

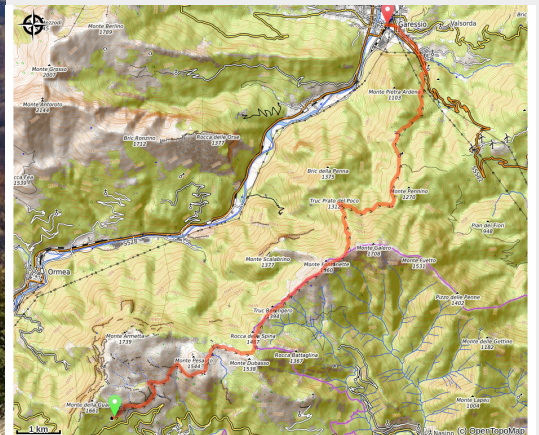


Alto Tanaro Tour, stage 8: from Rifugio Pian dell'Arma to Garessio

Ormea



Albenga e il mar Ligure (Roberto Pockaj)



Most of the route is along easy ridge paths. Beyond Fontana delle Meraviglie there is a succession of dirt roads and logging tracks to Garessio.

A rather spectacular stage for two thirds of the route, from the start to the base of the steep slope below Monte Galero, all along wide grassy ridges, with the sea on one side and the Alps on the horizon on the other. Then it is easy to get disorientated, with paths, mule tracks, logging tracks, sometimes in poor repair and always in woodland. The old town of Garessio is well worth a visit.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 6 h 30

Length : 17.3 km

Trek ascent : 595 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Walking breaks

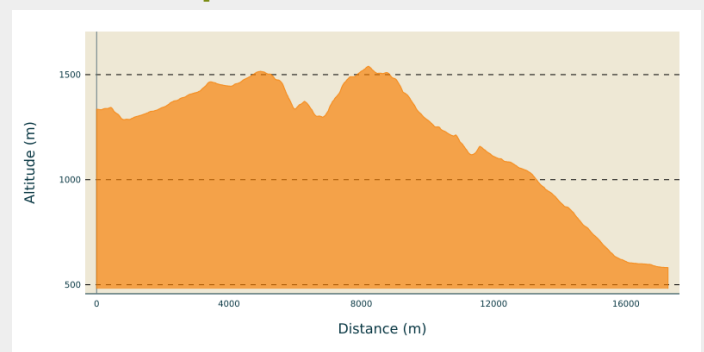
Themes : Archeology and history, Architecture, Fauna, Flora, Geology

Departure : Rifugio Pian dell'Arma (1339 m)

Arrival : Garessio, Borgo Ponte (584 m)

Cities : 1. Ormea
2. Garessio

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 581 m Max elevation 1540 m

Below the Pian dell'Arma Refuge (1339 m), follow the dirt track to the left; go up to the left to a house and follow a path towards the north-east. Go up to the left in a gully, with narrow hairpin bends, to the meadow on the ridge above. Turn left, following the waymarking on the wide ridge among forks in the path and dirt tracks; then by a renovated mountain hut, take the path that branches off to the right and goes up quite steeply to the Colla Bassa.

Turn right (north) following the wide grassy ridge to the summit of Monte Armetta (1744 m, 1:25 hours from Pian dell'Arma Refuge).

From the summit descend to the east through meadows, then the path turns to the south-east and quickly loses altitude reaching the wide basin of Pian del Colle.

Here you enter a small track going right, go to the right again when you meet the next dirt road. The road runs along the edge of a wood, makes a long curve to the left intersected by a shortcut and arrives at Colle San Bartolomeo (1446 m, 0:50 mins from Monte Armetta).

Beyond the road, take the path that goes up to Monte Dubasso; before reaching the summit it turns to the north, returning to the watershed. The path rises and falls along the ridge that leads to Colle del Prione (1297 m, 1:00 hour from Colle San Bartolomeo), where a dirt road crosses.

