

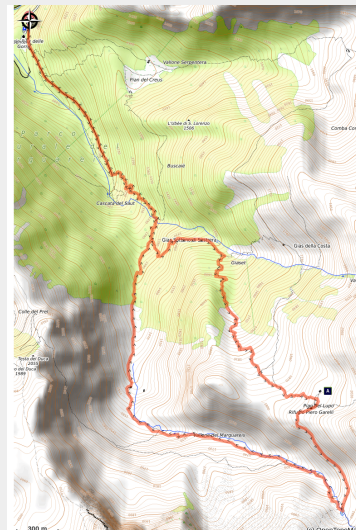


The Rifugio Garelli loop

Chiusa di Pesio



Il Rifugio Garelli con il Marguareis sullo sfondo (R)



A fairly long route, well signposted on good paths. Following the route backwards is the quickest way to Rifugio Garelli.

Undoubtedly one of the most interesting routes in the Park, through very varied surroundings, from the spruce woods at the beginning to the stunning limestone walls of the Marguareis massif, ending with rolling pastures at Gias soprano di Sestrera.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 5 h

Length : 11.8 km

Trek ascent : 1023 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : Fauna, Flora, Geology, Lake, Refuge

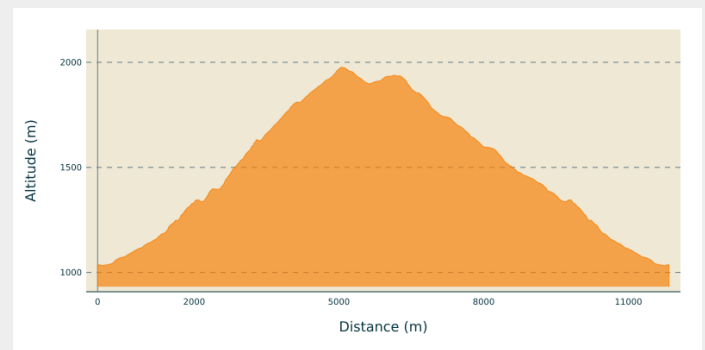
Trek

Departure : Pian delle Gorre (1032 m)

Arrival : Refuge Garelli (1966 m)

Cities : 1. Chiusa di Pesio

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1032 m Max elevation 1976 m

From Pian delle Gorre take the dirt road closed to traffic that goes into the Vallone del Saut.

Ignoring various branches and paths, you go up the dirt road to its end, near a small clearing, where you take the mule track to the Garelli Refuge on the left.

The mule track climbs steeply for a long time with a number of hairpin bends; when after a wooden bridge it levels out, it brings you to Rifugio Sestrera sottano (1341 m, 1:00 hour from Pian delle Gorre, fountain).

Leave the trail to the left that goes up to the Garelli refuge via the Vallone di Sestrera (shorter way) and carry straight on towards the Vallone del Marguareis. The path passes a beech wood, crosses the stream, then finally comes out of the woods. Continue with a long traverse amid large boulders in the pasture, ignoring the junction on the right for the Colle del Prel.

