

10 ways to discover the valleys

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...at your own pace

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D: Day



..... Cable cars and chair lifts



The heart of the Canton Ticino

In the Verzasca Valley



📷 Ponte dei Salti, Lavertezzo

The only valley entirely surrounded by Ticino mountains is the Verzasca Valley. It lies exactly in the centre of the Ticino region. And there is so much to see and do here.

D1) Alpe Bardughè, Lavertezzo, Brione

Your weekend starts with a lovely walk in one of the most amazing corners of the Verzasca Valley: the Alpe Bardughè. Starting from Vogorno, follow the Odoro ethnographic trail, a route interesting not only because of its great natural beauty but also for its socio-cultural importance. It takes you through woods, mountain pastures and intact rural hamlets. On reaching Odoro, visit the small museum to learn how the land was farmed in past centuries, including how they used to gather the wild hay in the Verzasca valley. Further on is the huge Alpe Bardughè mountain plain with fantastic panoramic views over Lake Maggiore and a charming collection of rustic buildings clinging to the sides of Pizzo Vogorno. What better way to leave your cares behind than to rest here a while? If you wish, you can practice your favourite yoga poses here or simply enjoy a picnic with some local produce.



It only takes about 2 - 2.5 hours to descend to the bottom of the valley, so you have plenty of time to enjoy the surroundings. On reaching Vogorno, you might wish to visit Lavertezzo (using public transport), where both the Parish Church and the famous Ponte dei Salti bridge are well worth seeing. This elegant bridge is a Romanesque structure. It sits above the clear waters of the Verzasca river to form the most popular attraction in the valley. The whole area is of national importance: a series of quaint villages, each seemingly more beautiful than the last, with their own special atmosphere, yet all sharing the same, unmistakable character of the Verzasca Valley.

For example, if architecture is your thing, well worth a visit in Brione Verzasca are the 13th century Parish Church of Santa Maria Assunta and the 18th century Castello Marcacci. Tip: check the local calendar of events, as the castle is often used for various events that prove very popular with the locals.

D2) Sonogno and its environs

We recommend dedicating the next day, or at least a few hours, to visiting Sonogno. Sitting at the head of the valley, it is undoubtedly one of the most picturesque and typical villages in the whole of the Swiss Alps. Sonogno is easily reached on foot, by bus or even MTB (follow the beautiful Alta Verzasca Bike cycle route).

Stroll around the village and visit the Casa della Lana wool centre and the Museo di Val Verzasca ethnographic museum to discover the local culture and how people once lived and worked here. You can then continue to either of two more valleys, the Val Redorta (make sure you see the spectacular Froda waterfall) or the Val Vegornèss. Alternatively, linger a while and taste some of the local specialities or simply sit back and enjoy the view on a terrace, sipping a good glass of “mez e mez”. If you notice a lot of coming and goings, especially in the morning, then you know it is market day. Held once a month (summer only), this is a not-to-be-missed opportunity for any self-respecting gourmet. Always check the local calendar for the latest details. So, a taste of the Verzasca Valley in just two days. There is so much more to discover and so many other activities: get some inspiration from us for your next trip! Until the next time...



See www.ascona-locarno.com for further details of the routes, as well as on events, food and shelter

Sonogno •
Brione Verzasca •
Lavertezzo •
Alpe Bardughè •
Vogorno •

The incredible culture Of the Maggia Valley

See
www.ascona-locarno.com
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Waterfall of Foroglio, Val Bavona

Sports gear, a backpack and a pair of sunglasses. That is all you need to enjoy a fantastic weekend in the Maggia Valley, immersed in nature and the local culture.

D1) Off to the Bavona Valley

Enjoy a coffee at a lakeside bar and then on your bike! The best way to start the day! Head towards Bignasco following the beautiful Valle Maggia cycling track. This beautiful cycle path takes you along the valley, at times following the river, at others through dense woods and charming rural settlements.



