

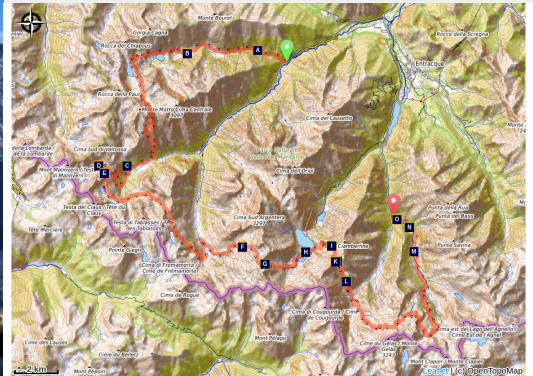


# Alta Via dei Re

Parco Naturale Alpi Marittime - Valdieri



Trekker sulle sponde del Lagarot di Fenestrelle, al cospetto del Monte Gelas (Nanni Villani)



*The Alta Via dei Re is one of the most challenging stages of the route: in the case of snow, often also in summer, the Brocan Hill and the Glacier Pass may require the use of ice axe and crampons. Many routes follow the old tracks of the Savoy hunting mule-tracks or military roads.*

The trekking takes place for the most part at fairly high altitudes, through the crystalline massif of Argentera. Peaks of more than 3000 meters, dark rocks, wild valleys, dozens of glacial lakes and the typical alpine fauna (impossible not to cross chamois and ibex) are the setting for this fascinating trip.

## Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 7 days

Length : 77.4 km

Trek ascent : 6290 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Walking breaks

Themes : Archeology and history, Fauna, Flora, Geology, Lake, Refuge, Viewpoint

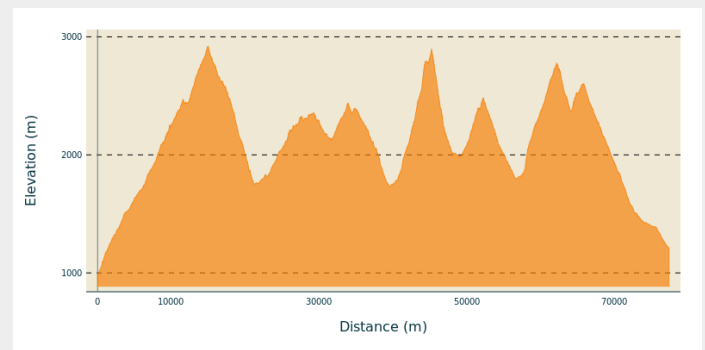
# Trek

**Departure** : Sant'Anna di Valdieri (980 m)

**Arrival** : San Giacomo di Entracque (1209 m)

**Cities** : 1. Valdieri  
2. Entracque

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 983 m    Max elevation 2919 m

