

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Degree of difficulty	EEA-D
Elevation of the access point Alpe In La Piana	895 m
Elevation of the access point Ponte Velina	478 m
Length	11 km
Difference in elevation	417 m
Average walking time	2.5 km/h
Main aspect	east
Type of track	gorge
From Valle Loana to Alpe In la Piana	4 h 00 min
From Ruspeso to Ponte Velina	1 h 45 min
From Alpe In La Piana to Valle Loana	4 h 15 min
From Ponte Velina to Ruspeso	2 h 05 min
Recommended period	May-Septembre

VIA FERRATA “SELVAGGIO VERDE” RULES

ART. 1 - FOREWORD

A via ferrata is a route that leads its users on rocky cliffs, or on ridges, ledges, and gorges, previously equipped with cables, ladders, pegs or brackets fixed to the rock, and rope bridges; climbing the route requires adequate training and equipment.

Accessing and using the Via Ferrata “Selvaggio Verde” are subject to the present rules. Venturing on the Via Ferrata without the necessary experience, suitable equipment, and safety gear is extremely dangerous; these rules aim therefore at making users safer on the route and at protecting the surrounding environment.

The Via Ferrata “Selvaggio Verde” is in the heart of Val Grande National Park, it is 11 km long, and a stretch of it runs within Monte Pedum Reserve; it also falls within the Natura 2000 Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA).

The route can be climbed in both directions - north to south and vice versa - departing below Alpe In La Piana (municipality of Trontano) or in Ponte Velina (municipality of San Bernardino Verbano).

It consists of two distinct stretches:

1. In la Piana (fork P40 trail) - Orfalecchio
2. Fork P50b trail - Ponte Velina

The two stretches are connected by a track for experienced hikers.

ART. 2 - ACCESSING THE VIA FERRATA AND SERVICES

The point of departure of the Via Ferrata by Alpe In La Piana is marked with specific trail

signage and can be reached on foot in approximately 20 minutes following the P40 trail In La Piana-La Colma. An information plaque is placed at the beginning of the Via Ferrata.

How to get to Alpe in La Piana: Alpe In La Piana can only be reached on foot. The shortest way is from Valle Loana (municipality of Malesco) along trails M14 (stretch Fondo Li Gabbi-Alpe Scaredi) and P30 (Alpe Scaredi-Alpe In La Piana), and takes 4 hours without stops.

Free parking lots are available in Fondo Li Gabbi.

The point of departure of the Via Ferrata in Ponte Velina is marked with specific trail signage and information plaque.

How to get to Ponte Velina: Ponte Velina can only be reached on foot along one of the following ways:

1. Ruspesso - Ompio - Basseno - Ponte Velina (1 h 45 - without stops)
2. Cicogna - Cascè - Montuzzo - Baserga - Ponte Velina (2 h 05 - without stops)

In Ruspesso (municipality of San Bernardino) and Cicogna (municipality of Cossogno) there is a limited number of free parking lots.

Downstream from Orfalecchio there is an escape path that leads to Ruspesso along trails P50b (stretch Val Foiera-Corte Buè) and P07b (stretch Corte Buè-Croce di Ompio-Ruspesso) in approximately 5 hours.

In Alpe In La Piana and Orfalecchio shelter can be found in emergency bivouacs at old mountain huts, which are only equipped with wood stove, tables, benches, and a wooden loft to sleep.

Warning: the whole area has no mobile coverage

ART. 3 - RECOMMENDATIONS

- The fixtures of the via ferrata are only an assistance to climbing, i.e. they represent a passive safety: active safety only depends on the individual experience, behaviour and equipment.
- Please carefully consider the characteristics of the route:
 - significant length (11 km)
 - long unprotected stretches, with very narrow and always exposed track
 - risk of material falling from above, especially under the cliffs and when crossing stream beds or waterfalls
 - slippery stretches due to the moisture in the gorge
 - wild area, without human presence along the route
 - no mobile coverage in the whole area
- Please carefully assess your own physical fitness and technical preparation for the Via Ferrata. Mountain experience on arduous and exposed tracks is essential, as well as experience in climbing via ferratas, good training and fitness, and ability to stay focused on the track difficulties for a prolonged time.
- If you are not experienced in via ferratas, or need increased safety, we highly recommend you get accompanied by a UIAGM professional mountaineering guide.
- Provide yourself with full and specific via ferrata equipment, and make sure you know how

to use it properly

- Be very mindful of weather conditions

ART. 4 - COMPULSORY AND RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

To climb the Via Ferrata, you must provide yourself with your personal, full and specific via ferrata equipment, consisting of:

- mountaineering helmet
- climbing harness, correctly worn
- lanyard with energy absorber
- mountain boots

Falling shocks are extremely violent on a via ferrata: this is why the use of a via ferrata set with energy absorber is compulsory.

