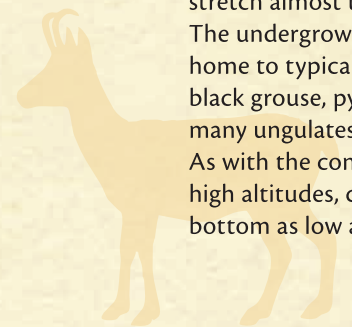


# Valle d'Arigna The roof of the Orobie



Here, in this valley, watershed and border with Bergamo, the Orobie peaks reach their highest elevation: Pizzo di Coca at 3050m, part of the grand massif of Coca-Scais-Redorta. Thanks to the shade of these vertical peaks, Val d'Arigna contains the highest number of glaciers in the Orobie, including the largest in the mountain chain: Ghiacciaio del Lupo. Another important glacier in this area is called Ghiacciaio di Marovìn, a name that in local dialect means rhododendron; this shows how low the ice used to reach, bordering with these plants while they were still in flower. Indeed, the foot of this glacier reaches about 2000m, one of the lowest altitudes registered throughout the entire Italian Alps.



The height of the mountains and the north facing of the valley give it a cool micro-climate, leading to dense and flourishing forests. Silver fir is the most common species of tree in these woods, often interspersed with fir and larch. Because of to the shaded mountain sides, these conifers stretch almost to the bottom of Valtellina. The undergrowth is rich in bilberry and mushrooms and home to typical alpine fauna such as black woodpecker, black grouse, pygmy owl and tengmal's owl. There are also many ungulates, such as red deer, roe deer and chamois. As with the conifers, this last species, that usually inhabit high altitudes, can easily be spotted around the valley bottom as low as 300m.



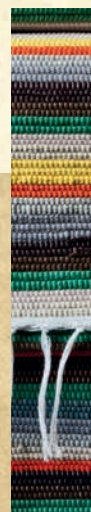
Primula latifolia in flower

Pizzo and Dente di Coca seen from Valtellina



## PIZZO DI COCA, SUMMIT OF THE OROBIE

At 3050m this summit, though moderate compared to the neighboring Rhaetian Alps, has always been a great attraction for mountaineers. The first to scale the peak was probably Antonio Baroni (1833-1912), an alpine guide and member of the CAI, who in 1877 reached the summit by way of Valle Seriana, on the Bergamo side. The far more challenging ascent from Val d'Arigna, via the north face, was only achieved on the 11 september 1889 by Antonio Baroni together with Antonio Cederna (1841-1920) and bearer Antonio Valesini, from Ponte in Valtellina.



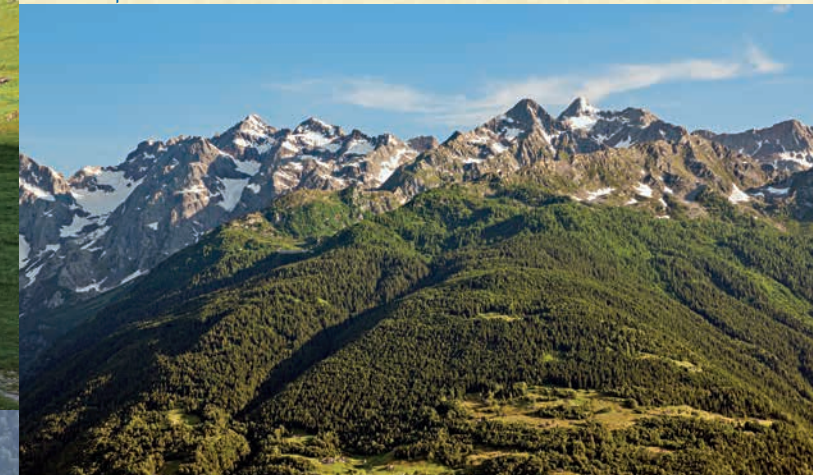
Making pezzotti

## The PEZZOTTI/peg rugs of Arigna

In Val d'Arigna carpets, place mats and even doilies where all traditionally made with scraps and cloth cuttings; the products of this craft were similar to peg rugs and were called pezzotti. This method was born of the mountain communities need to avoid any kind of waste, so these rugs were made from cloth rags to avoid any loss of material and were fabricated during the winter to avoid any loss of time. This process of manufacture still exists to this day, however to increase the quality of these products the materials used are carefully selected from the best manufacturers. Besides, the original materials such as bedclothes and sheets made from hemp or "pelòrsc", lengths of cloth used in agriculture made from leftover linen and hemp, have now entirely disappeared.



