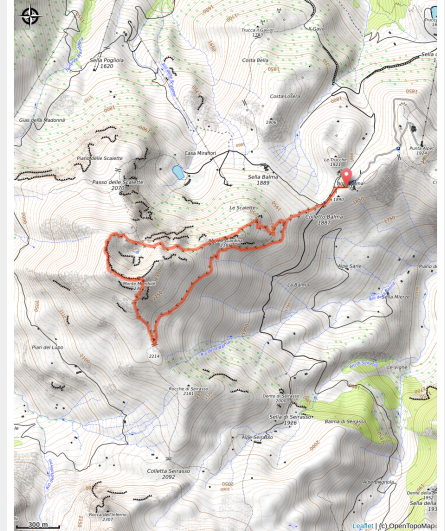




Mount Mondolè



Il Monte Fantino dal sentiero per il Monte Mondolè (Roberto Pockaj)



The trails are quite narrow, often clearly visible but not along the entire loop, and the signage isn't exactly perfect. A very short section leading to the summit - which can be bypassed - requires the use of your hands.

A quick loop hike to the summit of Monte Mondolè, which, despite its relatively low elevation, offers a superb panoramic view of the Ligurian Alps thanks to its isolated location.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 2 h 39

Length : 5.5 km

Trek ascent : 539 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

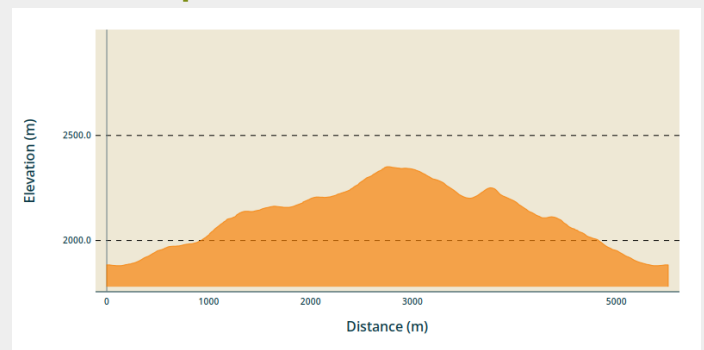
Trek

Departure : Balma Mountain Hut (1885 m)

Arrival : Balma Mountain Hut (1885 m)

Cities : 1. Frabosa Soprana
2. Frabosa Sottana

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1880 m Max elevation 2351 m

From the Balma Mountain Hut (1885 m), follow the dirt road toward the Brignola Lakes for a few dozen meters; then, at the fork, turn right toward Passo delle Scalette. After a few meters, take the trail to the left leading to Monte Mondolè. The trail climbs steeply through meadows, reaches the cabin of a ski lift, and splits. Continue straight ahead; on the return trip, you'll come back via the right-hand branch.

The route skirts the spurs of Monte Mondolè on the left, alternating between a few flat sections and steep traverses. You'll reach an unnamed, panoramic meadow-covered pass, where you turn sharply to the right (north).

