

The Princes' Valley



Difficulties: E - Excursionists

Departure: Gressoney-Saint-Jean (Ondrò Verdebio 1377 m.)

Arrival: Princes' Valley (2160 m)

Duration going there: 2h30'

Duration coming back: 2h approx.

Trail sign no.10 to Sottile Hospice and Alpe Valdobbia – no.11b to Rot Horn and Schkéerpie

Note An itinerary without objective difficulties, but with a few steep stretches.

Description of the route:

Cross the bridge on the stream Lys and reach the main road: almost opposite the trail starts, crossing the village of Ondrò Verdebio, to go to the Sottile Hospice and Alpe Verdebio (no.11) and to Rot Horn and Schkéerpie (no.11B). Passed by a fountain with basin, cross a paved road and the

trail sign no.14 close to a shrine. Start climbing along a fairly steep trail winding in a wood of larches and firs.

After about twenty minutes walk, you arrive at the crossroad to Schkéerpie with the trail sign no.11B. Neglected the track on the left - trail sign no.11 to Sottile Hospice (you will take it when returning) - go up on the right crossing a couple of scree slopes. Then the trail turns left, and continues close to a brook up to the junction with the trail no.11A, ignore that trail and go left among woods and screes, climbing to Pötzie (1867 m, 1h10' approx).

Bypassed the alp on the right, climb to the left and, zigzagging among protection nets – with a stunning panorama on the pastures of Hòbéerg - you will come out of the woods on a grassy ridge, with a wide view on Colle Valdobbia and the Sottile Hospice. The path now goes down with moderate slope, leaving a ruin on the left, reaching a typical barn and climbing back to the pastures of Ondrò Schkéerpie (2065 m, 1h45'). Slightly bending left, go up next to a creek to a small fork from which again there is a view of Colle Valdobbia and Sottile Hospice. Proceed on grass among sparse and high larches, the trail passes numerous wetlands and comes to the pastures of Obrò Schkéerpie (2169 m, 2h10'). After passing a bump, you will reach the fascinating clearing of the Princes' Valley, here the trail signs end.

For the descent take again the path towards Obrò Schkéearpie, but just past the pastures instead of turning left, from where we arrived, go straight (yellow sign on the ground). The first stretch of the trail is hardly seen, continue on the lawn and when the way starts down to Obrò Tschalvrétzò the trail becomes well marked and soon connects with the great path that comes down from Col Valdobbia and the Sottile Hospice (trail sign no.11). Keep on going down the trail, you will reach Ondrò Tschalvrétzò, continue to go down in the wood to return to Ondrò Verdebio, from where you started, to conclude this charming tour.