A quick break in Bignasco and then back in the saddle, following the signs to Valle Bavona. If you think the views so far have been fantastic, the next stretch will leave you speechless. The Valle Bavona is, perhaps, the most iconic of areas in the whole of the Maggia Valley region. In just a few kilometres it manages to contain some of the most important and best kept examples of rural life in the whole of the Swiss Alps. The route takes you past some magnificent villages, peat bogs, barns and “splüi” (caves under overhanging rocks), as well as many churches and chapels bearing witness to the strong faith the people bore to the Church in times past. Allow about one hour to reach Foroglio, a pretty village about halfway down the valley and sitting at the entrance to Val Calnègia, another charming valley just waiting to be explored. The fittest of you might wish to set off immediately, but there are some marvellous “grotto” restaurants here to tempt you to pause a while and enjoy the local fare. Gastronomy also plays an important role in the culture of a region, so why miss the opportunity to taste it? Those who have already done so will jump at the chance. If you have yet to experience it, prepare to be amazed!

Rested and refuelled, continue on to San Carlo (about 1 hour biking) or, if your interest has been aroused, go as far as Cevio and stop at the ethnographic Valmaggia Museum. This is well worth a visit, allowing you to really understand and appreciate this great valley. Then continue on to your overnight accommodation.

D2) Maggia & Valle del Salto

The next day, put on your walking boots and fill up your water bottle at the fountain in the main square in Maggia. A walk in the beautiful Valle del Salto awaits you. There are many possible routes, but the one described here is great if you are new to the area. Expect to complete this relatively easy walk in 3.5 hours. Whatever route you choose, always check the weather forecast and local conditions first and ensure you have the right gear. Remember: the mountains are truly beautiful, but equally so unpredictable.

And as everything only works well with the right balance, on your return make sure you rest properly after all that effort. There are plenty of river beaches in Vallemaggia, just take your pick. If you are still feeling energetic, why not have a go at stand-up paddleboarding on Lake Maggiore? Whether on your own or in company, Ascona-Locarno is ideal for sporty types!



Incredible panoramic views

Onsernone Valley & Lake Maggiore

See
www.ascona-locarno.com
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as well as on events,
food and shelter



📍 Cortie nuovo, Centovalli

This trail takes you through thick forests and magnificent rural villages to where two ancient continents once came together. Expect breath-taking views with every step you take.

D1) Comologno & Monte Comino

First thing: don't forget your camera if you are a keen photographer. You will have so many chances to test your artistic skills. This excursion covers a lot of miles and so requires some effort. However, there is no need to worry: you can avoid an arduous climb by taking a couple of cable cars.

Starting from Comologno, easily reached by post-bus, follow the signs to Pizzo Ruscada. The trail takes you across the marvellous Onsernone Forest Reserve. On reaching close to the top, turn eastwards and start following the path along the wonderful ridge separating the Onsernone and Centovalli valleys. The panoramic views here are truly spectacular. Stop to rest at the pretty Corte Nuovo mountain hut (book in advance: you need a code to access the key) or continue along the trail to Monte Comino, a fantastic mountain plain (roughly 1200 metres above sea level) overlooking Verdasio. Here another hut provides food and shelter. Allow about 6 hours hiking in total. To reach Rasa, a village on the edge of the mountain, first take the cable car from Monte Comino down to Verdasio and then the one from Verdasio up to Rasa. Nothing could be easier. Always check the departure times first and plan your overnight stay with care. Spend the night in the Corte Nuovo refuge, in the hut on Monte Comino or in Rasa: the choice is yours.



D2) Rasa & Ronco s/Ascona

The next day of your excursion takes you to Pizzo Leone before descending the Alpe di Naccio and arriving to Corona dei Pinci. Throughout the day you are accompanied by amazing views of Lake Maggiore. A curious thing worth knowing: you will be walking in the area where two ancient continents collided millions of years ago, giving rise (literally) to the mountains around you. You can then descend towards Porto Ronco (about 5 hours) or, alternatively, towards Arcegno. Again, this is not a particularly hard route, but you should wear proper boots and carry a plentiful supply of water.



