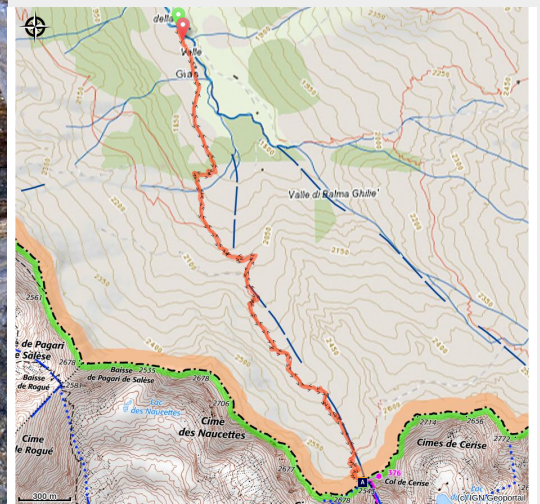




The Colle di Ciriegia

Parco Naturale Alpi Marittime - Valdieri



La targa commemorativa posta sulla Casermetta al Colle di Ciriegia in occasione del 25° anniversario del Parco (Roberto Pockaj)

Easy climb, of moderate length, to the Colle di Ciriegia, which, along with the Colle di Finestra, is one of the most commonly used passes that lead over the border from the Valle Gesso to France. The route begins on a well-cleared mule track and continues on a good trail.

Except for a few larches and some copses of green alders at the start of the climb, the trail passes through a wild, boulder-strewn detritic valley.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 2 h 33

Length : 8.5 km

Trek ascent : 909 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Round trip

Themes : Archeology and history, Fauna, Geology, Viewpoint

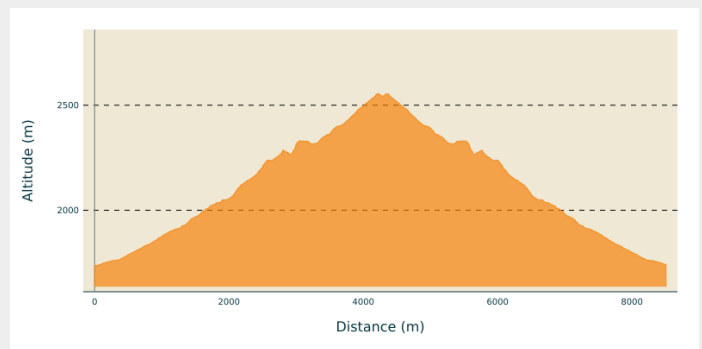
Trek

Departure : Pian della Casa del Re (1735 m)

Arrival : Colle di Ciriegia (2543 m)

Cities : 1. Valdieri

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1736 m Max elevation 2555 m

After crossing the wooden bridge over the Gesso della Valletta torrent, the route follows the mule track that crosses Pian della Casa del Re (1735 m). The mule track climbs with a few broad switchbacks up grassy detritic slopes dotted with larches until it comes to a triple fork: the route continues along the middle trail, ignoring the one on the right, which leads to the intermediate Lake Fremamorta (unmarked and reserved for expert hikers only) and the one on the left (marked) to the Regina Elena Refuge.

A bit further on, the route passes by a turnoff on the right, also for the intermediate Lake Fremamorta.

After passing through a copse of green alders, the trail circumnavigates a rockslide with a few stone steps. Arriving at the foot of a rocky outcropping, the trail surmounts it with tight switchbacks and two long traverses, passing first on the orographic right side of the valley and then returning to the left one again.

