right bank along GR52, reach (m.398), cross the valley again, following the GR and go up to the road (m.399). Continue along the M89 to Le Boréon.



# On your path...



 The Umberto I shelter (A)

 Argentera granite (C)

 The Cima di Fremamorta barracks (B)

 Village of Boréon (D)

# All useful information

## **Is in the midst of the park**

The national park is an unrestricted natural area but subjected to regulations which must be known by all visitors.

## **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.

# On your path...

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## The Umberto I shelter (A)

This is in fact a large barracks, designed to house 130 soldiers and 4 officers. Built in 1894, it was readapted on three separate occasions, the last of which in 1934, when another section was added on one side of the main building to house the kitchen, and a freestanding structure was also erected. The ruins of an old storage barn and stables can be seen just above the barracks.

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj

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## The Cima di Fremamorta barracks (B)

The barracks building is an imposing structure and is still in relatively good condition: The camouflage paint on the doors is still visible, and there are a good number of windows and doors left, outside and inside. Outside, there are traces of the open-air kitchen, used by the troops during the warm months. The barracks could house a garrison of 60.

Along the last stretch of uphill trail, as well as in the nearby Val Morta, there remain a few telephone poles in larch, on which were strung the wires for communications between defensive outposts.

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj

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## Argentera granite (C)

If you look closely at this grey rock, you will see that it is made of different minerals. Quartz (grey) and feldspar (white) sometimes big with a few sparkling areas here and there on the rock. This is black mica and more specifically biotite.

You have discovered blocks of granite. All the minerals it is made up of are contiguous and visible with the naked eye. The texture is igneous, characteristic of plutonic rocks which crystallised deep in the earth.

Attribution : PIERINI Philippe



## Village of Boréon (D)

In the past, Boréon was part of Italy and only became French in 1947; its access road dates from the 1950s. This domain of more than 4000 hectares, a former reserve of the kings of Italy, essentially consists of pasture and forests. It was formerly a haunt of salt smugglers.

Today, all of this natural valley is a classified site. Its development is based on tourism which respects natural environments.

Attribution : GUIGO Franck