Between art and architecture

From the Vallemaggia to the Onsernone Valley

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© Grotti Trail, Cevio

If you love nature, but also want to learn more about the artistic and aesthetic aspects of a place, why not combine the two?

D1) Campo Vallemaggia & Bosco Gurin

Take the postbus to Campo Vallemaggia, a charming village sitting on a sunny plateau in the Val di Campo, an area famed both for its unrivalled beauty and a number of architectural gems, among the best in the region, including the Parish Church of San Bernardo, the Case Pedrazzini and the Oratory of San Giovanni Battista. An area well worth taking your time to explore. Cimalmotto is another fine village to visit, and not too far away. There, the Church of Santa Maria Assunta merits a visit to see the marvellous frescoes by the famed painter Giuseppe Mattia Borgnis. Both villages are protected as Swiss Heritage Sites (IFP) and are a popular destination for hikers. If you have the time, we recommend taking an extra day to explore the region further. Visit the [Alpe Magnello](#), for instance, where you can still see signs of the old soapstone workings and visit some typical Ticino mountain pastures. Your next destination is Bosco Gurin. If starting from Cimalmotto, the best route is via the [Quadrella Pass](#); if starting from Campo Vallemaggia, it is best to follow the Pian Crosc mountain trail.



Calculate about 3-4 hours of steady walking to reach your destination. [Bosco Gurin](#) is the highest village in the Ticino region, and has the best preserved Walser colony in southern Switzerland. Advice: whether you might already know about the Walser culture or have never heard of it, the [Walserhaus](#) is definitely worth a visit. This museum, housed in a magnificent medieval building, has many well preserved artefacts of the culture, architecture and everyday life of this German-speaking people. Spend the night in Bosco Gurin.



D2) Bosco Gurin & Cevio

If you wish to delve a bit deeper into the Walser culture, there is another excursion that, whilst being physically tough, is well worth the effort. It takes you from the village centre to [three alpine lakes](#): Ender See, Schwarzsee (Lago Melo) and Üssar See (Lago Pero). As well as breathing in the incredible beauty of the landscape, you can discover the local area and resources that sustained the Walser community for so many years.

After a rest and some food, you head off towards Locarno, with a stop-off at Cevio. This pretty village in the centre of the Maggia Valley is particularly rich in history and culture. One reason why this is where you find the [Valmaggia Museum](#). Of special interest here are the Oratory of the Beata Vergine del Ponte, the Parish Church of San Giovanni Battista and some fine palaces, including Casa Calanchini-Respini and Palazzo Franzoni. Just behind the museum is a path leading to a completely different type of architecture: the grottos of Maggia Valley, a series of natural caves carved from huge cliffs and boulders, originally used to store food. A fantastic example of the interaction between man and nature. It was quite normal in times past for the locals to enjoy a chat and a well-earned glass of wine here after a hard day's work. You, too, can follow their example and enjoy some local produce here: a store in the village offers mouth-watering [picnic baskets](#) filled with a selection of our best delicacies.

Woodland and the aroma of popcorn

From the Vallemaggia to the Onsernone Valley

See www.ascona-locarno.com for further details of the routes, as well as on events, food and shelter

Lake of Salèi, Valle Onsernone



Walk through majestic beech woods, sleep under the stars and discover the old traditions of the Onsernone Valley.

D1) Lodano Valley & Alpe Canaa

Starting from Lodano in the Maggia Valley, follow the signs to Alpe Canaa. The route includes a substantial climb (not to be underestimated), however this is offset by the chance to discover some amazing nature and the local culture. In fact, the Valle di Lodano is particularly rich in biodiversity and examples of the rural way of life. Calculate about 4.5 hours to hike through some magnificent old beech woods (UNESCO World Heritage Site) before reaching your accommodation for the night: the Alp da Canaa mountain hut, at the foot of the Pizzo Cramalina mountain.



