



On the mineral trail - Tour of the Marguareis Nature Park

Chiusa di Pesio



Randonnée Marguareis. Ail à fleurs de narcisse, (*Allium narcissiflorum*), dans le Marguareis. (Roger Settimo - PNM)



This circuit around the most famous mountain in the Ligurian Alps, La Punta Marguareis (2651m) takes place through an extraordinary karst landscape, with a wide variety of environments and atmospheres.

Nickname "I piccoli Dolomiti" (the little Dolomites), this is a very wild protected area. The clear views provide you with beautiful panoramas, all the way to the Mediterranean.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 4 days

Length : 53.1 km

Trek ascent : 3736 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Walking breaks

Trek

Departure : Plan de Gorre

Arrival : Plan de Gorre

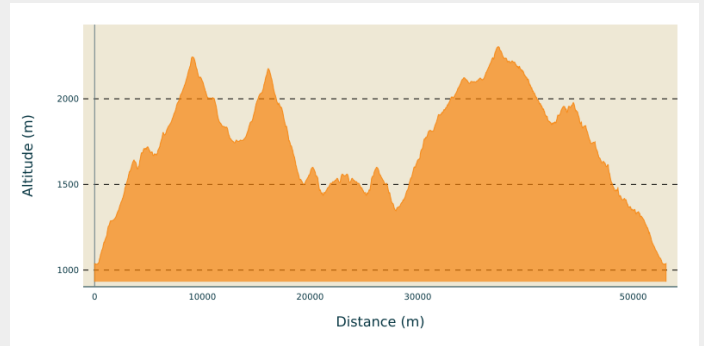
Cities : 1. Chiusa di Pesio

2. Briga Alta

3. Ormea

4. La Brigue

Altimetric profile

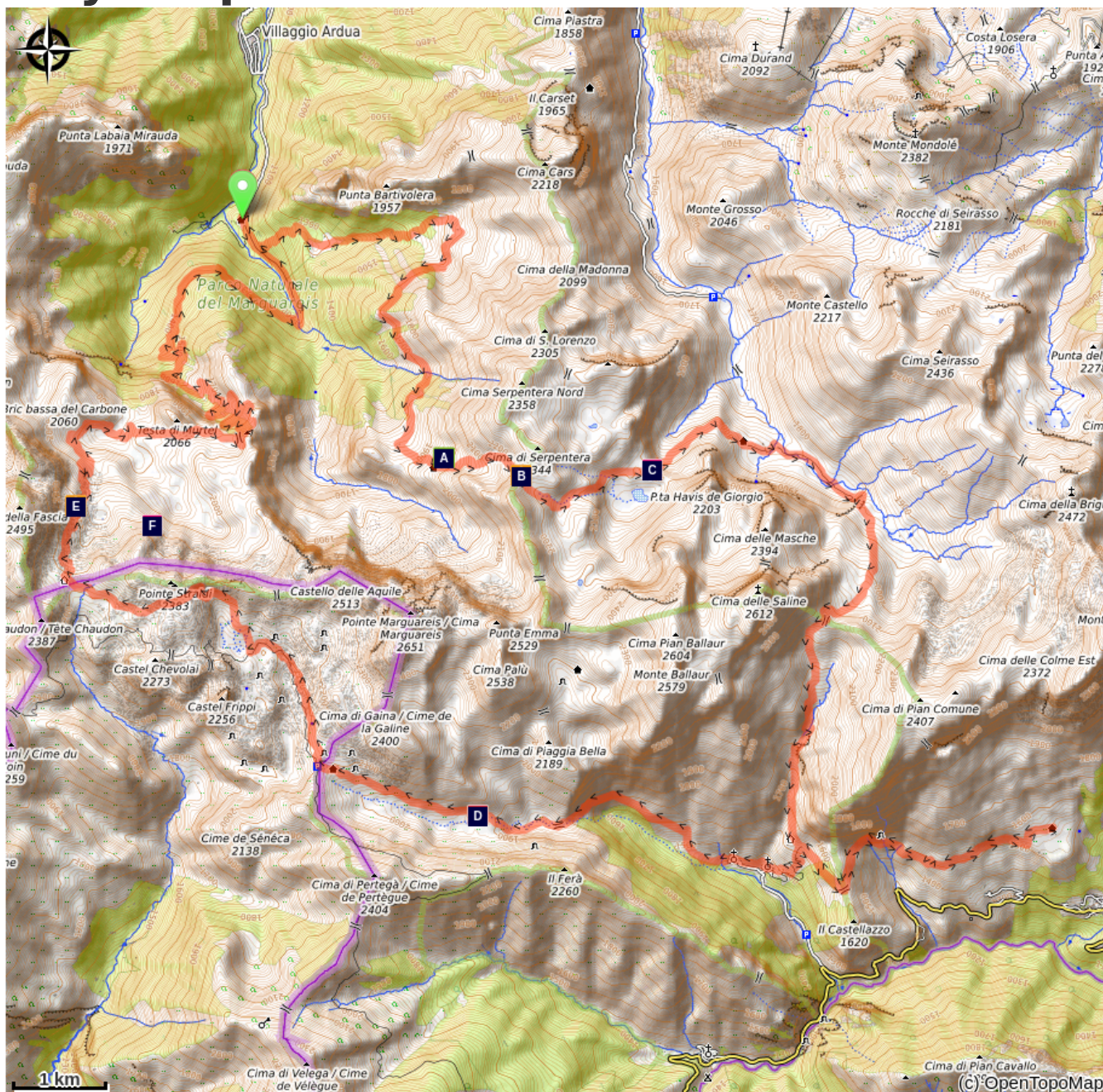


Min elevation 1032 m Max elevation 2304 m

Stages :

1. On the mineral trail - Tour of the Marguareis Nature Park - Stage 1
12.5 km / 1365 m D+ / 6 h 30
2. On the mineral trail - Tour of the Marguareis Nature Park - Stage 2
10.7 km / 727 m D+ / 5 h
3. On the mineral trail - Tour of the Marguareis Nature Park - Stage 3
10.7 km / 976 m D+ / 5 h
4. On the mineral trail - Tour of the Marguareis Nature Park - Stage 4
18.9 km / 654 m D+ / 5 h 30

On your path...



 The Burnat Bicknell Botanical Station (A)

 The furrowed fields (C)

 The invasion road (E)

 Pier Mario Garelli (B)

 The Chapel of Sant'Erim and the Selle Refuge in Carnino (D)

 La Conca delle Cársene (F)

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

This itinerary takes place along high-valley Alpine paths. The accommodation sites listed are the only ones which are available along this route. Before heading off on a hike, ensure that you have studied the safety advice. If you are setting off on this hike in the early part of the season, you will need to take particular care as patches of snow can still be present in higher areas.

How to come ?

Access

From Chiusa di Pesio (Province of Cuneo) head towards La Valle Pesio until you reach Certosa, then follow the narrow tarmacked road which leads to Pian delle Gorre. Pay-and-display carpark in summer.

Advised parking

Rifugio Pian delle Gorre (1032 m)

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



🕒 Pier Mario Garelli (B)

