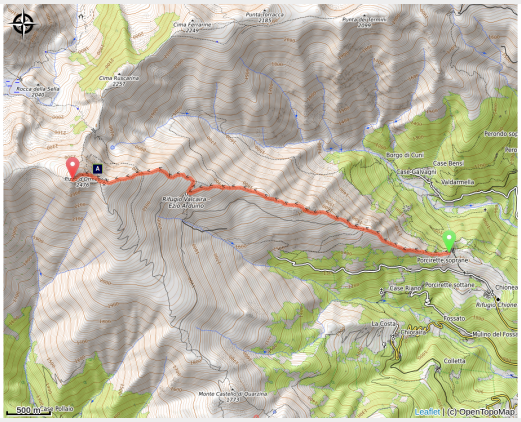
Il Rifugio Valcaira - Arduino e il Pizzo d'Ormea



La quota 2365 a sinistra, e il Pizzo d'Ormea sulla destra; in primo piano una segnaletica non convenzionale ma efficace... (Roberto Pockaj)

A fairly strenuous climb, both because of the gain in height and the gradient of the path; towards the end of the route the path tends to get lost here and there. To reach the summit you will have to use your hands to cover a few metres of the route.

An enchanting climb which sstays on the long ridge running down to the south from Pizzo d'Ormea. Pastures lower down, rhododendron higher up and sweeping vistas as you climb. On clear autumn days you can see from Corsica to Monte Rosa.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 3 h 54