The following items are also recommended:

- via ferrata gloves
- additional longe, already connected to the harness
- climbing rope to use on non-equipped (and easily slippery) stretches
- 2 litres of water per person
- charged headlamp
- the necessary for an emergency stop

ART. 5 - RULES

- Never leave the Via Ferrata: it is the only way along the gorge of Rio Val Grande and it is therefore essential to follow it, to avoid falling or getting lost.
- Don't disconnect from the cable where present
- On equipped stretches, the cable anchoring points must be passed by disconnecting only one carabiner at a time, and keeping one arm of the lanyard always clipped to the cable. Never have both carabiners disconnected from the iron cable at the same time!
- On equipped stretches, keep the distance between climbers, and avoid having more than one person between two cable anchoring points.
- People weighing less than 40 or more than 120 kilos must proceed in roped party.
- Proceed very carefully to avoid making stones fall; if you accidentally make stones or gravel fall, signal this by saying loud "sasso!"
- Don't climb the Via Ferrata if a storm or adverse weather (rain, snow, ice) is forecast, nor immediately after said events, as they make the trail more slippery.
- Don't climb the Via Ferrata during nighttime. If, due to force majeure, you find yourself along the via ferrata in the dark, reach the safest possible spot and make an emergency bivouac.

ART. 6 - GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Along the whole Via Ferrata, on the trails leading to it, and in the whole protected area, it is prohibited to:

- leave garbage of any kind: this must be carried back and disposed of according to the rules, propriety and politeness
- light fires
- soil or in any way damage the fixtures, trails and equipments, alter the conditions of the Via Ferrata, of the paths leading to it, of the rocks and the signage, or carry out any action that may compromise the good working condition of the Via Ferrata
- place unauthorised posters or ads
- capture, kill, damage, or disturb the animals
- collect or damage the plants

We also advise to:

- get prior information on weather and route conditions
- always inform someone (relative, host of the structure where you are staying, State Forestry Corps if present) that you are going to climb the Via Ferrata
- leave notes on the bivouacs books along the trail (name, origin and intended itinerary)
- get information and leave indication on how to alert the rescue, considering that the whole area of the Via Ferrata has no mobile coverage

ART. 7 - LIABILITY

Climbers undertake the Via Ferrata at their own risk. The decision to climb the Via Ferrata implies total personal responsibility, as regards both possible accidents touching the climber, and damages they may cause to third parties.

The Via Ferrata builder, the Park Authority, the local authorities, or any other public or private party won't be held liable for accidents caused by the climber's subjective reasons, and not due to faults in the building and maintenance of the Via Ferrata.

Minors cannot access the Via Ferrata without a person of age who accompanies them and undertakes responsibility for them.

ART. 8 - DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY

On the basis of the route characteristics and of the surrounding environment, the degree of difficulty of the Via Ferrata is classified as **EEA-D**, where **EEA=Experienced and equipped hikers** and **D=Difficult**.

ART. 9 - MANAGING AUTHORITY

The manager of the Via Ferrata is the Val Grande National Park Authority, according to the Agreement made with the municipalities of Trontano, Cossogno and San Bernardino Verbano.

The manager has the following duties:

- Carry out periodical checks as well as routine and extraordinary maintenance

- Ensure, directly or through a delegate, that the signage is always present and legible on the access and exit paths and on the Via Ferrata
- Grant insurance coverage for the use of the Via Ferrata, excluding the users' direct liability for inappropriate use of the safety systems and non compliance with the rules on accessing and using the Via Ferrata.

The Via Ferrata will be promptly closed, temporarily or permanently, in case of

- danger
- repeated violation of the norms as per Art. 6
- risk of disturbance to ecosystems, habitats and species

The announcement of the closure will be posted at the entrances of the Via Ferrata and made public

ART. 10 - COMMUNICATIONS

Should you observe problems along the Via Ferrata such as damaged or deteriorated fixtures or signage, unstable rocks, blockages on the track because of fallen trees or deposited material, garbage, or any other occurrences that prevent the good working order of the Via Ferrata or of the trails leading to and from it, or represent a damage to the surrounding environment, please inform the Val Grande National Park Authority immediately at: tel. 0324/87540 - certified e-mail: parcovalgrande@legalmail.it - e-mail: info@parcovalgrande.it.

ART. 11 - FINES AND SURVEILLANCE

Except for cases pertaining to the judicial authority because they constitute an offence according to State law, and for the enforcement of art. 30, c. 1 of Law No 394/1991, violators of the present rules and of the regulations the Park Authority may adopt for their implementation are fined (from € 25,82 to € 1.032,91) according to art. 30, c. 2 of law No 394/1991.

Compliance with the present rules is verified by the State Forestry Corps command deployed at Val Grande National Park.