The refuge was dedicated to Pier Mario Garelli when it was built. He was known to all as Piero, a lawyer and climbing partner of Sandro Comino. President of the CAI of Mondovì, immediately after the armistice he joined the Resistance, with the III Alpine Division operating in Val Casotto. He was arrested in Mondovì, and initially locked up in Turin. On May 25, 1944 he was transferred to the concentration camp at Fossoli, then to Bolzano and finally to the concentration camp at Mauthausen. He died in the subcamp of Gusen, just before the end of hostilities.

Attribution : CAI Mondovì



📖 The furrowed fields (C)

The 'furrowed fields' (also called 'carried fields' due to the shapes that vaguely recall the furrows left by the wheels of carts in the mud) are erosion phenomena typical of limestone rocks, due to the runoff of rainwater.

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj



The Chapel of Sant'Erim and the Selle Refuge in Carnino (D)

The Chapel of Sant'Erim (Chapel of Sant'Elmo) was built following the saint's apparitions here to groups of shepherds. Tradition has it that a mass was celebrated here every year on the day the cattle went up to the mountain pastures.

The Rifugio Selle di Carnino was built from a shepherds hut by the Ligurian Section of the CAI . It was used until the Second World War when it was seriously damaged and definitively abandoned.

[A. Parodi, R. Pockaj, A. Costa - Nel cuore delle Alpi Liguri, collana Sentieri e Rifugi, Andrea Parodi Editore, 2012, p.42]

Attribution : Archivio EAM



The invasion road (E)

The former military road 194 (also known as the Invasion Road) should have connected the Certosa di Pesio with the Colle della Boaria. Begun

in 1940, as a matter of urgency, work was interrupted in September 1941, with several sections still unfinished.

It was considered of dubious strategic utility by some, indeed it could have facilitated a possible invasion by the French, by others it was considered a road built with the aim of opening an Italian attack route towards France.

[Le strade dei cannoni, pp.219-224]

Attribution : Archivio EAM



La Conca delle Càrsene (F)

The Conca delle Càrsene is a vast plateau consisting of limestone rocks, characterized by expanses of bare, white rocks alternating with grassy cover.

It manifests the typical aspects of karst areas with limestone pavement, dolines and sinkholes. A superficial hydrographic network is completely missing: rain and snow meltwater are immediately absorbed and give rise to the resurgence of Pis del Pesio, located several hundred metres below.

Curiously, there are also areas located beyond the Alpine watershed, such as Plan Ambreuge, that are part of the catchment area, so water falling south of the Alps, after an underground journey, flow out on the Italian side.

[Alpi Liguri, p.80]

[La Guida del Parco Alta Valle Pesio e Tanaro, pp.46-47]

Attribution : Archivio EAM