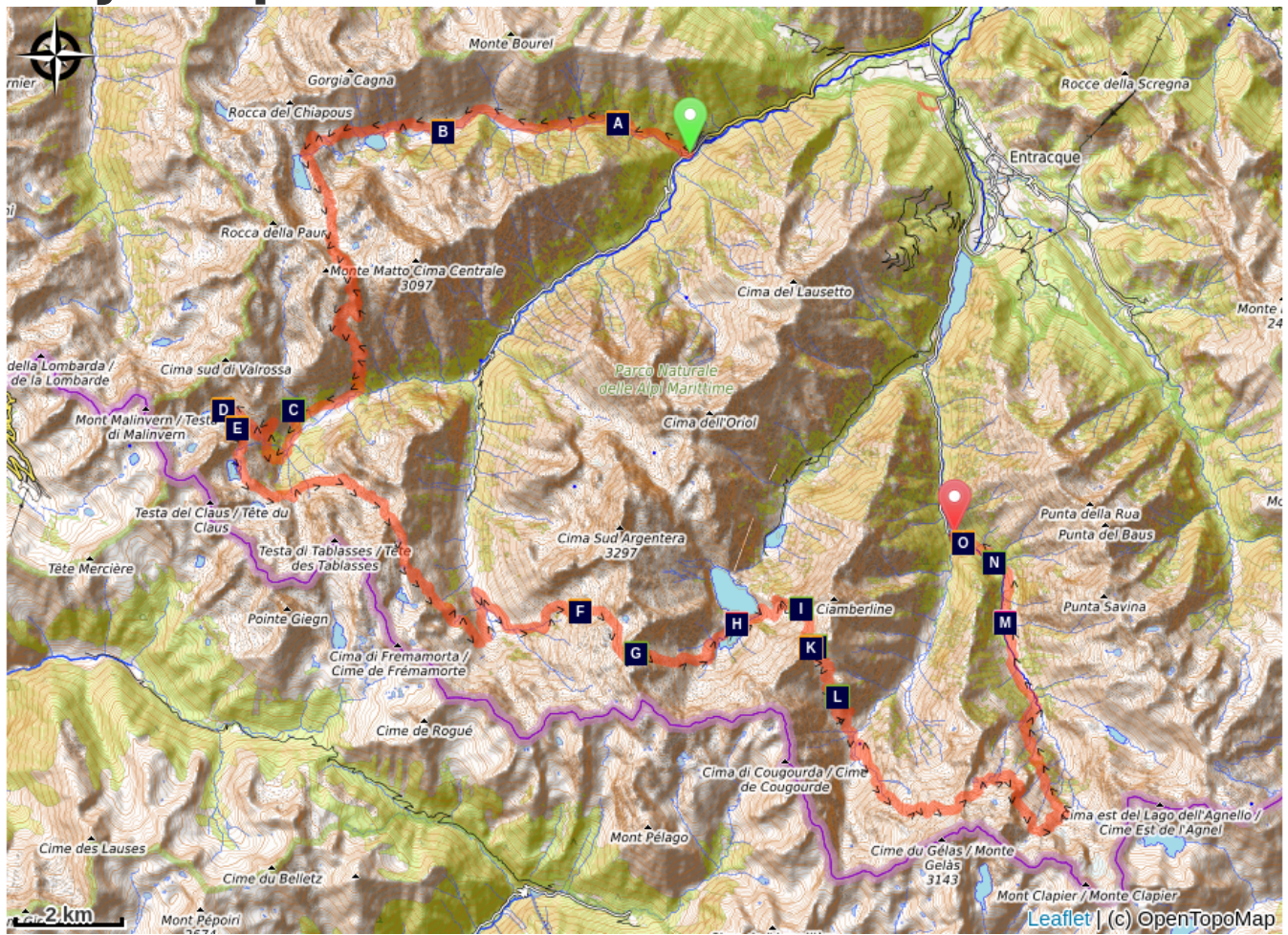
The Alta Via dei Re winds its way through seven stages in the Alpi Marittime Park. It starts in Sant' Anna di Valdieri and ends in San Giacomo di Entracque. Nights are always held in shelters that offer accommodation and, on request, lunch baskets. To return to Sant' Anna, you can use the shuttle service (on call). The ideal period is from mid-July to mid-September, subject to the possibility of encountering snow even in early summer and beyond.








## Stages :

1. Alta Via dei Re, stage 1 : from Sant'Anna di Valdieri to the Livio Bianco Refuge  
7.4 km / 896 m D+ / 3 h
2. Alta Via dei Re, stage 2 : from the D. Livio Bianco Refuge to the Valasco Refuge  
15.0 km / 1205 m D+ / 6 h
3. Alta Via dei Re, stage 3: from the Valasco Refuge to the Remondino Refuge  
14.7 km / 1498 m D+ / 6 h 24
4. Alta Via dei Re, stage 4: from Refuge Remondino to Refuge Genova Figari  
5.1 km / 466 m D+ / 3 h 30
5. Alta Via dei Re, stage 5: from Refuge Genova Figari to Refuge Soria-Ellena  
8.9 km / 561 m D+ / 3 h 30
6. Alta Via dei Re, stage 6: from Refuge Soria Ellena to Refuge Pagari  
9.6 km / 1315 m D+ / 6 h
7. Alta Via dei Re, stage 7: from Refuge Pagari to San Giacomo d'Entracque  
11.7 km / 33 m D+ / 3 h 30



