

# Parco delle Orobie Valtellinesi

FOUNDED 1989  
 AREA 44.000 ha  
 REGION Lombardia  
 PROVINCE Sondrio

COMUNI Albaredo per San Marco, Albosaggia, Andalo Valtellino, Aprica, Bema, Caiolo, Castello dell'Acqua, Cedrasco, Colorina, Cosio Valtellino, Delebio, Faedo Valtellino, Forcola, Fusine, Gerola Alta, Morbegno, Pedesina, Piantedo, Piaveda, Ponte in Valtellina, Rasura, Rogolo, Talamona, Tartano, Teglio



<b>Holiday farm</b>	<b>Visitors center</b>	<b>Restaurant or rest stop</b>	<b>Parking</b>
<b>Restaurant or rest stop</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>Rooms</b>	<b>GYO</b> Gran Via delle Orobie - Some sections only for mountaineering experts
<b>Rooms</b>	<b>Museum</b>	<b>Camping</b>	<b>Recommended routes</b>
		<b>Stable</b>	<b>Main roads</b>
			<b>Secondary roads/byroads</b>

\* Access to all roads closed to regular traffic is regulated. For further information check the websites of local authorities. The roads requiring authorization are generally dirt tracks, a 4x4 vehicle is recommended.

To visit the Park or to find the contacts of the various accommodations, check the area specific brochures for each valley or the park website [www.parcorobievalt.com](http://www.parcorobievalt.com). For further and more detailed information we recommend you read "Guida al Parco Regionale delle Orobie Valtellinesi" by Mario Vannuccini, Lyasis publishers; "Alpi Orobie Valtellinesi", curated by Guido Combi, Fondazione L. Bombardieri (books only in Italian); Parco delle Orobie Valtellinesi, coffee-table book curated by Elio Della Ferrera, Bonazzi Grafica.

## The Gran Via delle Orobie GYO

DIFFICULTY Media Average (requires a good level of experience)

POINT OF DEPARTURE Delebio, 216 m  
 POINT OF ARRIVAL Aprica, 1250 m  
 AVERAGE ALTITUDE About 1800 m  
 PERIODO CONSIGLIATO July - September

LENGHT 130 km  
 NUMBER OF STAGES 11

It is the most important high altitude hiking trail in the Park. Throughout its length Nature and History intertwine.

Chamois, ibex, marmot and eagles are amongst the animals you are most likely to encounter; it is best to carry a pair of binoculars so that you so will be able to better observe them. The path crosses various areas in which you will find traces of rural life and its artifacts, quite common throughout the alpine chain, of ancient iron mines and melting furnaces, and remains of the ancient mule tracks, roads and military posts part of the so-called Linea Cadorna.

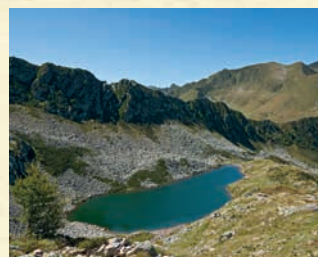
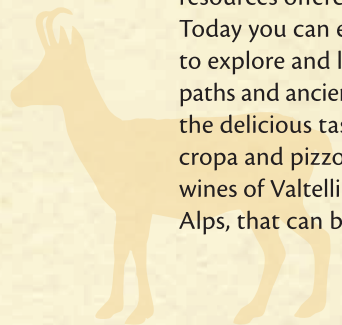
The entire route can be walked in 11 stages, as long as you carry a sleeping bag, an airbed and enough food for the trip. At nights you can stop off at shelters and bivouacs. To access the unmanaged shelters you must first ask for the keys from the proprietors. All phone contacts, maps and other information regarding hikes can be found on the dedicated brochure for each valley. On the official Park website you can find more detailed information:

[www.parcorobievalt.com](http://www.parcorobievalt.com)



The Parco delle Orobie Valtellinesi protects the valtellinese side of the Orobie Alps, consisting of a range of mountains crossed by a series of paired valleys which forms a comb like pattern overlooking Valtellina for a length of fifty kilometers. Carved by ancient glaciers and water, dotted with natural and artificial alpine lakes and rendered even more beautiful by rocky peaks, the Orobie are covered as far as the eye can see by flourishing woods. They hold some rare species of endemic flora and give a home to a rich and sometimes rare fauna, which includes chamois, ibex, eagles and even brown bear that occasionally visits this area. These mountains are not particularly high but at the centre of the chain, Pizzo Coca reaches 3050 meters.