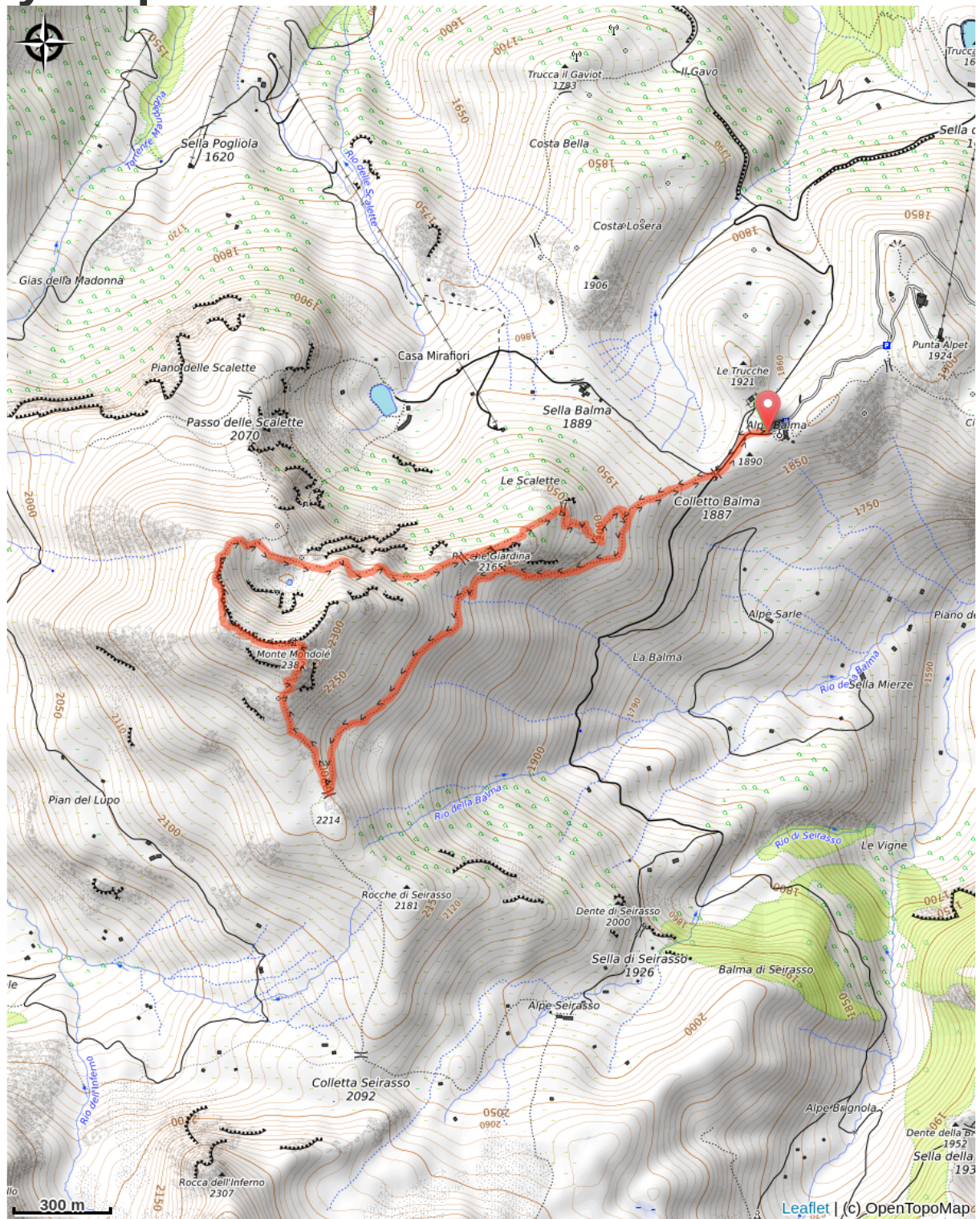
You'll climb the southern ridge of Monte Mondolè - steep but wide - essentially staying along the crest. The trail markers lead to some easy rocky sections, which you can climb using your hands or bypass on the left by following a faint trail.

After this slightly more challenging stretch, you emerge at the summit of Monte Mondolè (2382 m, 1 hour and 35 minutes from the Balma Hut).

The descent follows the northwest ridge, running along the crest of a small, deep karst basin, at the bottom of which lies the tiny Laghetto del Mondolè. You lose elevation fairly quickly, passing through meadows and rhododendrons, until you reach almost the base of the basin. After leaving the trail on the right that descends to Laghetto del Mondolè, a short climb concludes the wide loop, which actually takes you directly below the summit but at a significantly lower elevation.

Continue downhill through a patch of green alder trees, then along the hillside to the left of a narrow ridge (be careful if the ground is slippery: the trail is narrow and somewhat exposed). After rounding the narrow ridge, descend via a few switchbacks through meadows and rhododendrons, returning to the ski lift you passed on the way up and, from there, to the Balma Mountain Hut (1885 m, 1:05 hours from Monte Mondolè).

On your path...



All useful information

How to come ?

Access

From Villanova Mondovì, continue toward Frabosa Sottana, then drive up the Maudagna Valley to Prato Nevoso. At the top of the village, a dirt road branches off to the right - about 4 km long - leading to the Balma Mountain Hut, where you can park your car.