

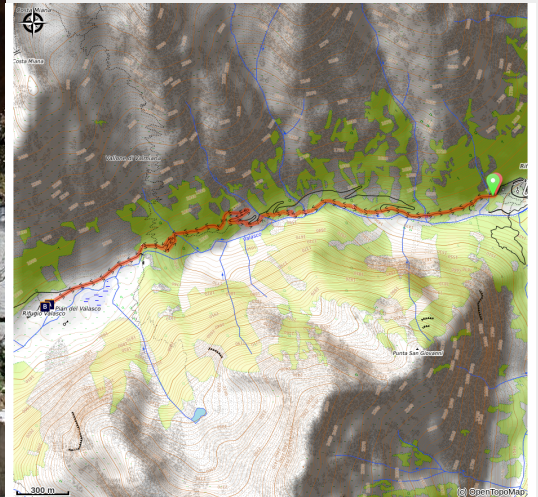


The Pian del Valasco plateau and the Valasco Refuge

Parco Naturale Alpi Marittime - Valdieri



Lo chalet della "Bela Rosin" a Terme (Roberto Pockaj)



A short, easy walk on good paths or dirt roads, partly circular, that leads to one of the most interesting and picturesque places in the Park of the Maritime Alps.

The Piano del Valasco is a large grassy plateau, which was originally a lake basin, now filled in. It is ringed by peaks around 3,000 high and crossed by a sinuous torrent. In the middle of the plateau stands the Royal Hunting Lodge, which Vittorio Emanuele II had built for his chamois hunts, now a refuge.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking

Duration : 2 h

Length : 7.1 km

Trek ascent : 411 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Round trip

Themes : Archeology and history, Flora, Refuge

Accessibility : Joelette

Trek

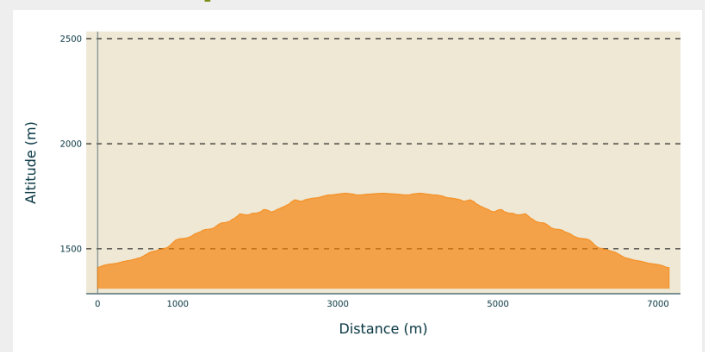
Departure : Terme di Valdieri (1385 m)

Arrival : Valasco Refuge (1764 m)

Markings : ■ PR

Cities : 1. Valdieri

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1410 m Max elevation 1764 m

On the right side of the parking entrance above Terme di Valdieri (1385 m), a former military road, unpaved, leads westward, up the Vallone del Valasco, through lovely deciduous woods and then, as the road climbs, more larches. After a long straight stretch, on the first switchback to the right, there is a clearly visible path on the left (unmarked!) that leads to the lower Piano del Valasco.

The trail continues on near the torrent, cutting across the many switchbacks of the former military road and crossing it many times, the first near the right side of a switchback at an altitude of about 1600 meters, then again to the right of another switchback at about 1625 m.

It then joins the road on a straight stretch at about 1650 m. At this point, after a few dozen meters along the former military road, the route leaves the road and follows the trail to the left.

In this stretch of the route, there are evident traces of the mule track used before the road was built.