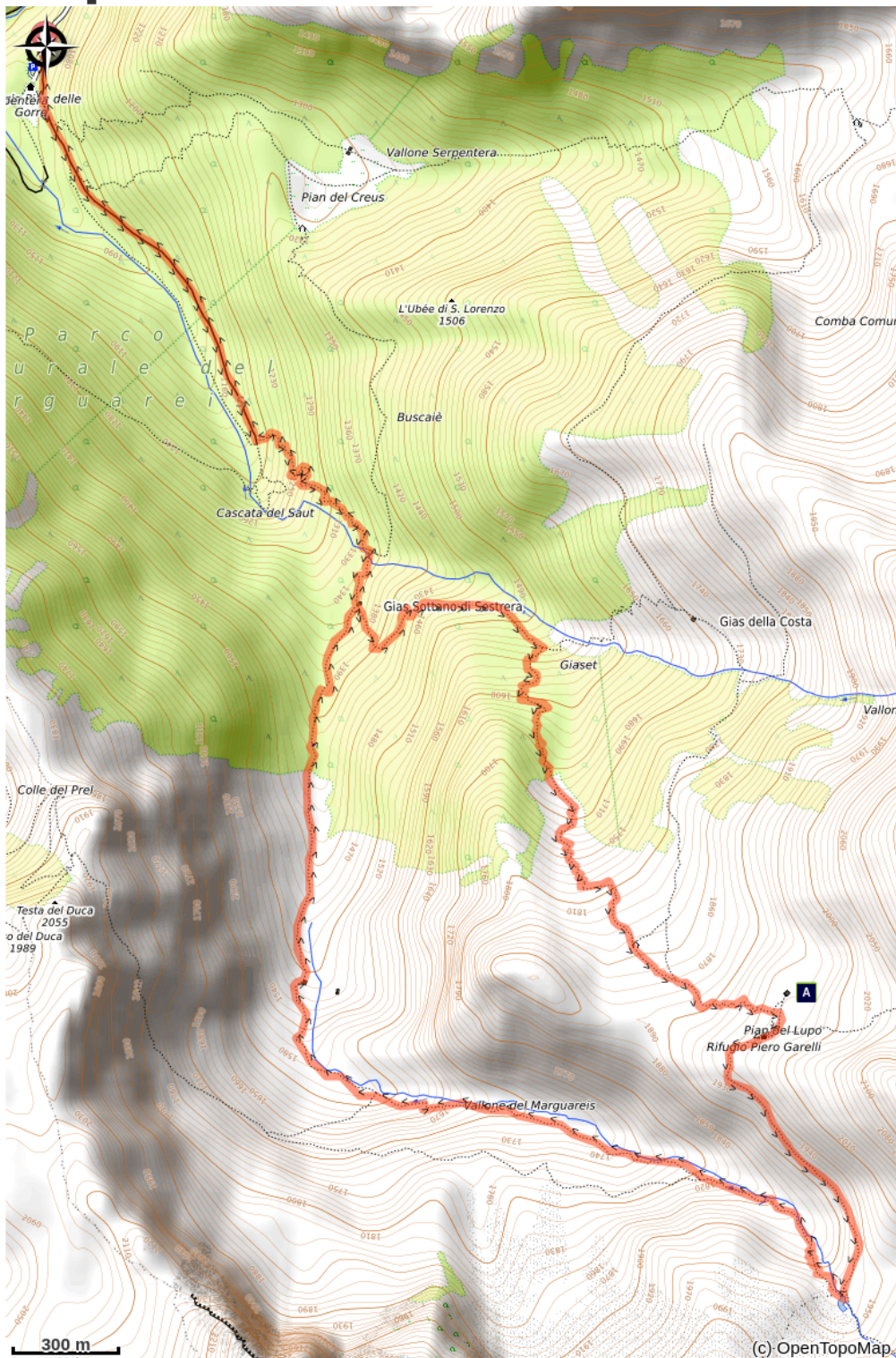
Steep ascents alternate with flatter sections leading first to Gias soprano del Marguareis, then to the Laghetto del Marguareis (1924 m, 1:50 hours from the Rifugio Sestrera sottano).

Cross the small emissary of the lake, now climbing up the left side of the valley. With various ups and downs at half-way the path takes a path almost backwards. After crossing a ridge you enter the Vallone di Sestrera at Pian del Lupo, where the Rifugio Garelli appears (1966 m, 0:20 mins from the Laghetto del Marguareis).

From the refuge, take the path that descends west-northwest to Gias soprano di Sestrera below. Continue downhill, initially with narrow stony switchbacks.

When you enter the spruce wood, the hairpin bends lengthen slightly but remain quite steep. The descent continues for a long time through the woods, until you come out into the sun at the clearing by the Rifugio Sestrera sottano (1341 m, 1:05 hours from Gias soprano di Sestrera), already passed by on the way up. From here you return to Pian delle Gorre (1032 m, 0:45 mins from Rifugio Sestrera sottano) retracing your steps.

On your path...



 The Burnat Bicknell Botanical Station (A)

 The amphibians (B)

All useful information

How to come ?

Access

From Chiusa Pesio go up the Valle Pesio to the Charterhouse (Certosa), from here follow the narrow tarmac road to Pian delle Gorre.

On your path...



✿ The Burnat Bicknell Botanical Station (A)

The site covers over 10,000 square meters, and is named after Emile Burnat and Clarence Bicknell. Burnat, a Swiss botanist, was the author of the important work 'Flores des Alpes Maritimes'; Bicknell, an English botanist active in Valle Pesio for about thirty years, he was also the first to catalogue the rock engravings of Monte Bego.

About 500 plant species typical of the Ligurian Alps are collected in the two botanical stations, offering a unique opportunity for both enthusiasts and casual visitors. Illustrative panels describe the various environments and the botanical species are easily recognizable thanks to the scientific name on the labels.

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj



🐸 The amphibians (B)

Small, helpless and often discreet, amphibians have known our land for hundreds of millions of years, even before the more famous dinosaurs populated the continents and oceans. Even today their biology has something surprising, halfway between a fish and a reptile, they inhabit very humid areas but know how to adapt to very dry environments. There are few species in the Park, some spread over large territories, others very localized: the salamander, the common frog, the toad, the rare geotriton.

Attribution : Graziano Pala