Besides being a treasure trove of natural riches, the Park also helps preserve the local human heritage: mountain villages, fascinating and at times wild, rich in tradition and stories to be told. For centuries these were home to populations that not only lived there, but also thrived thanks to the rich resources offered by the environment. Today you can explore all this led by curiosity and the will to explore and learn, through a wide network of roads, paths and ancient muleteers that will lead you to experience the delicious taste of local tradition. Bitto cheese, polenta cropa and pizzoccheri and so on, all washed down with the wines of Valtellina, born of the sunlit slopes of the Rhaetian Alps, that can be best admired from the Orobie.



Alpine Wildlife Observatory of Aprica - ABOVE One of the Porcile lakes in Val Tartano

Central section of the Orobic Alps and its highest peaks, seen from the Rhaetian Alps



### Formaggio Bitto

It is the symbol of artisanal food production in the Orobie Valtellina, especially in the valleys of Gerola and Albaredo. It is produced in the mountain pastures at a height between 1400 and 2000 meters, in full respect of the traditions that give it its worth. It is a fat cheese made with freshly milked cow's milk and often includes goat milk. The grass of these pastures and the traditional cheese making techniques, that allow for over five years seasoning, make this a unique and highly valued product.

### WHAT YOU CAN FIND IN THE PARK

#### NATURE

- Spectacular alpine lakes and abundant waterways.
- The Pizzo di Coca, 3050m, the highest peak in the Orobie Alps.
- Some of the lower altitude glaciers in the Italian Alps: the Ghiacciaio di Marovin and the Ghiacciaio del Salto.
- Conifer woods and hardwood forests as far as the eye can see.
- One-of-a-kind flower species: *Viola comollia*, *Sanguisorba dodecandra* and *Androsace brevis*.
- Some endemic species of insect.
- The rare Capercaillie, symbol of the Park.
- A rich fauna of alpine species.
- Important palaeontological findings.
- ...and much, much more.

#### MAN, ENVIRONMENT AND HISTORY

- The valleys of Albaredo and Gerola, land of origin of Bitto cheese.
- The Strada Priula, an historic road that links Valtellina and the Bergamasca, dating back to the XVI century.
- The ancient melting furnaces used in iron mining.
- Ruins of trenches, fortifications and military roads left throughout the Orobie from the Great War.
- Historic hydroelectric plants.
- Numerous and distinctive boroughs and villages.
- Typical local produce such as the Bitto, Matùsc and Casera cheeses, polenta cropa and other variants of polenta taragna, pizzoccheri and the renowned wines of Valtellina.
- The production of pezzotti.

#### ACTIVITIES

- You will have the chance to outings of any kind, from walks to mountain treks, including mountaineering and alpine skiing amongst famous peaks.
- Guided tours for both adults and children.
- Educational workshops for kids, eco camps and recreational activities.
- A wildlife observatory for alpine fauna in Aprica.
- An alpine botanical garden.
- Thematic visitor centers and traditional, interactive and open-air museums in various locations.

## Capercaillie

Symbol of the Park since its foundation in 1989, both for its beauty and for its rarity, only a small population survives in the Orobie. Living scattered in their favored forest habitat at a 1000 to 1800 meter of height, these large birds – 85 cm length in males and 60 cm in females – often go unnoticed because of its wary and timid nature. The Orobie represent the westernmost habitat for this species within the Italian Alps.



## One-of-a-kind-flowers

The heart of the Orobie houses two endemic species that can be found here and nowhere else in the world, the *Sanguisorba dodecandra* and the *Viola comollia*.

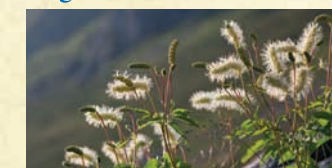
The first can be found in humid valleys, the second grows on screes at high altitude. Both these plants were discovered by the botanist Giuseppe Filippo Massara (1792 – 1839).

The higher ridges of rock on the north side are home to the *Androsace brevis*, another endemic species that lives in a very restricted area: outside of this corner of the Orobie it can only be found on a few peaks in southern Valchiavenna and in a limited area of the Alpi Lepontine, beyond Lake Como.