D2) Alpe Canaa, Vergeletto & Alpe Salèi

The goal the next day is to reach the Onsernone Valley and more precisely the village of Vergeletto. Follow the high path towards Alpe Bassa, before descending to Gresso and Vergeletto below. Here you can find comfort and overnight accommodation. Well worth a visit is the old mill, of which the locals are rightly proud. This 18th century mill ceased production several decades ago, but has recently been restored and so is now fully functioning and used to ground maize into the famous farina bóna. Follow the delicious aroma of popcorn and enter the mill to discover more about this great tradition in the Onsernone Valley. Contact the local Museo Onsernonese for a guided tour.



Your route will take you to your next stop: Alpe Salèi, easily reached by cable car. This mountain is very popular with hikers thanks to its fantastic views and a number of well placed huts. Make the most of these if you have time! Not to be missed is the mountain lake known as Laghetto di Salèi, just a 40 minutes hike away. You spend the night in the Alpe Salèi hut.

D3) Comologno & Onsernone Valley

Enjoy the excellent breakfast prepared by the mountain shelter staff before heading off for Comologno down in the valley. The trail is smooth and easy, winding its way through stretches of dense woodland (mostly larch and pine), forests, mountain pastures and pretty well-kept rural hamlets. Comologno has several fine buildings worth seeing, such as Palazzo della Barca, Palazzo Gamboni and the church of San Giovanni Battista. To really soak up the Onsernonese atmosphere, spend the rest of the day exploring the valley: perhaps you may wish to visit Loco and its terraced vineyards, see the straw-weaving workshop in Berzona or take part in some of the many activities organised by the locals.



Old traditions

In the Onsernone Valley

See www.ascona-locarno.com for further details of the routes, as well as on events, food and shelter

Lake of Salèi, Valle Onsernone



This trip lets you discover what the people of the Onsernone Valley are especially proud of: their territory and their traditions.

D1) Comologno, Alpe Salèi & Vergeletto

You start at Comologno in the Onsernone Valley. Easily reached using public transport, this pretty village retains its rural charm and a few examples of fine architecture, such as the eighteenth century Palazzo della Barca. Stop a while to appreciate these. Most of the buildings were built with the proceeds from the sale of woven straw items, and the emigrants' love of their homeland.

You will discover more later... Suffice it to say, straw weaving was the main economic activity in the Onsernone Valley for many centuries. Make the most of the fresh air in the morning to start walking. The [trail](#) takes you past rural settlements and fascinating woods rich with the scent of larch. You reach the Alpe Salèi mountain hut in about 2 hours. Here the beauty of nature is simply stunning. A few minutes more and you reach the Laghetto di Salèi alpine lake, a jealously guarded secret in this remote corner of the canton. If you fancy a bite to eat, a friendly couple at the mountain hut can supply you with some local fare. You then head for Vergeletto (about 3 hours on foot). You can, of course, take the cable car if you wish. There you can watch and learn about the time-old process of producing [farina bóna](#) at the old mill. This foodstuff was once a staple for people living in the Onsernone Valley; in 2008 it received the prestigious Slow Food Presidium award and so now regularly appears once again on our tables. Farina bóna also features on restaurant menus: you simply must try the ice cream and the gnocchi made from farina bóna. Absolutely fabulous! And if you want to learn more about the secrets of good milling directly from the miller you can always [book a guided visit](#). You can also find out why a mouthwatering aroma of popcorn often lingers in the streets of Vergeletto. There are many different places to stay the night in the Onsernone Valley, though it is best to book well in advance and check the public transport timetables.



