

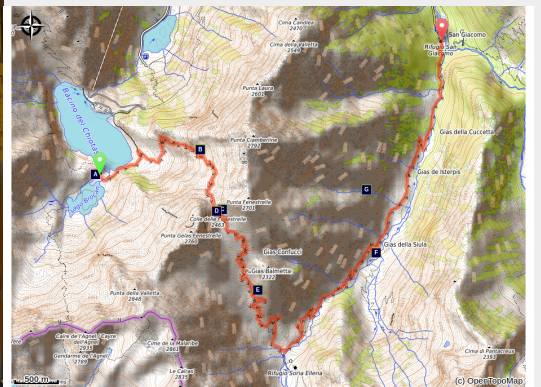


# GTAM - Stage 8: Genova refuge - San Giacomo d'Entracque

Parco Naturale Alpi Marittime - Entracque



Col Fenestrelle (Fabrice Henon)



*After a short climb, the descent down the south-eastern slopes of Col de Fenestrelle reaches the Soria-Ellena refuge. The last descent then begins towards San Giacomo di Entracque, along a track which can be used by vehicles.*

The locality of San Giacomo, located where the Moncolomb and Barra valleys join, was chosen by King Victor Emmanuel II as the site for a hunting lodge.

## Useful information

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Practice : Hiking

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Duration : 5 h

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Length : 13.9 km

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Trek ascent : 545 m

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Difficulty : Medium

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Type : Longer treks

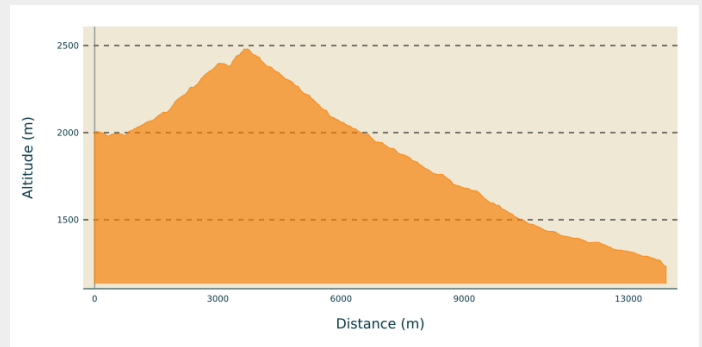
# Trek

**Departure** : Genova refuge

**Arrival** : San Giacomo d'Entracque

**Cities** : 1. Entracque

## Altimetric profile

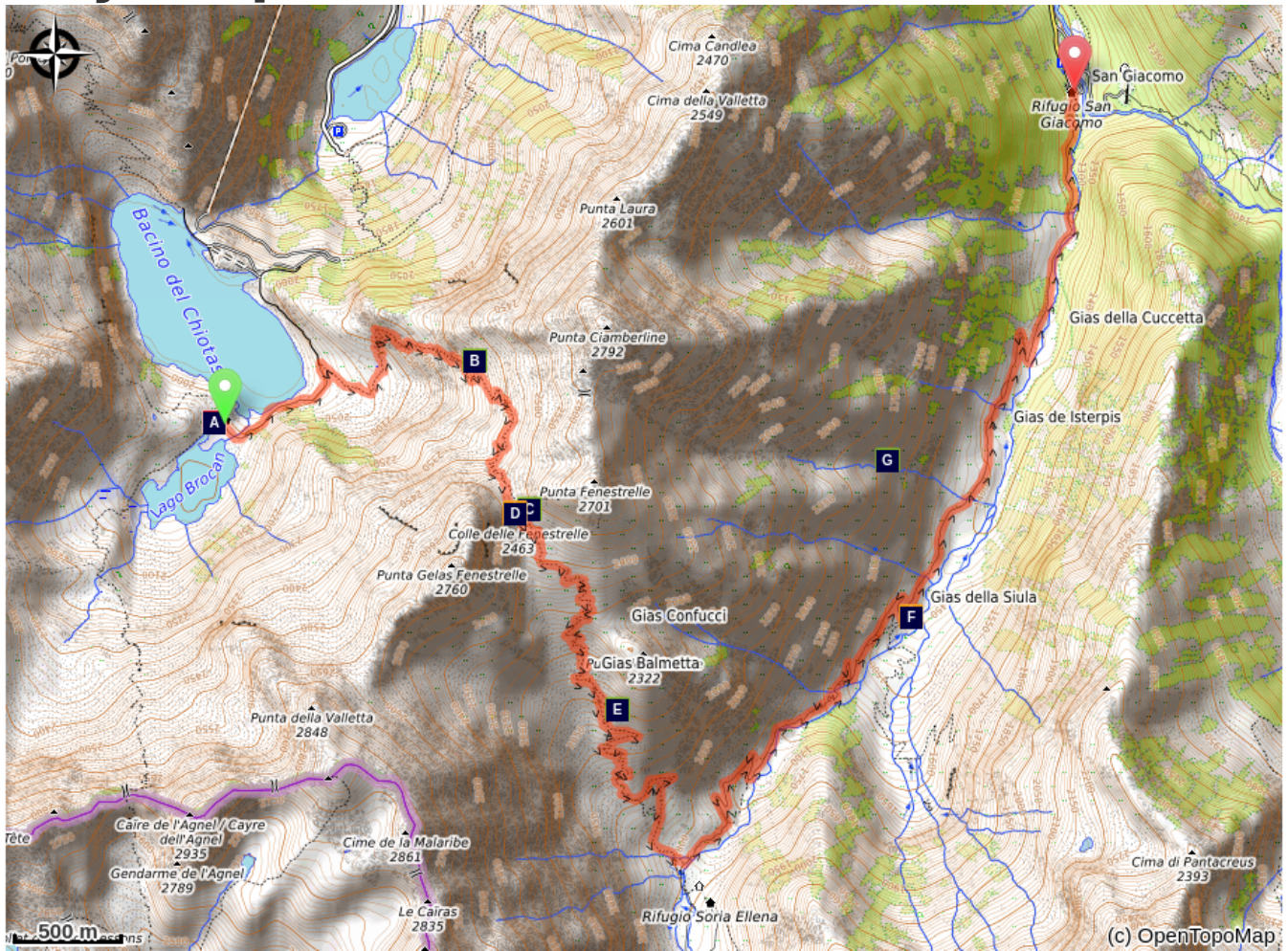






Min elevation 1233 m Max elevation 2480 m




When you leave the Genova refuge, turn left onto the track which runs alongside the shores of Bacino del Chiotas. Having crossed a mountain stream, turn right onto the path which begins with a few staircases following the white and red GTA Colle di Fenestrelle markers. Head up a series of fine hairpin bends heading through grassy slopes until you reach a promontory at 2300 metres, which is where the path heads downhill for a few metres (white and red markers supplemented by orange ones). After a valley where snow can remain on the ground late into the season (proceed with caution), turn right on a flatter section. Go across two large permanent pools on the left then on the right before reaching Colle Fenestrelle at 2463 metres. Continue along the M11 path with white and red markers and you will first reach some ruins below the col and then a flatter grassy section at 2412 metres. Continue the descent along this pleasant path until you reach the bottom of the Gias Alve valley, below the Ellena Soria refuge at 1783 metres altitude. Turn left onto the track which can be used by vehicles following the M11 GTA red and white markers. At an altitude of 1738 metres, you can turn right onto an unmarked path to take a shortcut across a few of the hairpin bends on the track. Go past the foot of the high-altitude waterfall at 1409 metres altitude then head alongside the cow barn. Continue along the track to reach the hamlet of San Giacomo at an altitude of 1202 metres.



