

Val del Livrio, Val Cervia, Val Madre Matching valleys

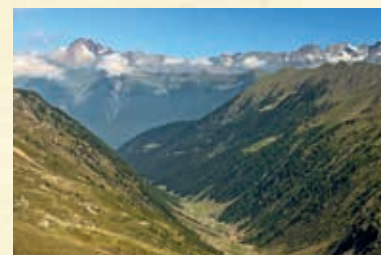
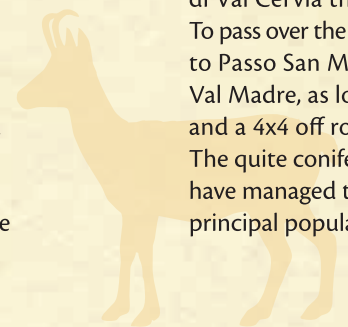
Lying side by side at the center of the long Orobie mountain chain, these valleys share the same south-north orientation, the same morphology and the same vertical slopes ending in deep gorges dug by the incessant action of the streams. For this reason they are best admired for the alpine pastures and fallows found at the mouth of the valleys, and for the view over the sunny slopes of the Bergamo province that can be seen from their head.

In the area of Valle del Livrio, the peaceful lakes of Casera and Zocche above San Salvatore di Albosaggia stand out for their beauty. You can walk along the entire valley following the agro-silvo-pastoral road and if you then take

an alpine path, you can get to Passo del Publino, a natural terrace overlooking the Bergamasque Alps.

In the neighboring Val Cervia you can reach a similar destination by following the easy agro-silvo-pastoral road starting from the fallows of Campelli and Arale: the Passo di Val Cervia that looks out on some lovely alpine lakes. To pass over the Orobie chain, the only carriageable alternative to Passo San Marco is the agro-silvo-pastoral road of Val Madre, as long as you have the necessary access permit and a 4x4 off road vehicle.

The quite conifer woods hidden away in the three valleys have managed to maintain a rich fauna, including one of the principal populations of capercaillie, symbol of the Park.



Alpine shelter in upper Val Cervia - ABOVE Val Cervia with Monte Disgrazia on the left and Monte Bernina on the right

Lago delle Zocche e Monte Disgrazia



Church of San Matteo, Val Madre



SACRED BUILDINGS

The churches of San Salvatore and San Matteo

The many sacred buildings scattered across the valleys that emerge from the woods are a significant testament to the strength of the catholic faith in even these remote corners of the Valtellina Orobie. The church of San Salvatore, in the small village of the same name, is one of the best examples of this sacred architecture. Its origins, according to the scholar and historian Francesco Saverio Quadrio, date back to 537 AD; we have surer evidence of its existence from the XII century, although the building was completely rebuilt starting in 1562, when it acquired its current baroque appearance. Probably due to its picturesque location, overlooking the deep gorge of Valle del Livrio, there are many legends and superstitions surrounding this little church.

In Val Madre, the church of San Matteo, half way up the deep furrow dug by the stream, dates back to the XIV century and has some important artworks; the most prominent are a fresco of S. Michele from the sixteenth century and two baptismal fonts, one from the sixteenth and the other from the eighteenth century.

Park structures

La Sala MICOLOGICA - Visitors Centre

WHERE Strada provinciale Orobia - loc. Valle di Colorina, Colorina
 INFO AND OPENING Groups must be pre-booked, tel 348 8197229 - 349 1986635
 micologica.anzi@virgilio.it - Associazione Micologica Retica "Martino Anzi"

The former church of Santi Simone e Giuda, in Valle di Colorina, hosts an educational course called Appunti di micologia (Notes on mycology): an introduction to the strange world of mushrooms, of which the Orobie are notoriously rich.

The tour comprises a set of information panels describing every aspect of the local mushrooms: habitat, distinguishing features, classification, physiology, edibility or toxicity, reproduction and modes of study.

The whole is further enriched by resin copies of the various species and, when the season is right, a feast of real examples.