D2) Berzona, Loco & Intragna

The next day you can spend some time discovering the fascinating world of straw weaving. To do this, visit the [Pagliarte](#) workshop in Berzona. There the local craftsmen will proudly show you their creations and explain the origins of straw weaving and the processes involved. You can even have a go yourself and create your very own souvenir. Guided tours and workshops need to be booked in advance. Rich in your new-found knowledge, follow the [Via delle Vose](#) to the Centovalli: this is an historically important mule-track that was once the main link between the two valleys. The inhabitants of the Onsernone Valley would follow this route to market in order to sell their straw products. On reaching Intragna, take a bit of time to wander around the narrow streets before climbing to the church and its bell tower (the highest in the Canton Ticino). The [Centovalli ethnographic museum](#) is also worth a visit. Return to Locarno using public transport.

Sport and wellness

Maggia Valley & Verzasca Valley



Alpe Masnée, Maggia Valley

A trip to either the Verzasca or Maggia Valley will surely be on your "to do list": but have you ever considered seeing both at the same time and in an "alternative" manner? Consider this.

D1) Maggia & the Alpe Masnée mountain hut

Your adventure starts in Maggia in the Maggia Valley. Get to know the village a little before setting off. You could, for example, visit the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie to see its exceptional frescoes and paintings, see the Parish Church of San Maurizio or pop into the Casa Martinelli boutique hotel complex. Or simply sit back and people watch. There is a certain energy in Maggia: although apparently a typical rural village, it has a somewhat urban atmosphere due to it being so close to Locarno.



Grab a coffee and then follow the signs to Masnée. You follow a trail that takes you into woods and across mountain pastures, gently winding its way through one of the most beautiful valleys in the area: the Valle del Salto. Here you will come across a fine late medieval church, superb vineyards, awe-inspiring waterfalls... just one surprise after another. Allow about 5 hours to reach the Alpe Masnée mountain hut (2000 metres above sea level). Sitting amongst a delightful huddle of old barns and pens once used for stock rearing, this comfortable refuge provides all you need for a good night's rest. Although you might be feeling tired after the day's hike, the complete silence, the fresh air and the vast sense of space will fill you with joy and serenity. Rightly proud of having reached your destination, grab a shower and then enjoy your evening meal. No doubt you will want to share the emotions of your day with others. Indulge in this phenomenal sense of wellbeing!

D2) Alpe Masnée & Brione Verzasca

The day starts early in the mountains and so we would encourage you to get up in good time to watch the dawn from a mountain top. An indescribable experience. Back on the trail, you head for the other side of the mountain and the next destination: Brione Verzasca.

Tip: not too far from the mountain hut is a beautiful alpine lake, sitting in a spectacular position. The Starlarèsc lake is renowned for its special inhabitants, a very rare variety of alpine newt. You then continue towards the Alpe di Sgiöf and the Piano del Vald before descending to Ganne and reaching Brione Verzasca.



This village appears in the Inventory of Swiss Heritage Sites due to its charm and particular characteristics. There are two buildings of historical importance here: the Castello Marcacci and the Church of Santa Maria Assunta. Spend the rest of your time exploring the valley, north and south, on foot or by public transport. If, however, you need to recover your energy, explore the valley another time and simply relax, perhaps with a bracing dip in the Verzasca river!



Discovering religious art

in the Locarno area

See
www.ascona-locarno.com
for further details
of the routes,
as well as on events,
food and shelter



📍 Madonna del Sasso, Orselina

A circular tour lasting three days, combining hiking and the incredible sacred heritage of our region.

D1) Orselina, Maggia & Loco

The first stop is the Sacred Mount Madonna del Sasso in Orselina, reached on foot or by cable car. This famous architectural complex dominates the city of Locarno and is a true masterpiece in its own right. It also houses several important works of art from different periods. The Sacred Mount consists of a magnificent basilica, an adjoining Franciscan monastery, a Via Crucis and the Church of the Annunciation. It is said that, in 1480, the Virgin Mary appeared on the rocky outcrop where the Sanctuary now stands. The fifteenth century statue of the Madonna del Sasso is now held in the basilica, alongside many votive offerings.

