

Val Belviso Mountains of the chamois

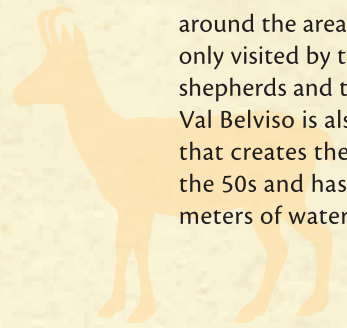
Val Belviso, located on the western side of the Park's territory, houses a wide variety of environments that allow many different species to find the right conditions to live and breed. Even brown bear have recently passes through this area.

The vegetation is very dense and comprises wide growths of spruce, larch and birch. At higher altitude alpine pastures prevail, with their characteristic herbaceous species such as *Arnica montana*, *Gentiana punctata*, and *Trifolium alpinum*. The morphology of this valley bears clear sign of its glacial origin, subsequently fashioned by the waters. Surrounded by larch woods, dyed gold in autumn, the

valley holds two gems set in a wide plateau: Lago Nero, with a small island at the center, and Lago Verde, in whose water is reflected the bastion of Torena (2911m).

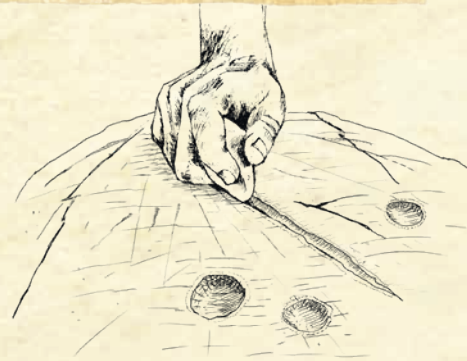
This valley has been walked by humans for centuries, in fact some examples of prehistoric cups have been found around the area of Lago Nero. Now, however, this land is only visited by travelers seeking peace and quiet and by shepherds and their flock.

Val Belviso is also known for the imposing Frera dam, that creates the artificial lake of Belviso; it was built in the 50s and has a full capacity of over 50 million square meters of water.



PETROGLYPHS

Around Lago Nero there are petroglyphs of the kind known as "schematic art" ("minor" graphical traces that consist in cups, biers and geometric patterns). These marks indicates an intense presence of prehistoric man. It seems that this area may have been frequented by seasonal settlers in the Mesolithic (A. Priuli).



THE MILITARY MULE TRACK

During World War I the ridges of Val Belviso were completely fortified through mule tracks and military posts, serving as a second line between the Cadorna Line, the defenses on the Orobie and the fortifications in Alta Valtellina. The remains of these works are still well visible to whoever visits Val Belviso, especially the mule track, that is still in good state of repair. These traces of the war remind us of those who walked these tracks over a hundred years ago.

Chamois



Valle di Campo and the Bernina Massif

Chamois - Wildlife Eco Observatory of Aprica



Park structures

"IL SENTIERO DEL LEGNO"

DIFFICULTY Easy, family	STARTING POINT Ponte Frera (1373 m) - Val Belviso
ALTITUDE GAIN 125 m	RECOMMENDED PERIOD May - November
TIME OF ASCENT 0,40 hours	

Take the Magnolta cable cars ("Aprica-Magnolta" car) - running all week 08:00-11:45 and 13:00-16:45, July to mid-September. Once you get off, take the dirt road and head towards the woods. When you reach Malga Magnolta, where you can stop for a snack, you'll see the first of ten information-boards set along thematic trail, dedicated to wood and its uses in Valtellina. The walk, starting in Magnolta (1900m) and ending at Rifugio Valtellina in Carègia di Palabione (1920m), is about two kilometers long and is barely over 2000m altitude at the highest.



Monte Torena, 2911 m

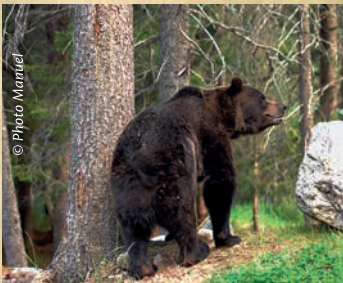


Ungulates

The territory of Val Belviso is part of the Vallbelviso-Barbellino game reserve, founded in 1893, and is filled with alpine ungulates, chamois, deer, mouflon and ibex, which can easily be observed while out walking. This last species (*Capra ibex*), that today is the symbol of the Alps, became extinct in this area at the beginning of the 1800s. Thanks to a reintroduction programs that started in the second half of the 1900s, the ibex population in the Orobie now has a healthy number of specimens.



ibex - Brown bear



THE ALPINE WILDLIFE ECO OBSERVATORY OF APRICA

This is an area within the Park's borders of over 25ha where you can find an easy didactic-naturalistic itinerary. Visitors have the opportunity of discovering Nature and observing many of the animals and plants of the Park, as the path winds through conifers and rhododendrons. The Observatory is open all year, but you can only visit it if you book a guided tours, organized on demand. Access is open to all, but numbers are limited so as not to disturb the animals that inhabit the area. Info and booking: I.A.T. Aprica, tel 0342 746113, info@apricaonline.com



Valle di Campo

Lago di Belviso



RECOMMENDED ROUTES

1 - Tour of the laghi di Torena

DIFFICULTY Average	STARTING POINT Ponte Frera, 1373 m - Val Belviso
ALTITUDE GAIN 700 m	RECOMMENDED SEASON June – October
TIME OF ASCENT 2 h	

This tour is suitable for all as the altitude gain is not too steep and it covers various points of interest: the picturesque environment, especially near the lakes offers many memorable landscapes; the petroglyphs that can be observed around the shores of Lake Nero, remind you of the long history of the valley; the abundance of wildlife gives you a high chance of spotting specimens of ungulates.