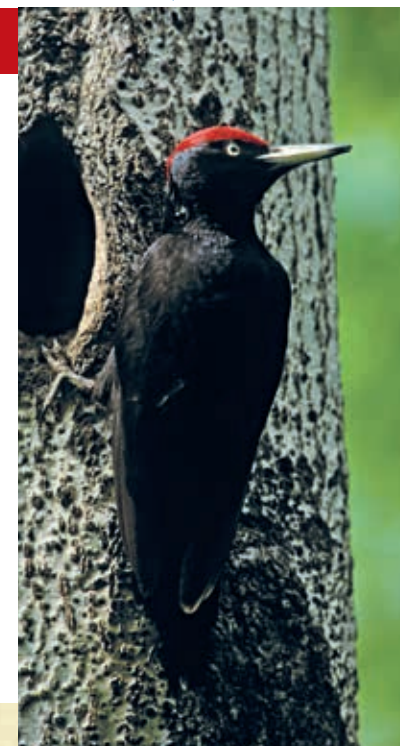
Military Front

Like the other easily accessible mountain passes in the area (San Marco, Verrobbio, Lemma), the Passo di Dordona still bears traces of trenches, drystone fortification, tunnels and artillery platforms, some of which have been restored. These are the remains of the Linea Cadorna, officially called Occupazione Avanzata Frontiera Nord. This was a series of defensive military lines built between 1911 and 1917 under order of chief of staff general Luigi Cadorna, to protect Italy and the industrial areas of Milan and Bergamo from a potential attack through Switzerland. This was not as remote a possibility as it may seem, given what had happened to Belgium in those same years.

However, just after they had finished building it, the defeat at Caporetto on the eastern front meant all troops were moved away to the breached line. Because of this, the Linea Cadorna lost all importance and was abandoned in 1919, without a single shot ever being fired along its length.



Black woodpecker



Greater spotted woodpecker



Woodpeckers - Stonecutters of the forest

Every wood in the Orobie rings with the loud cries of black woodpecker, the largest European species of these forest birds, the Picidi. When it comes to noisiness, its "relatives" the green woodpecker, the greater spotted woodpecker and the northern wryneck are not to be underestimated. The latter is not only the smallest of the family but also lacks the ability to excavate wood.

The main source of food for these species are insects, in particular xytophagous beetles and ants. Woodpeckers use their highly sensitive tongues to help them find the larvae that hide inside trees, that they then extract with their sturdy bill. For this reason you could say that woodpeckers are the best health agent for the containment of the prolific population of wood eating (xytophagous) insects. During the winter months some woodpeckers also feed off seeds and dry fruit.

The wood nuthatch, though not a proper woodpecker, shares their diet. As it isn't able to excavate wood, to nest it generally uses the cavities created by woodpeckers and adapts them to its small size by carefully plastering the walls with mud.

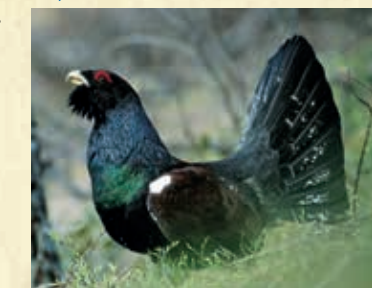
Mountain Galliformes

Capercaillie, black grouse, hazel grouse and rock ptarmigan are amongst the species of bird that have most fascinated the people of these mountains. For most of the year they live reclusively, being well suited for camouflage thanks to the coloring of their plumage, especially in females and in hazel grouse and ptarmigan males. If it weren't for the instinct to breed, that once a year makes them far more vocal, they would go almost unnoticed. These species are native to northern Europe, they belong to the family of the Phasianids family and the subfamily of the Tetraonini. They have physiological features that allow them to live in cold environments: rounded body shape to help contain heat loss, legs covered in feathers to avoid sinking into the snow and feathered nostrils to protect them from blizzards.

Amongst these species, ptarmigan are the only one that don't live in forest environments: in the Orobie it spends most of its existence at over 2300m altitude.

Closely related to the latter is the rock partridge, which belongs to the subfamily of the Perdicinae. This species can be found in the Alps but, unlike the others, its origins are exclusively Mediterranean and linked to dryer habitats. In the Orobie it inhabits an area that stretches from mountain forest to alpine level.