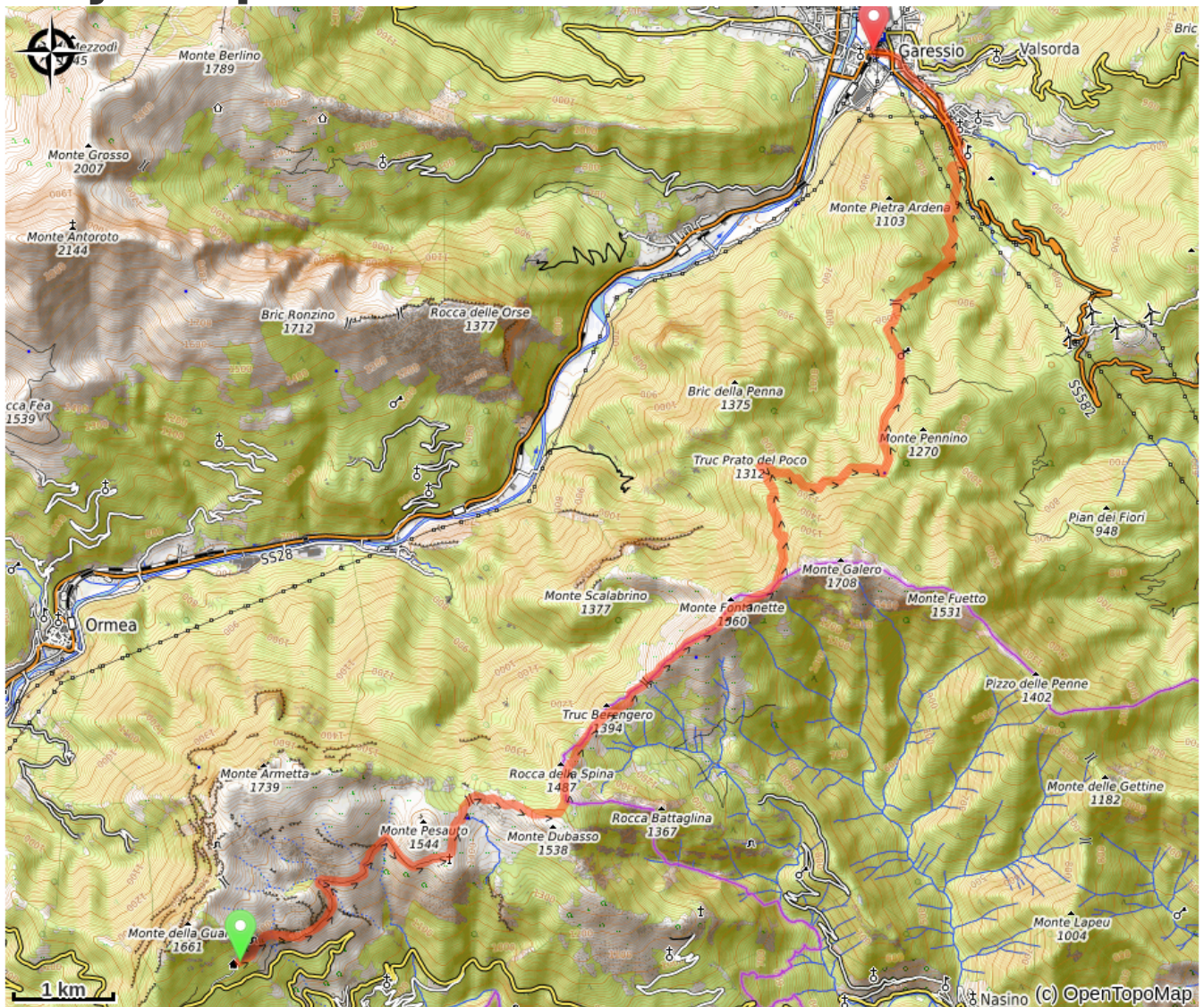
Take the path in front that climbs steeply to Costa del Prione leading to the foot of very steep ridge of Monte Galero (about 1507 m, 0:55 mins from Colle del Prione). Leave the branch for Monte Galero to the right, and go left, descending through beech woods to Prato del Poco.

Turn right (east) on an old logging track; to the Rio Bianco valley, devastated by a landslide, take a left on a path that drops down for a long time through beech trees then quickly regains altitude and arrives at the Fontana delle Meraviglie (1174 m, 1:00 hour from the Monte Galero ridge). A little higher up is a dirt road, keep left here, ignoring numerous branches to the left, until you pass the ruins of the Cappella di Sant'Anna and continue the descent to the Colletto di Pennino, a small crossroads where you see the Pilone di Sant'Anna (969 m, 0:35 mins from the Fontana delle Meraviglie).

Turn right onto the mule track that continues into the wood: ignore the turnings on the left for Monte Pietra Ardena and right for Pianchette, the descent continues on a badly eroded stretch. The endless side branches are ignored and finally we arrive at the Ponte dei Corni (642 m, 0:40 mins from the Pilone di Sant'Anna), which leads to the provincial road.

Follow it to the left up to the nearby church: here you turn right into Via Cavour, entering the historic centre of Garessio, Borgo Maggiore. Take Via Cavour, the Provincial Road 213 and Corso Statuto. The stage ends by convention in Piazza Vittorio Veneto, in Borgo Ponte di Garessio (584 m, 0:25 mins from Ponte dei Corni).

On your path...



All useful information

How to come ?

Transports

Linea Mondovì – Imperia Autolinee RT Piemonte Srl
Riviera Trasporti Piemonte S.r.l.
Viale Piaggio 38 - 12078 Ormea (Cn)
Telefono Centralino: 0183.7001
Contatti e-mail <http://www.rtpiemonte.it/index.php/contatti-azienda>
Orari <http://www.rtpiemonte.it/Upload/Orari/202.pdf>

Access

From Ceva go up the Tanaro valley passing Garessio and Ormea, following signs for Imperia to Cantarana, where you turn left for Caprauna. Just past the Colle di Caprauna, a dirt track to the left leads to the Rifugio Pian dell'Arma.