#### Viola Comollia



#### Sanguisorba dodecandra



#### Androsace brevis



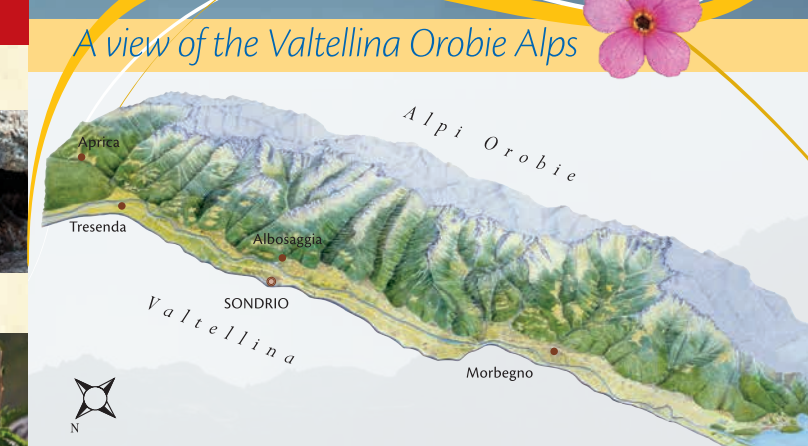
### GUIDED TOURS WITHIN THE PARK

- **Alpine guides and medium mountain Guides** are official Guides of the Parco delle Orobie Valtellinesi. Groups and individuals wishing for guided tours and hikes may contact the Park Center at 0342 211236. Web page: [www.parcorobievalt.com](http://www.parcorobievalt.com)

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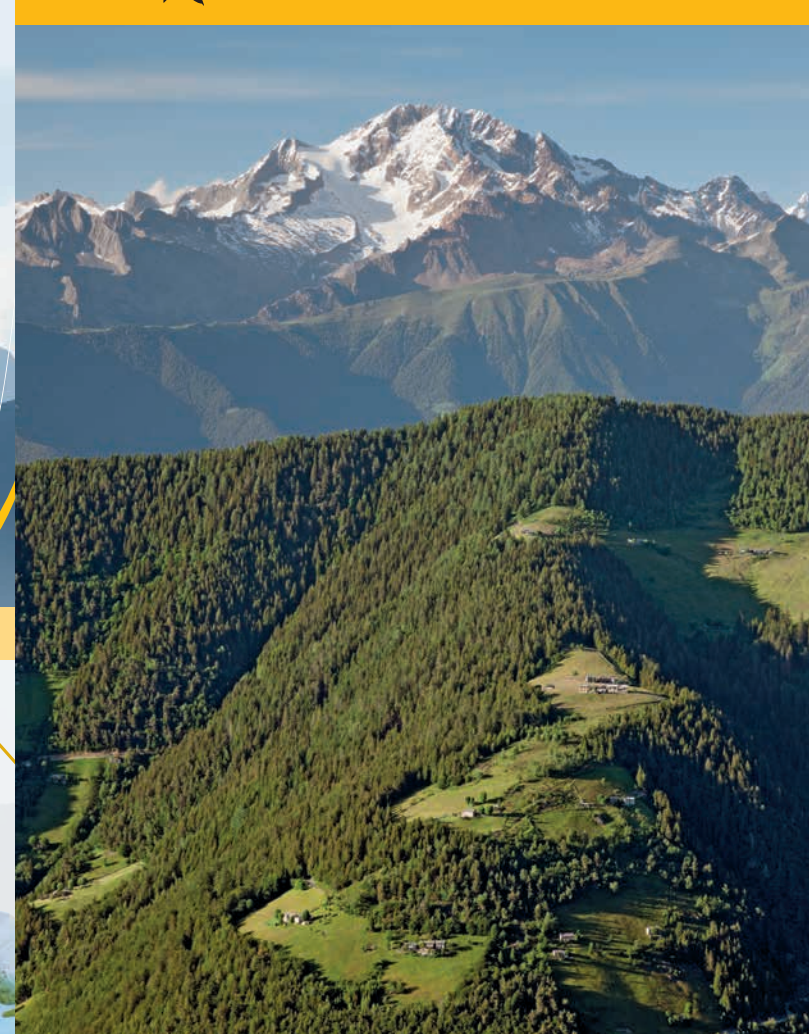


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Man and Nature

THE PARK AND ITS VALLEYS  
WITH A GENERAL MAP OF THE AREA