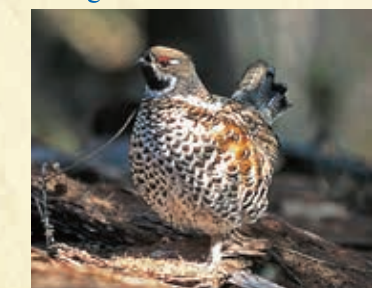
Capercaillie



Black grouse



Hazel grouse



Ptarmigan



RECOMMENDED ROUTES

1 - S. Salvatore - Laghi della Casera e delle Zocche

DIFFICULTY Easy
STARTING POINT San Salvatore, 1311 m
ALTITUDE GAIN 609 m
RECOMMENDED SEASON June - October
TIME OF ASCENT 2.00 h

This is one of the easiest outings in this part of the Orobie and also one of the most beautiful. Towards the end of summer Lago della Casera is home to various events that for some years have included the "I suoni delle Orobie" open air concert. Having left your car at San Salvatore, you proceed along the easy agro-silvo-pastoral road that climbs through the conifer woods. The first stop is at the green waters of Lake Casera. From here you can reach the basin of Lago delle Zocche with a twenty minute walk. After a further hours' walk the fittest can reach the 2358 m of Pizzo Meriggio, a famous destination for ski alpineering in wintertime, where you can admire a 360° view of the Rhaetian and Orobic Alps.

2 - Campelli - Passo di Valcervia

DIFFICULTY Average
STARTING POINT Campelli, Arale, 1500 m
ALTITUDE GAIN 818 m
RECOMMENDED SEASON June - October
TIME OF ASCENT 3.00 h

After paying the access fee to the agro-silvo-pastoral roads at one of Cedrasco's bars, you can reach Campelli and Arale by car. After leaving the car behind, take the easy road that leads up the valley and through the pastures where highly prized cheeses are produced. Once you reach Baita Publino, a path leads you to Passo Val Cervia where you can see Corno Stella, a well-known mountaineering destination, and some of the natural lakes of the Bergamo Orobie.



MOUNTAIN HUT/BIVOUAC

- Rifugio Stella Orobica** (private) – Lago della Casera 20 beds – 328 7531375
- Bivacco A. Caprari** (CAI) left open – 12 beds, keys on demand; CAI Sez Valtellinesi, Sondrio, tel 0342 214300
- Bivacco Baita di Sciuch** (Com. di Albosaggia) Loc. Sas Marmulin - Albosaggia booking: Bruno 328 6433650
- Bivacco Baita Növa** (Com. di Albosaggia) – between the lakes of Casera and Zocche booking: Renato 335 5727176
- Baita Lago Della Casera** (Comune di Albosaggia) Lago della Casera – beds, keys on demand: Comune di Albosaggia tel 0342 510376 o Mr. Dario Bormolini tel. 0342 511960 - cell 338 7668260
- Rifugio Alpe le Zocche** (Com. di Albosaggia) Lago della Casera – 10 beds, keys on demand: Comune di Albosaggia tel 0342 510376
- Bivacco F. Pedrinelli** (in gestione ad A.E.S. Sforzatica - Dalmine) presso Passo del Publino not catered – left open – 10 beds

RECOMMENDED ROUTES

3 - Valmadre - Passo di Dordona

DIFFICULTY Easy
STARTING POINT Valmadre, 1200 m - TIME OF ASCENT 2.30 h
ALTITUDE GAIN 861 m
RECOMMENDED SEASON June - October

From the medieval village of Fusine, that gets its name from the ancient iron forges (fucine in Italian), you can take a road that mounts the valley as far as Passo di Dordona; this and Passo San Marco are the only two carriageable passes in the Orobie. You must pay for the access to the agro-silvo-pastoral road in one of Fusine's bars before you can then reach the settlement of Valmadre, where you'll find the ancient church of San Matteo. After leaving the car behind, you proceed on foot along the easy track through the woods at the valley bottom all the way to Passo di Dordona, where you can admire the view of the Bergamo Orobies, in particular Foppolo and Val Brembana, and visit the remains of military works from World War I.