# On your path...



-  The Genova Figari Refuge (A)
-  Le bouquetin des Alpes (C)
-  The Ibex of the Alps (E)
-  The bearded vulture (G)

-  The cleared meadows (B)
-  The Fenestrelle shelter (D)
-  The Piazzale dei Cannoni (F)

# All useful information

# On your path...

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## The Genova Figari Refuge (A)

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

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## The cleared meadows (B)

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

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## Le bouquetin des Alpes (C)

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

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## The Fenestrelle shelter (D)

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>o</sup> Reg. of the Alpine Corps, who was killed on the Ortigara during the First World War".

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj

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## The Ibex of the Alps (E)

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

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## The Piazzale dei Cannoni (F)

The name Piazzale dei Cannoni, or better still, Piana dei Cannoni, is due to the presence there of the 181st Artillery Battery, armed with 210/8 mortars, during the Second World War. The mortar emplacements are just south of the dirt road, along the slope, but they are not easy to spot. On the opposite side of the valley, across the torrent, there are the remains of probable logistical outposts and even an open-air kitchen.

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj





## The bearded vulture (G)

The bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*), also known as the lamb vulture, has a wingspan that can reach 285cm and can weigh more than 6 kilos. An accomplished glider, it can exploit even the mildest ascending thermals. It is a carrion eater, feeding exclusively on carcasses of dead animals, ungulates for the most part, both wild and domestic. It consumes bones, cartilage and ligaments, and is known to drop bones from great heights in order to break them into manageable pieces. Monogamous and long-lived, the bearded vulture nests on rocky cliff faces at altitudes between 1,000 and 3,000 meters.

Attribution : Michelangelo Giordano