# On your path...



-  The place name "Vallone della Meris" (A)
-  The larch (C)
-  The former military mule track "Valscura Barracks - Fremamorta Shelters" (E)
-  The saxifrage of Argentera (G)
-  The cleared meadows (I)
-  The Fenestrelle shelter (K)
-  The Pra del Rasur (M)

-  The place name "Chiot de la Sela" (B)
-  The Valscura Barracks (D)
-  The Remondino Refuge (F)
-  The Genova Figari Refuge (H)
-  Le bouquetin des Alpes (J)
-  The Ibex of the Alps (L)
-  The tawny owl (N)

# 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**

Carefully plan your excursion making sure you have favorable weather conditions to carry out a route in stages of considerable effort and development in high mountain territory.

## **How to come ?**

### Transports

Nuova Benese service company - Regular line Cuneo, Valdieri, Entracque -  
Telephone: 00 39 (0) 171 69 29 29 - [www.benese.it](http://www.benese.it)

SNCF line TER Provence Alpes-Côte d'Azur For travel in the PACA region and towards Cuneo [www.ter-sncf.com/pac](http://www.ter-sncf.com/pac)

Trenitalia for travel in the Piedmont region <https://www.trenitalia.com/it.html>

### Access

From Borgo San Dalmazzo, climb the valley of Gesso. After Valdieri continue in the direction of Terme until Sant' Anna.

### Advised parking

S.Anna di Valdieri

# On your path...

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## The place name "Vallone della Meris" (A)

The Vallone della Meris (or, in the masculine, the Vallone del Meris, pronounced with an accent on the 'i', differently from the normal pronunciation) owes its name to its favorable exposure, "a meriggio", at the meridian, which provides warmth and light.

Attribution : Giorgio Bernardi

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## The place name "Chiot de la Sela" (B)

This place, known as Chiot de la Sela, probably derived its name from the past presence of a small "sella", a stone structure with a barrel vault, usually partially underground, which was used to store food). Chiot de la Sela was the location of the Royal Hunting Lodges, used by the Savoyes when they hosted hunting parties in the Vallone della Meris.

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj

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## The larch (C)

This type of forest is rather localized in the Maritime Alps, which notoriously represent the realm of the beech forest. It covers the slopes at the heads of the valleys with sparse and luminous populations, sometimes grazed by the herds that have climbed the mountain pastures. Most of the time their purity is not natural, but induced by man: in fact, over the centuries, man has favored this tree species to the detriment of others, such as the stone pine, for example, because they are less favorable for exercising the grazing due to the increased shading of the soil.

Attribution : Cati Caballo





## The Valscura Barracks (D)

Since the end of the eighteen hundreds (an inscription on the remains of a shelter reads "3° Compagnia Alpini, 1888") Lower Lake Valscura was chosen as the site where troops were garrisoned to defend the strategic pass of Bassa del Druos. Beginning in 1888, when barracks were erected to house 140 soldiers and two officers, for almost fifty years buildings were constructed on this site, until the entire complex was finally transformed into an armory, officially known as A131, containing munitions, explosives and artillery pieces.

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj



## The former military mule track "Valscura Barracks - Fremamorta Shelters" (E)

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 nineteen hundreds, 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



## The Remondino Refuge (F)

The Refuge is named for Franco Remondino, Jr. Lieutenant of the Alpine Corps and budding local climber, who died during an ascent on the Rocca Gialeo. A half-barrel bivouac shelter that sleeps 12 was erected in his memory and inaugurated in 1934. It was later decided to build a real refuge on the spot, in masonry, erected thanks mostly to the financial sponsorship of the Saluzzo Battalion of the Alpine Corps, the Taurinense Division of the Army Corps of Engineers and the 1st Airborne Brigade and inaugurated in 1965. Additional restructuring and extensions were completed in the year 2000.