Tall peaks above Briotti



## Glaciers

Despite the Orobie moderate altitude, with only three peaks over 3000m, the shady slopes of these mountains are home to about ten small glaciers. Compared to a few decades ago they have all shrunk considerably, while some of the smaller ones have been extinct for some time. The presence of glaciers in the center-east of the Orobie is favored by the abundant precipitations, the north facing and the consequent characteristics of local climate. The head of Val d'Arigna houses the largest of 38 glaciers in the Valtellina Orobics, the Ghiacciaio del Lupo. Another of the glaciers distinctive of this area is the Marovìn, that up until not many years ago was the lowest reaching throughout the Lombardy Alps, pushing 2000m. That distinction is now held by the Ghiacciaio del Salto, a small glacier in Val Vedello (see Val Venina).

Seracs in Ghiacciaio di Marovìn



## Polenta cropa

This is a variant of polenta taragna valtellinese – made of buckwheat and cornmeal which addition of Casera cheese – typical of Val d'Arigna. To this already substantial mix of ingredients are added potatoes and a good amount of fresh cream. Eating this highly nutritious dish, washed down with a glass of Valtellina wine, is a good way of approaching the local cuisine and store the energy to walk the many paths that wind through the leafy woods.

## Mountain owls

The Park's extensive conifer woods are home to two typical mountain species of nocturnal bird of prey: the Tengmalm's owl and the pygmy owl, both formidable predators. The pygmy owl, measuring 16-18cm in length, is the smallest nocturnal raptor in Europe, however it need not fear becoming prey to other birds. Its preferred prey are micromammals, such as water vole, mice, dormice and shrew, and small passerines such as tits, that it will also hunt during the day. The Tengmalm's Owl, on the other hand, is strictly nocturnal and will almost exclusively hunt micromammals. Both Tengmalm's owl and pygmy owl nest in holes left by the various species of woodpeckers that inhabit these forests. Within the woodland ecosystem, the predatory activity of these birds helps to effectively contain the more prolific animal species, avoiding environmental imbalance.

Tengmalm's owl



Pygmy owl





## RECOMMENDED ROUTES

### 1 - Briotti - Laghi di Santo Stefano - (Rifugio Donati)

DIFFICULTY Demanding	STARTING POINT Briotti, 1047 m
ALTITUDE GAIN 792 m + 661 m	RECOMMENDED SEASON June - October
TIME OF ASCENT 3 + 2,30 h	

This is a rather challenging hike. You start from the fields of Briotti and walk your way up through woods of birch and aspen that soon give way to a dense forest of larch and fir. As you climb higher the woods thin out allowing you to see the summit of the Orobie: Pizzo di Coca, 3050m. Once you reach the dam across Lago di Santo Stefano and the namesake church, you can carry on to the other two lakes. The fitter walkers may then enter the valley and gain the 600m altitude to get to rifugio Donati and the charming Lago di Reguzzo.



Lago di Reguzzo and Rifugio Donati with view over Bernina Massif

#### Holiday farm

- Restaurant or rest stop
- Rooms
- Camping
- Parking
- Only authorized parking

\* Access to all roads closed to regular traffic is regulated/controlled by local authorities. For further information/ Further updates:  
Com. di Ponte in Valtellina 0342 482222  
Comune di Piatteda 0342 370221  
Com. di Castello dell'Acqua 0342 482206

\* These roads are generally dirt tracks and a 4x4 vehicle is recommended.



#### MOUNTAIN HUTS/BIVOUACS CAMPING

- **Rifugio Baita Pesciola** (Com. di Ponte in Valtellina) not catered – 20 beds – keys on demand: Ivan Simonini tel 340 5638511 info@rifugiopesciola.it
- **Rifugio Donati** (CAI) not catered – 14 beds – keys on demand: Donati Amerino e Arialdo cell 0342 482000 CAI Sondrio 0342 214300 www.cai.sondrio.it
- **Rifugio Gino e Massimo** loc. Grioni (Com. Ponte in Valtellina) 18 beds – in winter, reservation required – Mauro Berniga cell 349 0848821 - cell 349 2515925
- **Bivacco Resnati** (C.A.I.) left open – 8 beds near Vedretta di Marovino
- **Bivacco Corti** (CAI) near Ghiacciaio del Lupo left open – 6 beds – 0342 214300. Tuesdays and Fridays after 21:00 pm
- **Rifugio Mambretti** (CAI) left open: 4 beds – keys on demand: 25 beds. Keys also at dam: diga di Scais – tel 0342 452525 www.cai.sondrio.it - 0342 214300
- **Bivacco Baita La Petta** località La Petta (Comune di Castello dell'Acqua) – left open 5 beds – tel 0342 482206
- **Bivacco Baita Pian della Valle** località Pian della Valle (Comune di Castello dell'Acqua) left open – 4 beds tel 0342 482206
- **Rifugio Baroni al Brunone** (CAI) Marco Brignoli cell 345 4608973. tel 0346 41235 – www.cai.bergamo.it
- **Rifugio Coca** (CAI) Silvana Rodigari tel 0346 44035 cell 348 7316427 – 347 0867062 www.cai.bergamo.it
- **Rifugio Alpinì** (ANA Piatteda) località "Piane" Gusmeroli Luigi cell: 348 7234261
- **Campeggio Dosso del Grillo** (Comune di Ponte in Valtellina) località Dosso del Grillo Dino Mottini cell 366 1239305