The church houses two fine works, one by Bramantino (16th century) and another by Antonio Ciseri (19th century). See the [official website](#) for further details.

Return to Locarno and take public transport to Maggia (or use the bike sharing service). Well worth visiting for cultural purposes is the Church of Madonna delle Grazie with its rich collection of sixteenth century frescoes. There are also many votive offerings, including some by the artist Giovanni Antonio Vanoni. You might now wish to stretch your legs a bit and so we suggest hiking through the mountains to your next destination. The route is not particularly difficult. Just make sure you have the right footwear and plenty of energy. Allow about 5 hours to reach Loco, the ancient capital town of the Valle Onsernone. Not just an attractive place to visit, it also boasts some considerable artistic heritage. The imposing baroque Church of San Remigio is just one example. Inside are several fine seventeenth century paintings. You spend the night in Loco, so take the rest of the day to relax and wander around the village.

D2) Loco, Intragna & Palagnedra

The next day, you may wish to make a quick detour and visit Comologno. It is certainly worth it. Just 30 minutes away by postbus, do visit the seventeenth century Parish Church of San Giovanni Battista, as it contains many interesting works by various artists dating from the 1400s to the 1600s. The Via Crucis (stations of the cross) leading up to the church is particularly fine, set against the marvellous backdrop of the Onsernone Valley.



Back in Loco, you continue the tour by heading for the Centovalli. This takes you along one of the most interesting and culturally significant routes in the area: the Via delle Vose, a former mule-track that was once the main link between the Onsernone and Centovalli valleys. This historic route is easy to travel along and lets you reach Intragna in roughly 2 hours. From there you take the scenic railway to Palagnedra, the station being just a short walk from the village.

D3) Palagnedra, Rasa & Brissago

Before continuing with the tour, take the time to visit the Church of San Michele. This religious building is of national importance and contains several works of art from the fifteenth century, including a series of frescoes by the renowned artist Antonio da Tradate. You now follow the signs to Bordei, Terra Vecchia and Rasa, climb up to the Pizzo Leone and then drop down towards the lake before reaching the Sacro Monte of Brissago (roughly 6 hours hiking). The Sacro Monte di Brissago complex too is of great cultural importance: the Sanctuary, the Via Crucis and the Calvary date from the eighteenth century and have recently been restored, so can now be seen in all their glory. The complex is currently awaiting recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The four valley hike

From the Centovalli to Verzasca Valley at your own pace



📍 River Verzasca, Brione

See www.ascona-locarno.com for further details of the routes, as well as on events, food and shelter



The valleys in the Locarno area make for a great driving trip. However, you get a completely different experience if you take the time to explore them on foot, to soak up the culture, the colours, the smells and the sights.

D1) Intragna & Loco

Your adventure starts in the Centovalli, in the village of Intragna. However, before setting off, it's worth taking time to explore the narrow streets of this characterful village. The beautiful Church of San Gottardo and its bell tower (the highest in the Canton Ticino) is well worth a visit, as is the Centovalli [museum](#), which provides an insight into the history and culture of this area. Follow the signs to Loco to start upon the Via delle Vose, one of the most interesting and evocative old mule-tracks in the whole of this region. Calculate about 3 hours to reach Loco, once the ancient capital of the Onsernone Valley communities. Here you can visit the [ethnographic museum](#) and discover local traditions, explore the vineyards or just enjoy the peace and tranquillity typical of such high altitudes. Sort out your accommodation and then the rest of the day is yours to do what you want.

D2) Loco & Maggia

Your destination the next day is Maggia, which you reach by following an easy [mountain trail](#) from Loco to Maggia Valley through the Garina Pass. Allow about 5 hours in total. The route is mostly through woods, affording occasional stupendous panoramic views across the two valleys, Onsernone and Maggia. A relatively easy hike. On reaching your destination, make sure you enjoy a good meal in a typical "grotto" restaurant. There are regular public transport connections, even late into the night, meaning you can easily hop from one village to the next.