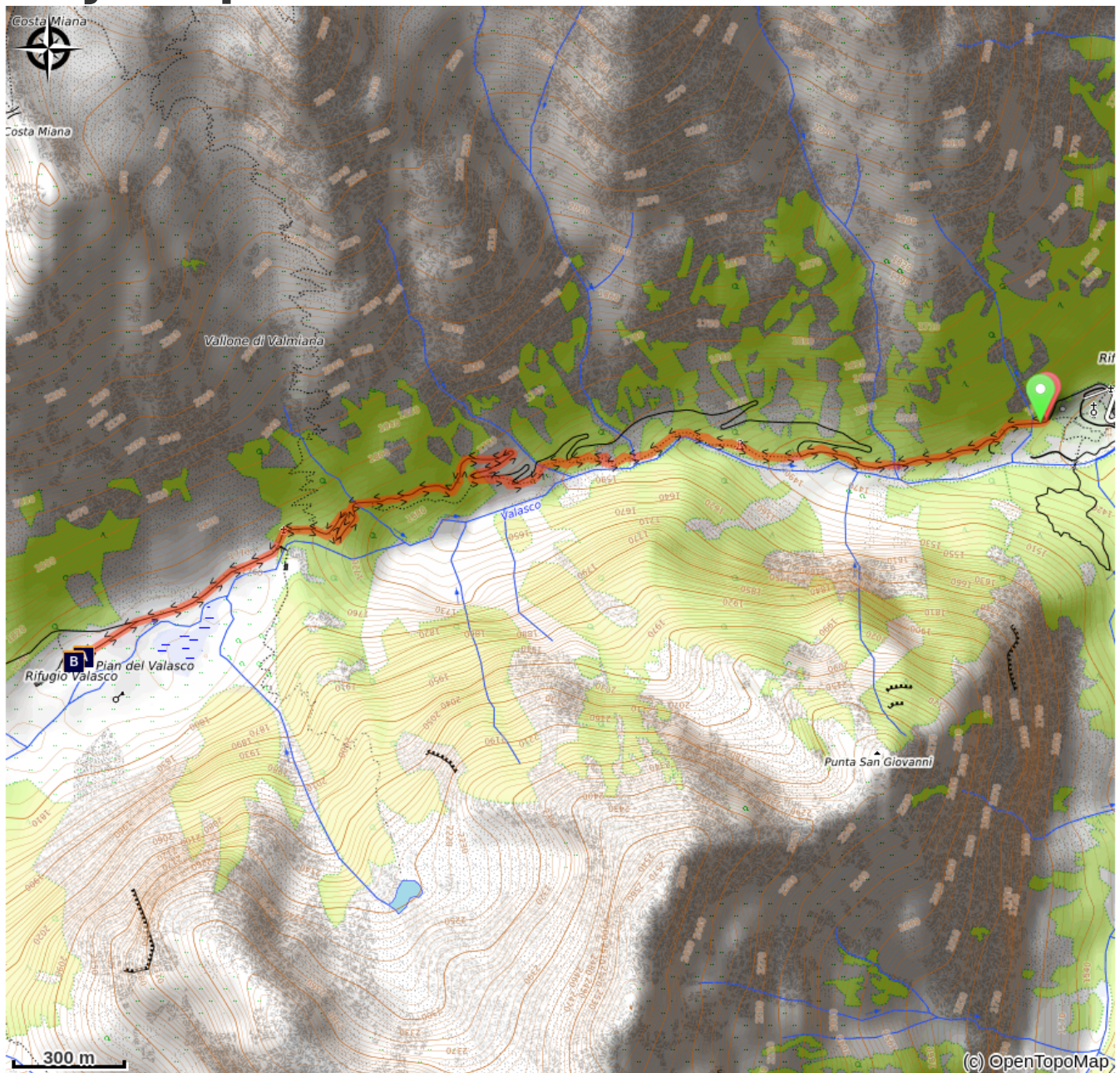
The route rejoins the unpaved military road definitively at an altitude of ca. 1705 m, facilitated by the recent addition of steps, and follows the road to the left. There is a ford crossing a small rivulet that flows over the road (the rivulet swells into a stream in springtime) and leaving behind the trail for Colle di Valmiana on the right, the route passes a small spring and comes to the waterfall marking the entrance to the lower Piano del Valasco (1763 m, 1 hour and 10 minutes from Terme di Valdieri).

The military road leads to the center of the large meadow, formed by the basin of a glacial lake and now completely filled in, and forks: the right fork heads for the upper Piano del Valasco and the Valscura Lakes, while the left one leads to the Valasco Refuge (1763 m, 5 minutes from the lower Piano del Valasco), once the Royal Hunting Lodge of the House of Savoy.


The return journey follows the former military road crossed numerous times on the way up: the road leads gently downhill, after a number of long traverses and a series of switchbacks. At an altitude of about 1500 m, next to a switchback to the right, half-hidden by the vegetation, there is a fortified bunker that was part of the Vallo Alpino defenses, just a few meters uphill from the road.

At the next elbow turn, the road links up with the trail used on the way up, and leads back down to the parking lot above Terme di Valdieri (1385 m, 1 hour and 1 minutes from Rifugio Valasco).

On your path...



 Rifugio Valasco, former hunting lodge (A)

 The Valasco Royal Hunting Lodge (B)

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

Service Company Nuova Benese
Regular line Cuneo, Valdieri, Entracque
Tel: 00 39 (0) 171 69 29 29
www.benese.it

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

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

Access

Drive up the Valle Gesso from Borgo San Dalmazzo. After passing Valdieri, continue on until you reach Terme. There is a parking fee during the summer season.

Advised parking

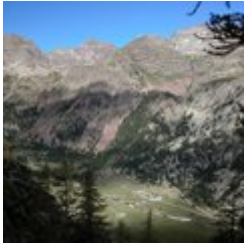
Parking locality San Giovanni, Visitor Centre Terme di Valdieri

Accessibility

Prêt gratuit de la joelette :

Réservation au Parco naturale Alpi Marittime à Valdieri
Tél. : 00 39 (0) 171 97397
www.parcoalpimarittime.it

On your path...



Refugio Valasco, former hunting lodge (A)

This is where King Victor Emmanuel II of Italy had a hunting lodge built, a singular “castle”, square in shape and with a crenelated tower. It has since been transformed into a high-altitude refuge, much to the delight of hikers.

From the Valasco plateau where the refuge is located, you can easily reach the area of the Valascura lakes, heading along the magnificent road built by hunters in the early 20th century. Part of the road is paved, allowing you to go through an area which is littered with boulders and debris.

A mule track leads to the panoramic col of Valmiana.

Attribution : A. Rivelli / PNAM



The Valasco Royal Hunting Lodge (B)

The construction of a "Country House" in Vallasco, which Vittorio Emanuele II would later utilize for his hunting parties in the Royal Reserve, dates back to the years after 1868, when there were probably four buildings standing on the plateau. However, the Royal Hunting Lodge, at least the one we admire today, was probably built after 1873, although sources differ on this.

Its history has been turbulent, and marred by a series of fires until, following an important restructuring by its current owner, in 2008 it was transformed into an alpine refuge.

Attribution : Roberto Pockaj