Length : 5.2 km

Trek ascent : 1262 m

Difficulty : Medium

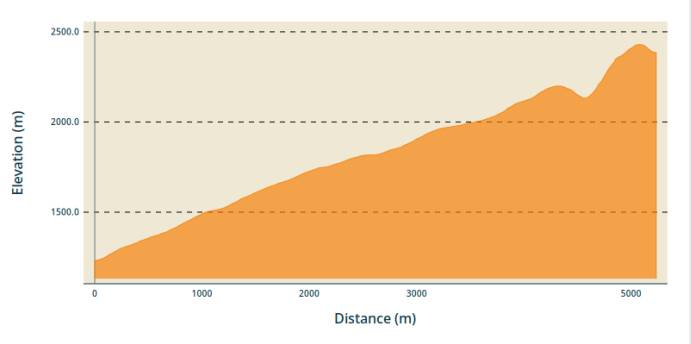
Type : Round trip

Themes : Flora, Geology, Peak

Trek

Departure : Chionea (1154 m)
Arrival : Pizzo d'Ormea (2480 m)
Cities : 1. Ormea

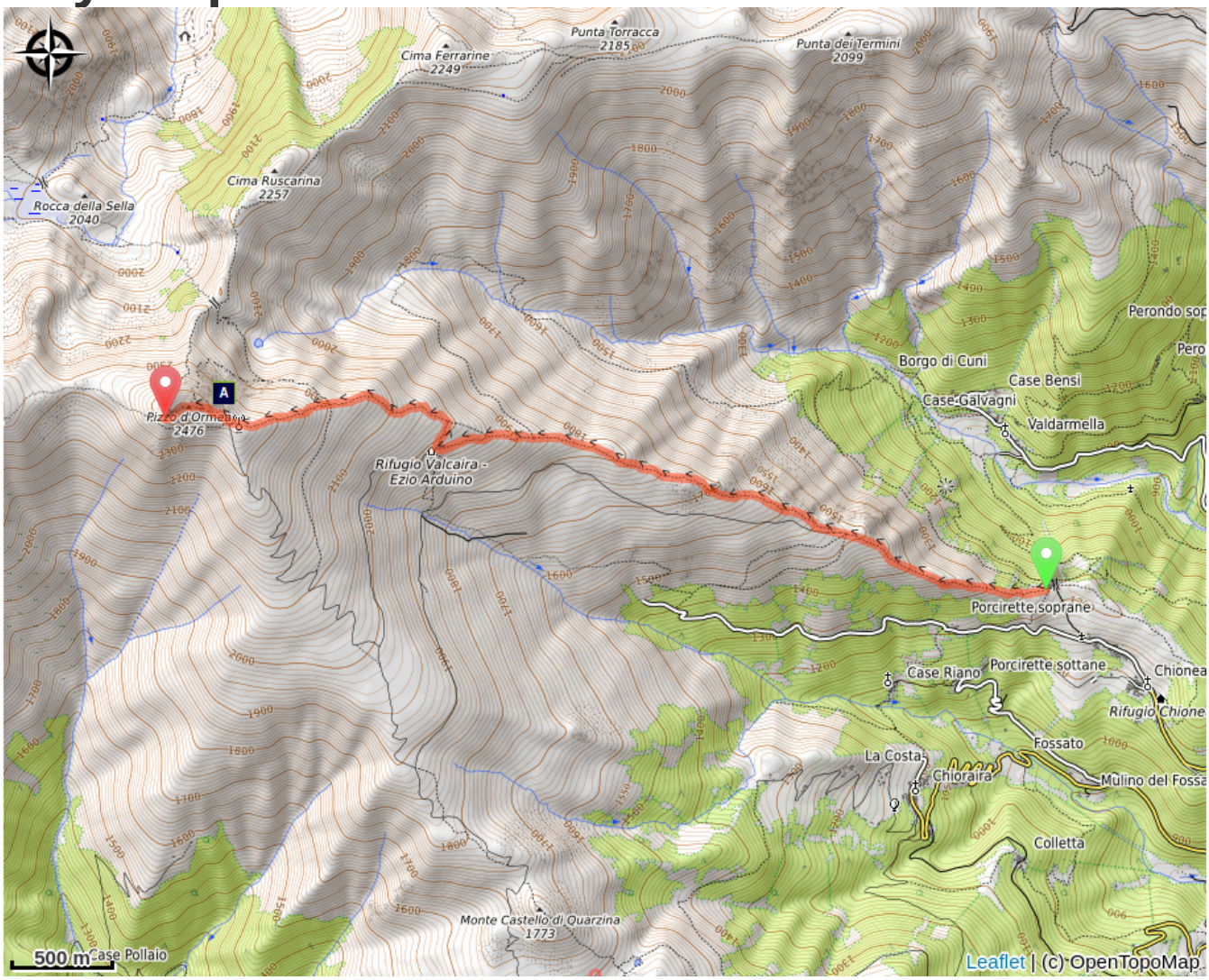
Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1231 m Max elevation 2429 m

Take the paved road that climbs to the right beside the church of Chionea. Beyond the houses, turn right onto a mule track, the first part is concrete, then paved, it brings you to the Colla di Chionea (1223 m, 0:20 mins from Chionea).
At the pass there is a crossroads: take the first path on the left, which leads through sparse shrubs and outcropping rocks to a sunny watershed.
The ascent, always close to the ridge of the Costa Valcaira, is quite tiring. Once you reach a flat grassy area with a drinking trough, leave the dirt track
and you find the trail signs at the end of the plateau, on the right.
Alternating between the north and south side of the ridge, at an altitude of about 1880 m ignore a track that crosses the path, then, after another
steep slope, turn left onto a path that cuts across the slope to the Valcaira - Ezio Arduino Refuge (about 1990 m, 2:15 hours from the Colla di Chionea).
From the refuge, head north/north-east, returning to the ridge where, at the helicopter landing pad, you re-encounter the path to the summit abandoned just below.
Follow it to the left, climbing a steep slope covered with rhododendrons; leave the path to the lake and the Colla del Pizzo on the right and to first
reach the summit 2365 m, then the saddle to the east of Pizzo d'Ormea (mast). Zig-zag up the steep incline that leads down from the summit, and
using your hands pass some easy rocks (difficulty E/EE). The path (a little exposed) then forks: going left you reach the summit of Pizzo d'Ormea (2476 m, 1:20
hours from Rifugio Valcaira - Ezio Arduino).

On your path...



The golden eagle (A)

All useful information

How to come ?

Access

From Ceva climb the Tanaro valley to Ormea. At the bottom of Piazza della Libertà take the small surfaced road that goes up to Chionea and Chioraira. At the first junction turn right, following the signs for Chionea. Only a few parking spaces are available.

On your path...

The golden eagle (A)

Few hikers who frequent the mountain have seen it or think they have seen it. Many rejoiced, because the eagle is one of the emblems of our Alps and has filled countless stories, sagas and legends. Today, after forty years of protection, it is possible to observe it in every Alpine valley, while it circles high intent on guarding its territory. Finally, few have been able to see it while hunting, as it flies over the slopes at a very low altitude, ready to surprise its prey.

Attribution : Giordano Michelangelo