If you have the time, though, you should [explore the local area](#) to get an idea of the incredible cultural heritage of this valley. Many historical sites have been protected and enhanced with great passion generation after generation.



D3) Maggia & the Alpe Masnée mountain hut

The third day of your adventure involves a somewhat harder [excursion](#), but one that is truly worth the effort. Follow the signs in the centre of the village to Valle del Salto. On reaching a fabulous chapel, follow the signs to Alpe Masnée, a typical mountain hut offering you spectacular panoramic views and the chance to relax and spend the night in the mountains. You can even buy some local produce and cook your own meal here.

D4) Alpe Masnée & Brione Verzasca

You may find it hard to say farewell to such an enchanting place, but you must continue and the Verzasca Valley awaits you. Tip: yoga enthusiasts might enjoy an early morning practice in these beautiful surroundings before leaving. Follow the [trail to Brione Verzasca](#) (we recommend taking the Starlarèsc da Sgiòf detour). Whilst not particularly difficult, it is a long way to Brione Verzasca and so foresee regular short breaks along the way. Visit the village, the church and the castle on reaching your destination. Spend some time [exploring the valley](#) as there are many sights and beauty spots, such as the villages of Sonogno and Lavertezzo, both easily reached by postbus. There are plenty of places to stay and eat in the valley if you have more time.

From the lake to the glacier

In an everchanging landscape



📷 Foroglio, Bavona Valley

The perfect way to get to know the many facets of this magnificent land.

D1) Monte Comino-Comologno

Monte Comino is a vast mountain plain in Centovalli, 1200 metres above sea level. It is easily reached using the efficient train and cable car combination. This is your starting point for this fantastic experience. First, you need to reach Comologno. Strap on your backpack and set off at a good pace for Pizzo Ruscada! The panoramic trail winds its way along the mountain ridge separating Centovalli from Onsernone Valley before dropping down to the valley floor via the lovely Onsernone Forest Reserve. Allow about 6 hours for the overall excursion. Visit the church of San Giovanni Battista in Comologno and admire the many elegant palaces before your evening meal and retiring to your lodgings for the night.

D2) Comologno-Alpe Salè-Capanna Alzasca

The next morning you head up to Alpe Salè. The route is a bit steep at times, but not particularly difficult. Calculate about two hours, with plenty of stops to admire the marvellous scenery while reaching for your destination. If not in any particular hurry, you might want to spend the rest of the day here, in this wonderful corner of alpine paradise: go as far as the lake or explore some other parts of the area. You now take the cable car down to Vergeletto (the rest of the day's walk is long and so it is best to save your energy where you can). Allow about 8-9 hours to reach Cevio, in Maggia Valley. You could always split this walk, by spending the night in the Capanna Alzasca mountain hut, half way along the route.

D3) Capanna Alzasca-Cevio

Follow the official path to Cevio for about 4-5 hours hiking, reaching Cevio just in time for a delicious picnic. Then spend some time learning about the incredible local cultural heritage (a visit to the Valmaggia museum is highly recommended).



D4) Cevio-Capanna Cristallina

Continue to Bignasco and then follow the Sentiero Cristallina that takes you through an exceptionally beautiful and fascinating part of Maggia Valley: the Bavona Valley. The unchanged landscape with its many hamlets, rural way of life and fantastic scenery will leave a lasting impression on you. Take the cable car from San Carlo up to Robiei. The Capanna Cristallina mountain hut is just a couple of hours away. You decide whether you want to stay the night here or continue. Check the Pesciüm-Airolo cable car timetable if you want to use this the next day and make sure you arrive on time.



D5) Capanna Cristallina-Airolo

The last day of this tour sees you leave the mountains of the Maggia Valley and descend to the Bedretto Valley and then the Leventina Valley. You finish by arriving, triumphant, in Airolo, either on foot or by cable car from Pesciüm.

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