Lago Nero, one of the lakes of Torena

2 - Malga Magnolta – Malga Palabione

DIFFICULTY Easy	STARTING POINT End of the cable car lift of Palabione
ALTITUDE GAIN 250 m	(for further inform. S.I.T.A. s.p.a. - tel. 0342/746463)
TIME OF ASCENT 1 h	RECOMMENDED SEASON May – November

This hike allows you to retrace the ancient paths that used to link the alpine pastures of Palabione and Magnolta, that today respectively hold a shelter and a mountain farm.

The path climbs gradually up and immediately enters the wood, where you go from a dirt track to a proper trail once you've passed the stream coming down from Val Sorda. The trail then rises diagonally from left to right and, after it leaves the woods, it zigzags up the side of Monte Filone.



GYO Gran Via delle Orobic, some sections only for mountaineering experts

① Recommended routes
 — Main routes
 - - - Routes for expert mountaineers
 — Main routes
 - - - Secondary roads/byroads

Agriturismo

Restaurant or rest stop
 Rooms

Information

Museum
 Restaurant or rest stop
 Rooms
 Camping
 Parking
 Only authorized parking*

* These roads are generally dirt tracks and a 4x4 vehicle is recommended.
 * Access to all roads closed to regular traffic is regulated/controlled by local authorities. For further information/further updates:
 Comune di Teglio 0342 789011
 Comune di Aprica 0342 746116

MOUNTAIN HUTS/CAMPING

- Rifugio Cristina**
loc. S. Paolo (Val Belviso)
tel 337 337997
- Rifugio Tagliaferri** (CAI)
loc. Passo del Venano
tel 0346 55355
tel manager 347 5361115
- Rifugio Valtellina**
loc. Caregia del Palabione
tel 0342 745069 – cell 320 3090599
www.rifugiovaltellina.it
- Camping Aprica**
via Nazionale 507 (San Pietro)
cell 347 4674204
www.campingaprica.it
- Rifugio Alpe Caronella**
(Consorzio Alpe Caronella)
self-catering, contact Oreste Bruga
– 340 6663047 for booking and keys

RECOMMENDED ROUTES

3 - Rifugio Nani Tagliaferri at Passo di Venano

DIFFICULTY Challenging	STARTING POINT Ponte Frera, 1373 m - Val Belviso
ALTITUDE GAIN 995 m	RECOMMENDED SEASON June – October
TIME OF ASCENT 3,30 h	

The long but pleasant hike to Rifugio Tagliaferri allows you to visit the top of Val Belviso; the final destination is a shelter located just below Passo di Venano, shielded from the elements and overlooking Val di Scalve. You can also choose between different variants in the area thanks to the numerous military mule tracks built during World War I. On the way down you can take the same route or cut across the Malga Demignone.



Top of Val Belviso with view of Valle di Pila from Alpe Frera

HOLIDAY FARMS

- Agriturismo "Malga Magnolta"** – Aprica – località Magnolta
tel 375 5500154 – 346 9420441
- Agriturismo Li Spondi** – Aprica – loc. Li Spondi - tel 339.1924482
- La Quercia antica** – loc. Pian di Gembro – tel 0342 746494
- Piscè** – loc. Piscè-Pian di Gembro – tel 330 520174

Useful contacts

- Ufficio Turistico di Aprica** – Corso Roma 150 – 23031 Aprica (SO)
tel. 0342 746113 – info@apricaonline.com – www.apricaonline.com

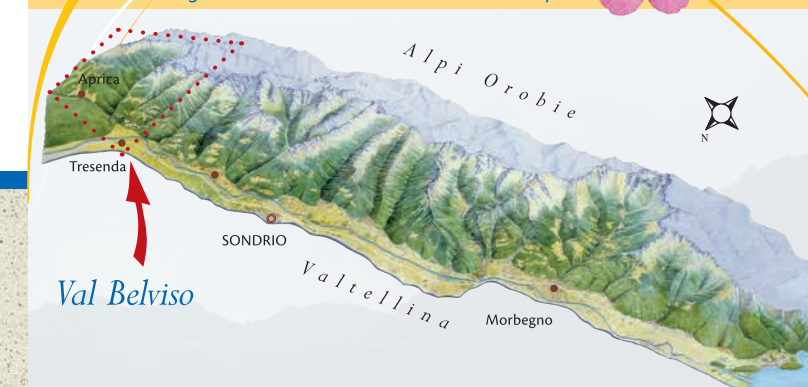
For further and more detailed information we recommend you read "Guida al Parco Regionale delle Orobic Valtellinesi" by Mario Vannuccini, Lysis publishers; "Alpi Orobic Valtellinesi", curated by Guido Combi, Fondazione L. Bombardieri (books only in Italian); Parco delle Orobic Valtellinesi, photobook curated by Elio Della Ferrera, Bonazzi Grafica (Italian/English).

GUIDED TOURS WITHIN THE PARK

- Alpine guides and medium mountain Guides.** Are official Guides of the Parco delle Orobic Valtellinesi. Groups and individuals wishing for guided tours and hikes may contact the Park Center at 0342 211236. Web page: www.parcorobievalt.com



A view of the Valtellina Orobic Alps



www.parcorobievalt.com

Parco delle Orobic Valtellinesi
 via Moia 4 – 23010 Albosaggia (SO)
 tel 0342 211236
 info@parcorobievalt.com



Mountains of the chamois

Val Belviso