## RECOMMENDED ROUTES

### 2 - Pozzolo - Rifugio Baita Pesciola

DIFFICULTY Average	STARTING POINT Centrale di Armisa, 1041 m
ALTITUDE GAIN 963 m	RECOMMENDED SEASON June - October
TIME OF ASCENT 2.30 h	

The shelter is placed next to the watershed separating Val d'Arigna from Val Malgina. As you climb, you can admire the head of the valley including Pizzo and Dente di Coca, as well as many of the tallest peaks of the mountain chain. From the shelter you can easily reach the pass of Pesciola, 1965m, and various panoramic points from from which you can admire wide views over Valtellina and the Rhaetian Alps.

### 3 - Paiosa - Armisola - Grioni

DIFFICULTY Average	STARTING POINT Loc. Paiosa, 1135 m
ALTITUDE GAIN 715 m	RECOMMENDED SEASON June - October
TIME OF ASCENT 2.15 h	

This is a gentle climb through the shady woods up to the chalet in Armisola, found in a wide area of flat pastureland at the foot of Pizzo di Rodes. From here you drop back into the woods and follow the path to the shelter in the clearing. Nearby you can find a highly panoramic spot overlooking central Valtellina and the Rhaetian Alps, in particular Valfontana and Vetta di Rhon.

#### HOLIDAY FARMS

1. **Ca' Orlandini** – Ponte in Valtellina – Ca' Orlandini, loc. Briotti tel 333 4520322
2. **Agriturismo Fiorenza** – Piatteda – loc. Fiorenza - via Chiurasca tel 333 6278592
3. **Nonna Aurelia** – loc. Busteggia – tel 340 3595297

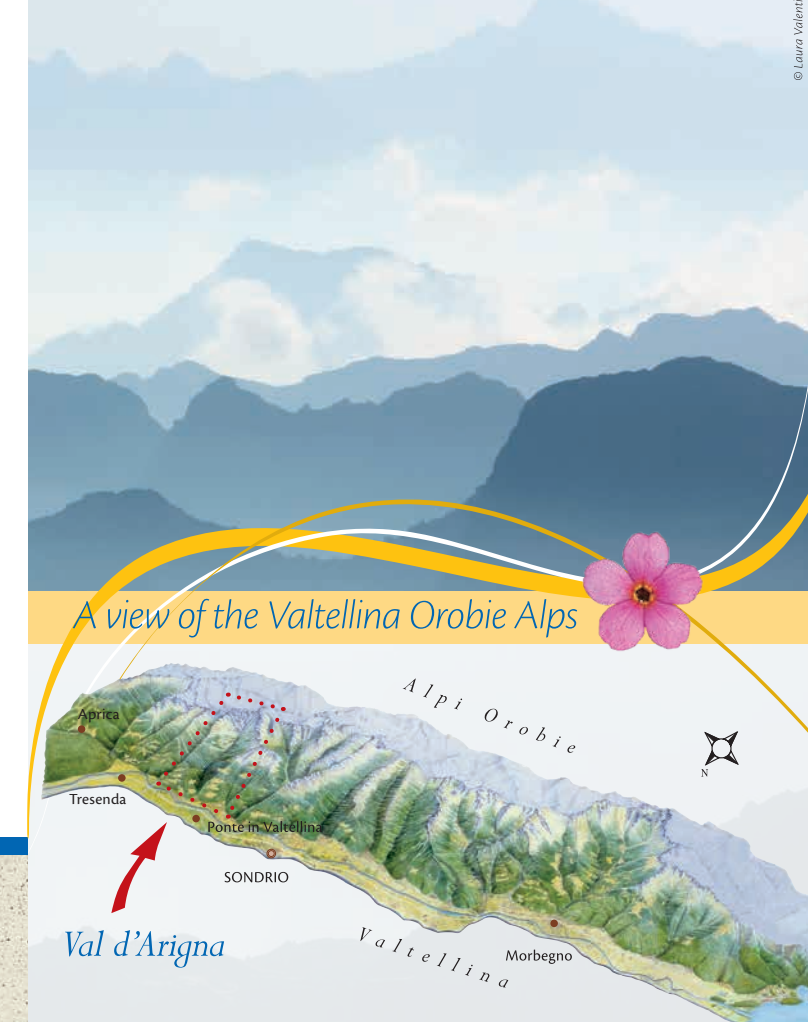
#### Useful contacts

- **Consorzio Turistico Sondrio e Valmalenco** – Via Tonale 13 - Sondrio tel 0342 219246 - info@sondriovalmalenco.it, www.sondriovalmalenco.it

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 (Italian/English).

#### 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)



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

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

Parco delle Orobie Valtellinesi

Val d' Arigna



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