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj



## ✿ The saxifrage of Argentera (G)

The Argentera saxifrage (*Saxifraga florulenta*) is a herbaceous species already present on the mountains of the Argentera-Mercantour group before the ice ages. It lives in the fissures of siliceous rocks above 1600 meters of altitude. One of its most interesting characteristics is its very slow development: every year it produces very few leaves, it blooms after an interminable vegetative phase producing a panicle full of a hundred pinkish-white flowers and then dies, not before having dispersed thousands of tiny seeds.

Attribution : Cati Caballo



## 🏠 The Genova Figari Refuge (H)

To valorize the hiking trails along the Argentera Massif, in the last years of the nineteenth century the Liguria chapter of CAI decided to build a refuge near the upper Gias del Monighet, in the Vallone della Rovina. The Genova Refuge, as it was named, was inaugurated on 15 August 1898.

But the fate of the first refuge in the Maritime Alps was definitively sealed in 1968: the reservoir of the new Chiotas dam would submerge it permanently. ENEL assumed the task of building another refuge, which was inaugurated in 1981.

The refuge is named for Bartolomeo Figari, who as Secretary General of CAI saw both the successful conquest of K2 and the birth of the National Alpine Rescue Corps, to which he bequeathed all his worldly goods.

Attribution : Archivio EAM



## ✿ The cleared meadows (I)

At the highest altitudes there are cleared meadows, the typical alpine pastures; they are composed of herbaceous species capable of covering soils normally closed to woody species, which, due to the very short vegetative period, cannot find suitable conditions for their development. Grazing by wild ungulates and, sometimes, by domestic sheep affects their composition, even if the most severe factor for species selection is represented by the climate.

Attribution : Cati Caballo



## Le bouquetin des Alpes (J)

Colle di Fenestrelle, as well as the surrounding area, is very popular with the ibex.

The Alpine ibex (*Capra ibex*), frequents alpine meadows and rock faces even above 3000 m, reaching the valley floor (provided it is not wooded) only in early spring, to be able to refresh itself after the long winter. Both sexes have annual growth horns, but much larger in males. The coat, light beige in summer, darkens to dark brown in winter.

Sedentary, grazing, it essentially feeds on grass, integrated with mosses, lichens and leaves of mountain shrubs, especially in winter.

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj



## The Fenestrelle shelter (K)

The ruins near the pass mark the site of the Fenestrelle shelter, named for Lieutenant Angelo Bertolotti. Built in 1888 and in use until the Second World War, it could house a garrison of 10 on straw pallets. In their guidebook, entitled "La Valle Gesso", the Boggias indicate the shelter as being instead dedicated "to the memory of Angelo Bortolo, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Reg. of the Alpine Corps, who was killed on the Ortigara during the First World War".

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj



## The Ibex of the Alps (L)

Colle di Fenestrelle, as well as the surrounding area, is very popular with the ibex.

The Alpine ibex (*Capra ibex*), frequents alpine meadows and rock faces even above 3000 m, reaching the valley floor (provided it is not wooded) only in early spring, to be able to refresh itself after the long winter. Both sexes have annual growth horns, but much larger in males. The coat, light beige in summer, darkens to dark brown in winter.

Sedentary, grazing, it essentially feeds on grass, integrated with mosses, lichens and leaves of mountain shrubs, especially in winter.

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj





## The Pra del Rasur (M)

The ample meadow of the Pra del Rasur was formed towards the end of the last Ice Age, when rockslides from both sides of the valley blocked the course of the torrent. The detritus carried by the torrent itself, still quite impetuous today, gradually filled up the basin that was formed, thus creating the flat area.

Attribution : gianluca.giordano

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## The tawny owl (N)

Among nocturnal birds of prey, the owl plays an important role, both from an ecological point of view and in the human imagination. It is in fact one of the most widespread species and therefore responsible for controlling the populations of rodents in wooded areas. For our part, often confused with the owl due to its shrill calls, it has a typical song that anyone recognizes: the typical mournful owl song. It can be recognized from owls and owls by the color of its eyes: the iris is completely dark.

Attribution : Augusto Rivelli