Rifugio Dordona (privato) Alpe Dordona Val Madre, Fusine Jessica Ruffinoni – tel 349 6148236

Rifugio Bernasca (Comune di Colorina), Alpe Bernasca Colorina non custodito – tel 0342 492113

AGRITURISMI

- Az. Agr. Meriggio** – Albosaggia – via Gerone 12/A – tel 347 8089140 - www.meriggioequitazione.it
- La Masun di Mustach** – Albosaggia – loc. Ca' Boscacci tel 339 2548931
- .3b. Stella Orobica** – Albosaggia – loc. Torchione e loc. Lago della Casera tel 0342 510161 - cell 328 7531375 - www.stellaorobica.com
- Terra del Sole** – Albosaggia – via Caselle 25 – tel 0342 211043 - www.alloggiaterradelsole.it
- Ribuntà** – Loc. S. Bernardo – Caiolo - tel 0342 561297 - cell 349 5389865 - www.agriturismoribun.it
- Agriturismo Caffè e Vino** – Caiolo – via Roi 102 – cell. 3715392387

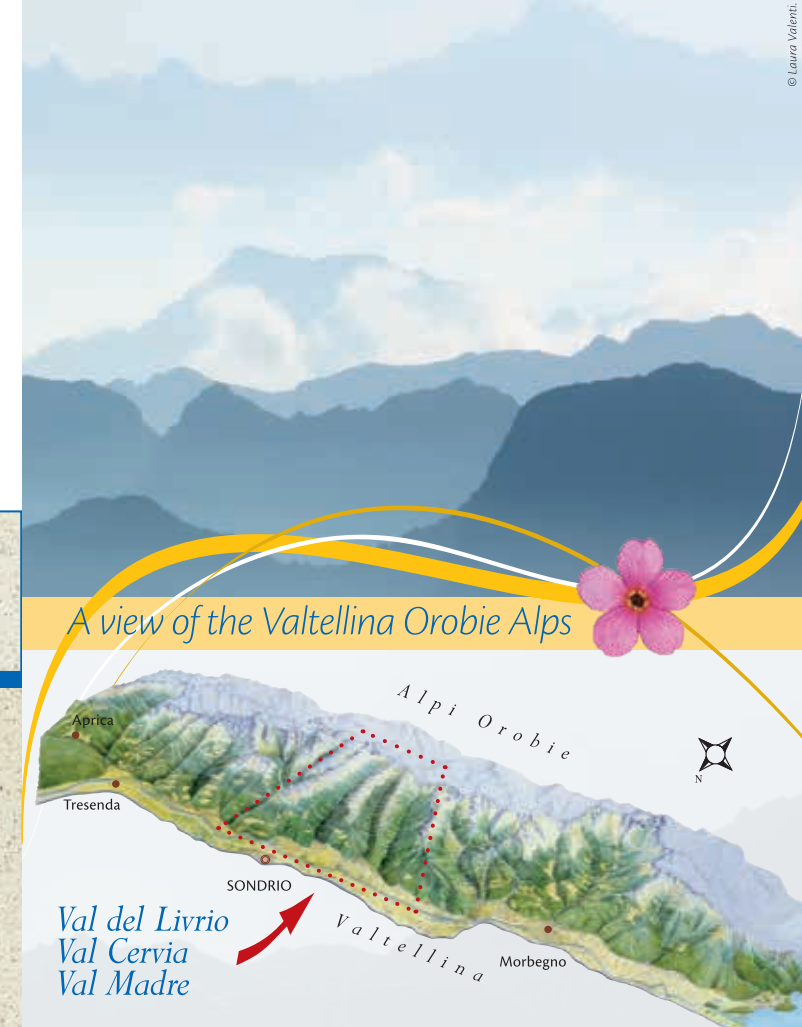
Contatti utili

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

For further and more detailed information we recommend you read "Guida al Parco Regionale delle Orobie Valtellinesi" by Mario Vannuccini, Lysis 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



A view of the Valtellina Orobie Alps

Val del Livrio
Val Cervia
Val Madre

Agriturismo

- Restaurant or rest stop
- Rooms
- Information
- Visitors center
- Museum
- Restaurant or rest stop
- Rooms
- Stable
- Golf
- Parking
- Only authorized parking*

* Access to all roads closed to regular traffic is regulated/controlled by local authorities. For further information/Further updates: Comune di Albosaggia 0342 510376 Comune di Caiolo 0342 355004 Comune di Cedrasco 0342 492159 Comune di Fusine 0342 492141 Comune di Colorina 0342 492113

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

www.parcorobievalt.com

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Val del Livrio
Val Cervia
Val Madre

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