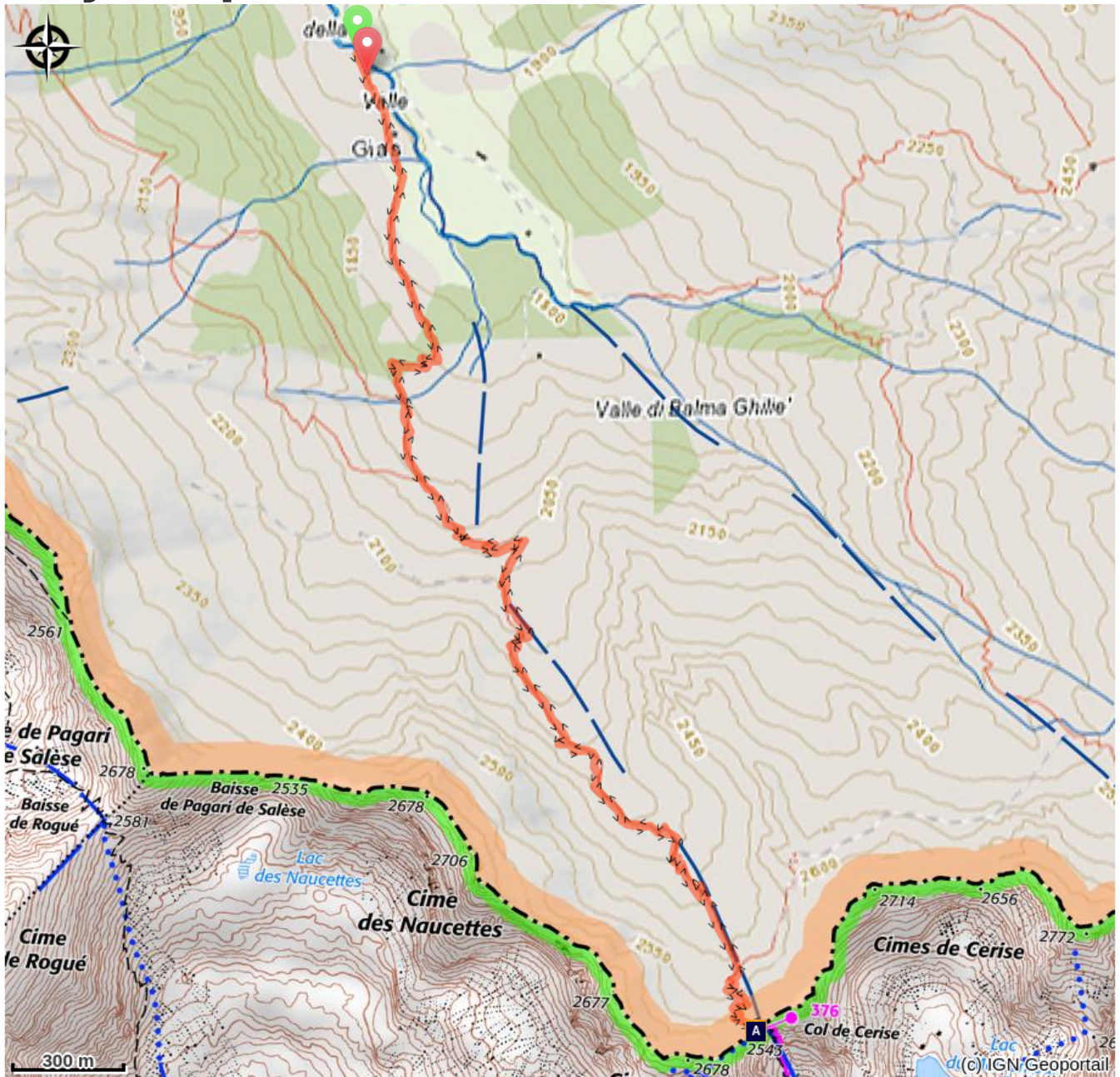
Now passing through fields of detritus, the mule track becomes a trail and passes by the remains of a small former military shelter, then winds past several large fallen boulders.

After climbing up another detritic slope, the trail proceeds through rubble until reaching a fork: the two paths come together again further on, but the one on the left is recommended.

The trail continues uphill on the orographic right; it passes by the turnoff to the left on the mule track for the Vallone di Balma GhiliÈ, shifts once again to the orographic left side of the valley and, in a series of long but fairly steep switchbacks, leads over the rock-strewn slope that precedes the barracks erected to house the troops defending the pass.

The Colle di Ciriegia pass (2543 m, 2 hours and 35 minutes from Pian della Casa del Re) is just a few meters beyond the remains of the military barracks.

On your path...



 Trails of Freedom (A)

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.

How to come ?

Transports

Nuova Benese service company - Regular line Cuneo, Valdieri, Entracque -
Telephone: 00 39 (0) 171 69 29 29 - www.benese.it

SNCF line TER Provence Alpes-Côte d'Azur For travel in the PACA region and
towards Cuneo www.ter-sncf.com/pac

Trenitalia for travel in the Piedmont region <https://www.trenitalia.com/it.html>

Access

From Borgo San Dalmazzo go up the Valle Gesso. After Valdieri, continue up to Terme. Passing behind the Hotel Terme, go up to the left in the Vallone della Valletta until the end of the road (dirt in the last stretch) at Pian della Casa.

Advised parking

Pian della Casa del Re (1735 m)

On your path...



Trails of Freedom (A)

Between the 8th and 13th of September, 1943, just days after Italy's surrender, about twelve hundred Jewish civilians of all ages and walks of life, originating from Saint-Martin Vésubie, crossed the Alps together with the Italian troops of the IV Army Corps. On foot, following two different routes, over the Colle di Finestra and the Colle di Ciriegia, the refugees arrived, respectively, in Entracque and Valdieri, where they were housed in the barracks and wherever else possible. A plaque affixed to the wall of the barracks at Colle di Ciriegia commemorates these events.

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj