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The Dolomites "Alta Via" n.3 from Villabassa-Niederdorf to Longarone

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The Dolomites “Alta Via” n.3

or “dei camosci”

proposed by Mario Brovelli in 1966

*High Mountain Paths
from Villabassa-Niederdorf to Longarone*

cover:
the Sorapìss at dusk
inside cover:
the Sorapìss
back cover:
the Rocchetta Alta of Bosconero

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General notes

Taking inspiration from his programme of Dolomite itineraries presented in the article which had appeared in "*Lo Scarpone*" on 1st September 1966, Mario Brovelli proposed this superb traverse which runs from the beautiful alpine centre of *Villabassa-Niederdorf* in *Pusteria* to *Longarone* in the *Piave valley*, through imposing, world-famous Dolomite structures. His invaluable guidebook, written with the indispensable help of Bruno Tolot, was published in 1976 by *Edizioni Alpine Foto Ghedina Cortina* with the title "*Alta Via dei Camosci*", number 3.

In the introduction, the authors pointed out that the Alta Via n.3 had been designed some time earlier, and that the reconnaissance missions had begun in 1971 and been completed in 1974. They added that while for some areas (*Cristallo, Sorapìss, Monte Piana*), it had been possible to use existing paths, for others (*Vallandro, Rite, Bosconero*), they had to thank the troops of the Alpine Regiment and, as usual, the volunteers of the CAI (Italian Alpine Club), who had done a superb job of restoring some old paths and creating new ones.

This *Alta Via delle Dolomiti*, just like its famous sister routes, has the peculiar characteristics of a long hike which can be divided up into various days. Refuges and fixed bivouacs can offer comfort at the stop-off points, but for those wishing to emulate the pioneers a tent or a sleeping bag can suffice.

The basic route follows paths that are not particularly difficult for an experienced hill-walker; in addition, passages or stretches that are a little rough are always equipped. Some stretches have particularly steep gradients in ascent, others in descent.

Here and there where the mountain has remained as it was in pioneer times and where only the chamois live undisturbed, there are more difficulties. These are more or less of a psychological nature due to isolation, extreme gradients, severe surroundings, lack of water, complete silence and the fog that often forms quickly and envelops the surroundings! In any case, this *Alta Via*, just like the others, passes through places which are truly extraordinary and

unique, in the wild heart of the Western Dolomites and Belluno Dolomites.

To suit the tastes of more expert hikers, some alternatives to the classic route are suggested, particularly in the first part. These variants are in some cases more technical and gratifying hikes, in other cases simply alternative ways of getting from one point to another.

“This *Alta Via* crosses some well-known Dolomite groups that have stayed almost immune to the often disorderly ‘miscellaneous crowd’ of so-called occasional tourists. At the heart of this mountain group, cars cannot arrive; therefore, apart from the unfortunate exception, there are no huge “invasions”. Here you only have to go a bit further on from the bottom of the valley to be in peace and to find yourself in the real mountains, primitive and uncorrupted...”

This was in 1973. Thirty years on, the words of Toni Sanmarchi (another “*Alta Via* inventor”) are still true.

You must, however, always keep to the marked path, especially in the *Gruppo del Bosconero*, where, on the *Viàz de le Pònte*, you enter just inside the *Val Tovanella Nature Reserve* and find yourself just a gunshot away (this is a hunting zone) from the *Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park* and its rare animals.

The Provincial Administration of Belluno’s Tourism Sector, which we have to thank for this publication, does its best to promote “local mountains” and to supply hikers with information that is as up to date as possible.

We feel obliged to point out that some authors have modified the original route, adapting it to their own personal taste, for general tourism needs and those of their guidebook users. In some places the original Italian route has been altered, and would take 12-14 days with some excessively short stretches. It’s true that this would be ideal for holidays, relaxing and enjoyable, but we have preferred to remain faithful to the tradition of “the old days”, even if this means that some stretches may seem a bit severe in length. The route could even be covered in a shorter time still, by joining one

or more daily stages together into one, but this would turn it into something more competitive than this guide suggests; our intention is that the hike should be relaxing and enjoyable.

In comparison with Brovelli and Tolot’s guide, published 30 years ago and now unobtainable, we too have made some changes, especially to the first stages, where some support points (*Carbonin, Tre Croci*) no longer exist, which “compels” today’s hikers (not that it is such a great sacrifice...) to cover certain stretches by car, bus or taxi. Other minor changes or updates have been made to the original trail because during the last few years there have been some morphological changes, as well as changes as a result of interventions carried out by the organisations responsible for maintaining and equipping the various stages of the route. Having said this, nothing has been taken away from the originality of the work and the idea; if anything there has been a willingness to improve on and to further define it, respecting the memory of Mario Brovelli and Bruno Tolot, who lived for these mountains.

■ Recommended period

The *rifugi* (refuges) normally open towards 20th June, so if you want to book a place in them you should plan your trip on the *Alta Via* after this date. Normally the route is practicable until the end of September. Once this was the ideal month for enjoying stable weather, visibility and clarity, above all because the route was less crowded, but nowadays much has changed and autumn is not always sunny and dry. Keep in mind that as a general rule, the huts close on about the 20-25th September. Therefore, after this date, it is indispensable to bring a tent and a sleeping bag or rely on the fixed bivouacs scattered along the route and the spartan, winter season shelter offered by the CAI (Italian Alpine Club) mountain huts.

At the height of the summer season it is advisable to book places in the refuges well in advance.

Out of respect for others’ needs, you should cancel as early as possible if you are unable to honour your booking, even if you have already paid.

Useful advice for hikers

■ Precautions – Equipment

The network of paths used by the “*Alta Via*” allows hikers to access various zones at the heart of the Dolomite groups where they can experience extraordinary walks at altitude. As the paths can be very tiring at times and are conducted above 2500 metres, experience, good equipment, sure footing, absence of vertigo and good physical condition are indispensable to ensure safety. Often dangers are undervalued in the mountains: a rapid change in weather, an unexpected storm, a premature snowfall, an icy patch of ground, fast-moving rivers....can all turn a pleasant, light-hearted trip into a ordeal, even on well-marked stretches of path. Good self-control can be indispensable. A fundamental condition for trekking along the “*Alta Via*” paths is good weather! Therefore you should find out weather conditions first from the available sources (*Arraba Weather Station*, TV, Radio etc.). Finally, hikers should be equipped with a good mountain kit (nowadays thousands of products of various styles, colours and technical specialities are available on the market), with several vital changes, warm, waterproof clothing, good quality climbing boots and socks, as well as all those other little bits and pieces that a good hiker’s experience advises.

It is a good idea to carry some medicine and first aid equipment with you, especially painkillers, Vitamin C, supplements, plasters, gauze, bandages.... and never forget to bring water.

If, despite the above precautions, an accident should happen (a slip, a twist, a fracture, an injury from falling rocks, a lightning strike, vertigo, etc), try not to panic and follow the indications in the following chapter where possible.

Alpine rescue service

(by Fabio Bristot, Director of the CNSAS, Veneto Region)

In this section, the C.N.S.A.S. (National Corporation of Alpine and Speleological Rescue) would like to explain what the institutional aims of the organisation are: in other words, what Alpine Rescue is and what it does.

We also offer some information and advice, as well as providing various kinds of tips.

Although not yet perfect, this piece of work is a first step towards promoting a new culture of the mountains, based on safety and prevention and also on a few procedures to adopt in case of necessity.

■ What is the C.N.S.A.S.

The National Corporation of Alpine and Speleological Rescue is a special section of the Italian Alpine Club whose members, all Volunteer Technicians, have the specific task of rescuing people who are injured or in danger both in an efficient and quick way. This can include the recovery of bodies when necessary and searching for people who are lost in difficult to get areas, (not always at altitude), which requires staff specialised in both mountaineering techniques and mountain rescue.

The Italian Law n. 74/2001 officially recognises the work of the C.N.S.A.S. as having a function of public activity and service.

As a result of this official legislative definition, Alpine Rescue has strong links with the Italian National Health Service, and with Pieve di Cadore’s S.U.E.M. 118 EMERGENCY SERVICE a close working synergy has been created in the last fifteen years, which has become more and more consolidated up to the point where it has been institutionalized with a specific convention and operative protocol within the various intervention sections.



The C.n.s.a.s. Technical Staff guarantee 24 Hr, year- round (particularly in the summer months) service, with on-going training and compulsory drills on the rock face (with or without helicopter), on snow, avalanches and ice falls, search and rescue, evacuation from cable cars, first aid techniques and general logistic problems (radio and communication, operation planning etc.)

Both Law 74/01 and in particular also Law 298/02 entrust the C.n.s.a.s. staff with the task of primary rescue in the mountains, in caves and in hostile or difficult to reach environments. The C.n.s.a.s. is also responsible for rescue coordination when there are other State or Civil Protection organisations involved, except in the case of large emergencies or calamities.

■ Where does the C.N.S.A.S. operate?

The C.N.S.A.S. normally operates in so-called hostile environments and in all inaccessible areas of the district. This does not only mean – as is generally believed - areas such as, cliff faces or *vie ferrate* (equipped paths), but also and above all snowfields and glaciers, ice falls, avalanches, cable cars, ski slopes, caves, ravines, gorges and gullies, rivers and all other types of environment not necessarily at high altitude (hills, woods, etc.), that due to difficulties of access or movement, or in special weather conditions, require the work of qualified personnel with expertise in all areas of mountaineering and speleological techniques and rescue.

Prevention

Aside from the above factors, which require a strong presence in the area in order to guarantee primary rescue , the C.N.S.A.S. also has a precise obligation to guarantee accident prevention.

For this reason the brief notes below, (although they seem obvious, our experience year in year out shows they are often ignored), aim to supply some points to consider.

■ Basic rules for improved safety in the mountains and other hostile environments.

- Never underestimate the dangers and risks associated with any type of activity connected to the mountains and to hostile environments in general (mountaineering, speleology, skiing, mountain biking, hunting, mushroom picking, hang-gliding and parachuting etc.): the rapid changes in weather, the difficulty of the route, walking time, etc.
- Good mental-physical condition and adequate preparation and training for the task to be undertaken are essential.
- Avoid attempting routes that are beyond your technical ability and physical and mental preparation.
- Never walk alone; whenever possible be accompanied and /or advised by qualified organisations (Alpine Guides , C.A.I. and C.N.S.A.S. Stations).
- Obtain adequate information about the route's features and difficulty as well as the area in general. Study all the necessary information regarding destination or route in advance, using the appropriate guides and maps.
- Always leave precise information about where you are going and which route you intend to take, using visitors books in huts and bivouacs when appropriate.
- Find out the weather conditions in advance, especially the local forecast.
- Bring adequate footwear and clothing: avoid wearing training shoes and shoes with smooth soles; bring warm clothing, anorak and a change of underwear.
- Bring a head torch, food which is light and easily absorbed by the body and extra fluids (preferably water with perhaps added saline integrators).
- Bring a small first aid kit.

■ Basic rules on how to behave in the event of an accident

- Stay calm and do not act impulsively.
- Evaluate the general situation (environment) and the specific situation (the accident). Try to identify actual and possible dangers.

- Immediately adopt measures to avoid and prevent further risks.
- Call S.U.E.M. 118. for help immediately. If this is not possible use the following intermittent visual signalling method: - 6 times a minute – once every 10 seconds - pause for 1 minute, then repeat the operation until you are sure you have been seen, or use any other system to mark your presence.

■ How to alert S.U.E.M. 118/C.N.S.A.S.

To request an intervention by the C.N.S.A.S., you must always dial 118 and follow the advice below.

General instructions to follow when you call 118

- Supply precise information about the injured person/s (name, surname, residence) and the telephone number from which you are calling.
- Give details on the location of the accident or visual references that can help easily identify the spot.
- Give a brief summary of the accident stating the time it happened.
- Specify the number of injured and their condition.
- Describe the weather conditions, especially visibility.
- Highlight any obstacles in the area with particular reference to power lines and cables, chair lifts and ski lifts and any other overhanging cables that could get in the way.
- Give any other information that could aid the operation (people present, particular difficulties etc.)

Interventions for injured persons or persons in a situation of danger

- As for previous point 1
- Supply the exact location of the accident or where the injured can be found (mountain group, slope, path, *via ferrate*, valley, gully, ledge, crest, gorge, etc).
- Mention the presence of any other people who were present at the accident and, in particular, if they are able to collaborate (Alpine Guides, C.N.S.A.S., staff, others etc.).

4. Interventions for missing or lost persons

- As for previous point 1
- Specify date and time of departure.
- Describe the method of transport used (i.e. Car: number plate, model, colour etc.).
- Indicate destination and chosen route and/or probable or possible fixed objectives (hill walking, climbing etc.).
- Give the number of companions and their hill-walking or mountaineering abilities and experience.
- Describe clothing (paying attention to colour and material) and what supplies they have with them.
- Inform of any problems: psychological- physical – family – social – etc.
- Communicate information already given to other organisations (including C.N.S.A.S.).
- Supply any other useful information regarding the subject(s), location and general environmental conditions.

Interventions in cases of avalanche

- Supply information to identify the victim/s.
- Give the exact or presumed number of people swept away or buried.
- Specify the brand and model of A.R.V.A. apparatus and/or other search technology.
- Identify the presence of any witnesses able to give an exact account of what happened:
 - If a visual-auditory- A.R.V.A., search has been carried out;
 - Provide a brief description of the avalanche (size and characteristics) and the exact point where the people were swept away and/or disappeared (right, left, high, low etc.);
 - subjects already extracted and their position;
 - other information and details that might help the intervention.

■ International mountain rescue signals

International mountain rescue signals are still the same today as they were in the past, and often the only means possible in the immensity of the mountains is sending a visual or acoustic signal 6 times per minute, at regular intervals, and then every 10 seconds. Pause for a minute and repeat the same signal until you receive a response. This is done three times in a minute at a distance of 20 seconds in a visual or audible way. By acoustic we mean shouting or whistling or any other perceptible noises; by visual signals we mean waving handkerchiefs, items of clothing or mirror signals; at night you can use a torch or, if possible, a fire (obviously with caution, especially if you are in a wooded area). Over the last few years the ever more frequent use of helicopters by Alpine Rescue has rendered new signalling methods necessary. Colourful sleeping bags or anoraks spread out on the ground or marks in the snow can help you be located from above. The SOS rescue sign can be made with letters of about 2m high using contrasting stones placed on the ground, or footprints in the snow.

In order to be seen from above, i.e. by helicopter, you need to make the following signals with your arms, or with lights at night:



Lift and spread out
both arms
Green light

**Yes, to the pilot's questions.
Land here
Help is needed**



Lift and spread out
left arm
Right arm pointing
down
Red light

**No, to the pilot's questions.
Don't land here.
No help needed**

When giving the helicopter instructions to land, keep the following in mind: with your arms outspread, remain still at the edge of the landing place; where possible the area surrounding the landing place should be clear of obstacles up to a space of 20x20 metres.

TAKE NOTE! Don't move away until the rotor blades have stopped: you are an important fixing point for the pilot.

Any items of clothing laid on the floor to help the pilot should be held down with stones to protect against the strong airflow given off by the helicopter's blades!

■ Route Signs

Everywhere along the route, the hiker can find three types of signs at all the main points:

- Red triangle with the Alta Via number inside (in this case 3); this type of sign is less common than the following:
- Path sign consisting of two horizontal red stripes with a white stripe in the middle of which you can find the path number in black. Along paths that require more frequent signs, in between those above, you can find simple red or red and white signs.
- Wooden chart signs on fixed poles (old types in metal).

The coordination of signposts on the busy network of alpine paths in the Veneto Region and in Trentino Alto Adige is constantly monitored, sector by sector. Where the triangles, path signs and charts are found to be in poor condition (unfortunately also as a result of vandalism!) and thus difficult or impossible to see, the hiker should pay careful attention to the indications set out in this guide. However, an attentive walker should not have problems of orientation if they constantly refer to a good map or put into practice information given by refuge managers along the route.

Difficulty Scale

T, for tourists, i.e. elementary difficulty
E, for hikers
EE, for expert hikers
EEA, for expert hikers with via ferrata equipment

Itinerary

Recommended Period:	from the end of June until the end of September
Departure Point:	Villabassa-Niederdorf, 1153m
Arrival Point:	Longarone
Walking days:	8
Route Length:	about 100 kilometres
Refuges on the main route:	8 (three refuges and one bivouac belong to the CAI)
Bivouacs on the main route:	1
Refreshments on the way:	7
Longest stretch:	the first, 8 hours, from Villabassa to the Rifugio Vallandro
Shortest stretch:	the fourth, 3,30 hours, from San Vito to the Rifugio Venezia
Total time required:	about 41 hours
Difficulty:	E and EE , brief stretches of EEA
Total gradient in ascent:	about 6200 metres
Total gradient in descent:	about 6800 metres
Maximum gradient in ascent:	1500m, first day, Villabassa-Rifugio Vallandro
Maximum gradient in descent :	1505m, third day, Rifugio Vandelli-San Vito
Maximum altitude:	Forcella Ciadin del Lùodo, 2378m
Minimum altitude:	Longarone, 474m
Dolomite Groups involved:	5
Opening period of the refuges:	c. 20 June – 20 September

Recommended Maps (in order of use): Carte Tabacco 1:25.000,

- n. **031 “Dolomiti di Braies”**
for the stretch from Villabassa to Carbonì
- n. **03 “Cortina d’Ampezzo e Dolomiti Ampezzane”**
for the stretch from Carbonì to San Vito di Cadore
- n. **025 “Dolomiti di Zoldo, Cadorine e Agordine”**
for the stretch from San Vito di Cadore to Longarone

Itinerary

The Alta Via delle Dolomiti n.3, which runs from Villabassa-Niederdorf to Longarone, can be divided up into five quite distinct parts, corresponding to the groups crossed:

1. Picco di Vallandro
2. Cristallo
3. Sorapiss
4. Pelmo
5. Bosconero

Description of the walk

Day One

■ From Villabassa-Niederdorf to the Rifugio Vallandro-Dürrensteinhütte

Gradient:	1500m in ascent, 620m in descent
Length:	about 17 kilometres
Time required:	8 hours
Path:	n.27, 15, 16, 33, 40, 37, SS51
Difficulty:	EE

The *Alta Via delle Dolomiti n.3* begins at *Villabassa-Niederdorf* in the *Val Pusteria*, 1153m, which you can reach by car on the SS49 *delle Dolomiti*, or by train on the line *San Candido-Innichen-San Candido* line.

From the village, follow the lanes towards the south-east, pass the railway and go onto the road known as *delle Maistattweg*, marked n.27, which goes to the *Bagni di Maia-Bad Maistatt*. When you come to the bridge over the *Rio Grau-Graubach*, 1214m, you leave the *Maistattweg* on the left (east) and continue on the little road towards the south, marked n.15, which goes up the wooded *Putzgraben* along the *Graubach* stream and which, at 1362m, splits into two branches. One goes up on the orographical right, the other on the left and they join up again at 1743m, at the *Malga Pozzo-Putzalm* (a small emergency shelter; water nearby). The signs are on the road which goes up the western side of the brook (orographical right), which is also a bit shorter.

2 hours from *Villabassa-Niederdorf*.

Near the *malga* there is a fork. Here you go east, on path n.16, and soon reach the *Passo Suis-Suisreidl*, 2013m, a beautiful pastureland saddle under *Monte Sèrla-Sarlkofel*.

Little church at Villabassa

Just before the saddle you meet path n.33 which goes south-west. Follow it, and go up beneath the rocks of the *Sèrla* on craggy ground, until you reach the extremely panoramic *Forcella Sèrla-Sarlsattel*, 2229m, situated between the *Monte Sèrla-Sarlkofel* and the *Monte Lungo-Lungkofel*.

1 hour from *Malga Pozzo-Putzalm*

3 hours from *Villabassa-Niederdorf*

You now go down to the south and proceed without difficulty until the *Passo Sèrla-Sarlriedl*, 2099m, then you go up until you reach the *Forcella Flödige-Flodige Sattel*, 2163m, between the rocks of the *Punta di Sèrla-Sarlkopf* to the west and the crags of *Monte Casamuzza-Kasamuz* to the east.

Here you leave path n.33 (which goes down south-east to the SS51 road) and follow to the south-west a well-marked, but not numbered, path which crosses to the nearby *Forcella Vallettina*, 2171m (only the altitude is marked on the map). From here, first on easy, flat ground and then zig-zagging up, you go to the modest *Forcella della Chiesa-Kirchler Scharte*, 2280m.

The path continues under the rocks until it goes round a rock spur, then goes down a slope of about 200m and up another c.200m on the opposite side. The route now becomes easier and, first going slightly up and down, then constantly and easily down on the western slopes of the *Picco di Vallandro* until it reaches the *Albergo Prato Piazza-Gasthof Plätzwiese*, 1991m, and the nearby *Croda Rossa-Hotel Hohe Gaisl*, on the road that comes up from *Bràies Vecchia*. Both hotels offer excellent food and accommodation.

Go along the road for about 2km to the south-east (fine views of the *Croda Rossa d'Ampezzo*, the *Gruppo del Cristallo* and the *Dolomiti del Cadore*) until you come to the *Rifugio Vallandro-Dürrensteinhütte*, 2040m, built near the formidable Austrian WW1 fortress known as *Forte Vallardo*.

The *Rifugio Vallardo*, a pleasant, privately owned building, is open all year and offers basic hotel services. 32 beds, typical local *Pusteria* cooking, electricity, showers, hot water, inside toilets, rooms with heating when necessary. Large groups must book in advance. Tel. 0474 74 86 50.

Sign of the Alta Via N.3, going up to the Rifugio Vallandro





The Croda Rossa from nearby the Rifugio Vallandro

Day two

■ From the Rifugio Vallandro to the Rifugio Vandelli

Gradient on foot:	370m in ascent, 890m in descent
Gradient by road :	510m in ascent, 110m in descent
Length:	about 12 kilometres along the paths, plus a further 15km by road
Time required:	5 hours (plus the time required for the 15 km on the road by car)
Path:	n.34 SS 48b and 48, 215
Difficulty:	EE, briefly EEA

From the *Rifugio Vallandro-Dürrensteinhütte*, go up the little Austrian military road marked n.34, or take the short-cut with the same number, in just over half an hour, to the wide *Sella di Monte Specie-Strudelkopfsattel*, 2200m, where the little road ends. The saddle is open between the south side of the *Picco di Vallandro* and *Monte Specie*.

From the saddle, go down to the north on the good mule-track marked n.34, in the *Val Chiara-Helltal*. At an altitude of about 1950m, cross to the east, slightly downwards, the north slopes of *Monte Specie* and then some exposed passages, which are aided by metal ropes and little wooden bridges, lead to a war gallery. Beyond the gallery the path descends diagonally, zig-zagging among the mugo pine trees, with charming views over the *Gruppo dei Róndoi-Barànci*, the *Tre Cime di Lavaredo* and *Monte Piana*. Then the path, now low-down, crosses towards the south and links up with the SS51 *d'Alemagna* near the *Hotel Cime di Lavaredo-Hotel Drei Zinnenblick*, 1406m, which lies at the opening of the *Val Rinbón-Schwarzeriental*, at the point at which the *Tre Cime di Lavaredo* can be seen towering above the harsh depression of the valley, as in a Compton painting.

3 hours from the *Rifugio Vallandro*.

The hotel *Tre Cime di Lavaredo*, privately owned, is open all year. It sleeps 70, with hot water, showers, sauna, Turkish bath, solarium, heating in rooms. Restaurant with typical local cooking. Tel: 0474 97 26 33.

The quickest way - less than 3km - to get to *Carbonin* is to go easily up the bottom of the valley along the SS51 which goes south. Another way is to go along the old railway line of the little train of the Dolomites (now a cycle lane). This latter option is more pleasant because it keeps you away from direct traffic.

Along the whole route there is a spectacular view of the *Gruppo del Cristallo* and, passing by the *Capanna Flora Alpina-Alpenflora* (refreshment available), also of the charming *Lago di Landro*.

Just after the SS48b joins the SS51, you come to *Carbonin-Schluderbach*, 1438m. About **4 hours** from the *Rifugio Vallandro*.

In *Carbonin* the huge *Residence Ploner* rents mini-apartments for a minimum of three days in low season and five days in high season, so it is no longer possible to dine and stay just one night, as it was when Brovelli and Tolot's guide was published. Tel: 0474 97 22 40.

Therefore, unless you decide to stay overnight at the excellent *Hotel Tre Cime di Lavaredo*, you will need to carry on to the *Rifugio Vandelli*, because it is not easy to find "hiking" accommodation at the *Passo Tre Croci* either.



Cristallo group; in the background, the Cadini di Misurina

The best thing to do in order to avoid walking in the thick of the traffic for 15km (from the *Hotel Tre Cime di Lavaredo*) or 12km (from *Carbonin*), is to get a taxi or some other vehicle from the *Hotel Tre Cime di Lavaredo* or from *Carbonin* to take you to *Misurina*, 1756m (where there is plenty of choice of food and accommodation), and then on to the *Passo Tre Croci* (refreshment), 1808m.

This will give you time to reach, after a splendid traverse, the calm solemnity of the *Rifugio Vandelli* (just two hours on foot from the *Passo Tre Croci*), and allow you to get ahead by a day.

Just bear in mind that if you decide on this option, you won't cross the *Gruppo del Cristallo* (possible with VARIANT 2).

Just south-east of the *Passo Tre Croci*, take path n.215, cross a field and go into the forest, walking for a while on the north-west slopes of the *Cime di Marcuoira*. Back towards the south, you go up a brief rock ramp with the help of metal ladders, continue over mugo pine covered banks and onto a ledge which is slightly exposed, but protected by a metal handrail.

Lastly, going moderately upwards, you reach the idyllic setting of the *Rifugio Alfonso Vandelli*, 1928m, close to the enchanting turquoise waters of the *Laghetto del Sorapiss*.

2 hours from the *Passo Tre Croci*

5 hours from the *Rifugio Vallandro* (plus 15km on the road by vehicle, about 9 hours if you do the entire stretch on foot)

The *Rifugio Vandelli*, a lovely place to spend the night, belongs to the Venice Section of the CAI. It was built in 1891 and renovated in 1966 near the charming *Laghetto del Sorapiss*. Open from 20th June to 20th September, it offers basic hotel services, with 43 beds, plus 7 places in the winter shelter. Electricity generator, water inside, inside toilets with hot water and shower. CNSAS "118" Rescue Station. Refuge Tel: 0436 3 90 15.

Variant 1

■ From the Rifugio Vallandro to the Rifugio Vandelli through the Val di Specie, Carbonin, SS48b and 48 for Misurina and Passo Tre Croci

The plateau of *Pratopiazza*, and the *Rifugio Vallandro*, is linked to *Carbonin* by a little road and a good path marked n.37 which cuts across the road here and there with many short-cuts ; it is the shortest and quickest route to get to the bottom of the valley, although it is quite monotonous and there isn't much to see.

1,30 hours from the *Rifugio Vallandro*.

Then from *Carbonin* in 12 km by vehicle you reach the *Passo Tre Croci* and from here the *Rifugio Vandelli*, as for Day Two.

3,30 hours on foot, plus the 12km by vehicle.

About **7 hours** if you do the whole stretch on foot.



Variant 2

■ From the Val di Landro to the Passo Tre Croci through the Val Popéna and to the Rifugio Vandelli

The original route of the *Alta Via delle Dolomiti n.3* went up the *Val Popéna Bassa* and the *Val Popéna Alta* after an overnight stay at Carbonìn (no longer possible today), and down the opposite side to the *Passo Tre Croci*, so after having crossed the eastern spurs of the *Gruppo del Cristallo* from north to south.

From the *Val di Landro*, i.e. from the *Hotel Tre Cime di Lavaredo* or

from *Carbonìn*, you reach the fork where the SS48b branches off to the south-east. Follow the SS48b for just over one kilometre until the *Ponte (bridge) della Marogna*, 1476m. From here go down on the bed of the *Rio Val Fonda* and then take the path which goes up quite steeply on the side of the mountain and enters into the forest in a south-easterly direction. After crossing two narrow little valleys you come back onto the *Carbonìn-Misurina* road at *Ponte Val Popéna Alta (or Auta)*, at an altitude of 1659m.

From *Ponte della Marogna* you can also get here by following the SS48b for about 3km.



The old Rifugio Popèna

From *Ponte Val Popèna Alta*, take the mule-track n. 222 which goes south along the *Rio Popèna* and goes right up the *Val Popèna Alta* to the *Forcella di Popèna*, 2214m, a large saddle between the *Corno d'Angolo* and the *Pale di Misurina*.

Magnificent views over the *Sorapiss*, the *Antealo*, the *Marmaròle*, the *Tre Cime di Lavaredo* and, to the north, the *Dolomiti di Sesto*. On the saddle you can see the ruins of the *Rifugio Popèna*, which was destroyed by fire.

Over the saddle you go down a steep, deep, narrow valley to the south. At the end of the valley you turn sharply right (west) in traverse. Then you enter the watershed of the *Rio Rudavoi*, which you follow until you descend, at about 1710m, onto the SS 48 which comes from *Misurina* and leads to the *Passo Tre Croci*.

Follow the SS 48 west for about one and a half kilometres until you come to the *Passo Tre Croci*, 1808m. Bar, restaurant.

5 hours from *Carbonin*; about 6 hours from the *Hotel Tre Cime di Lavaredo*

From the *Passo Tre Croci* to the *Rifugio Vandelli*, as for Day Two.
7 hours from *Carbonin* ; about 8 hours from the *Hotel Tre Cime di Lavaredo*

Day three

From the Rifugio Vandelli to San Vito di Cadore

Gradient:	600m in ascent, 1505m in descent
Length:	about 18 kilometres
Time required:	7 hours
Path:	n. 215, 216, 223, 214, 426
Difficulty:	EE, briefly EEA

From the *Rifugio Vandelli*, follow path 215 briefly (the path you took to get to the refuge), until you come to the fork at 1888m. From here turn sharply left (west) onto path 216, which winds decisively up north towards the eastern shoulder of the *Cime Ciadin del Lòudo*. When you come onto the rocks, go down the side of the mountain to a rather exposed ledge (metal ropes) which goes into the romantic ciadin (mountain basin) covered with rubble and gravel.

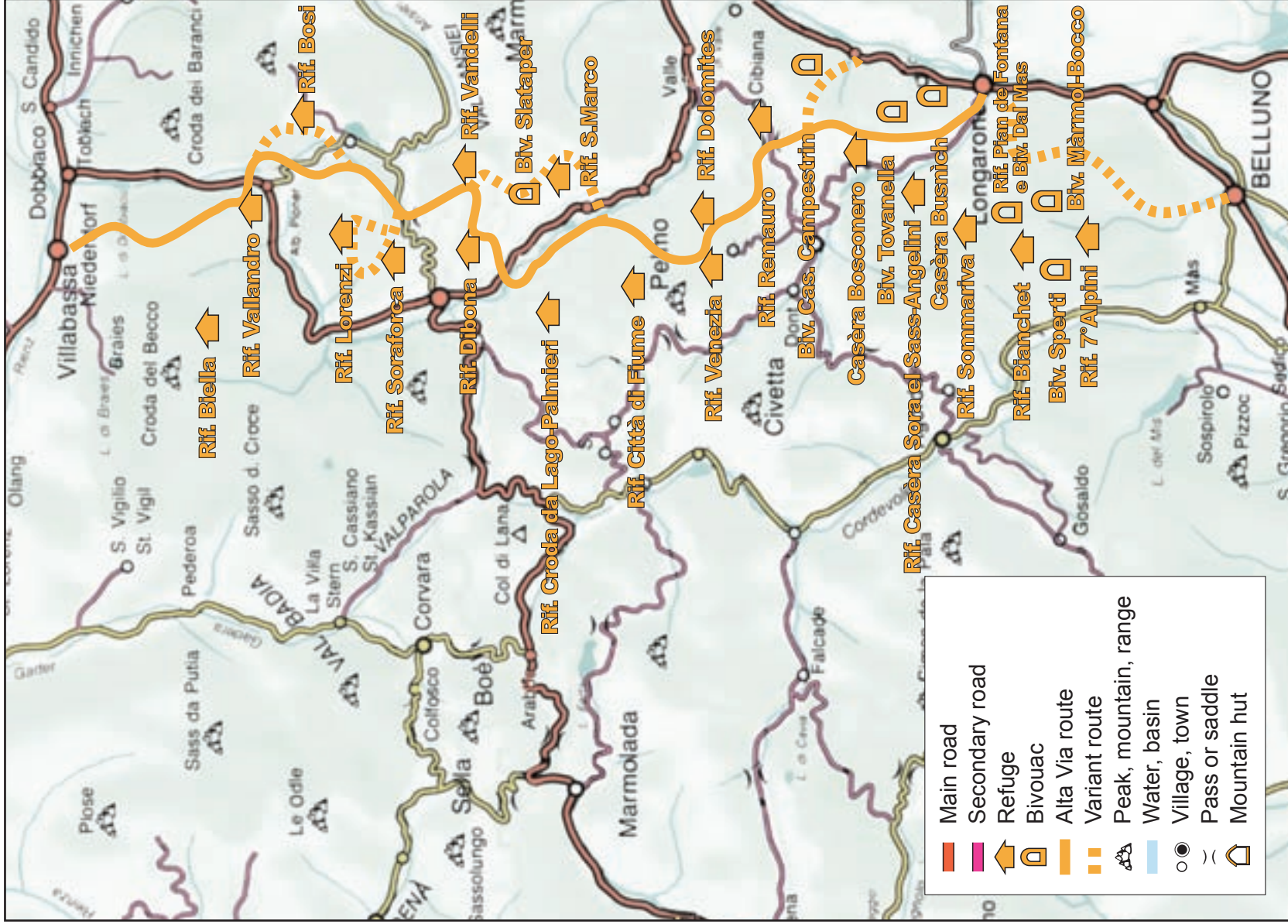
Just beyond the ledge, leave path 216 and take path 223 to the left (west), which goes up to a stretch made easier by fixed ropes and the *Forcella Ciadin del Lòudo*, 2378m, under the rocks of the western *Cima Ciadin del Lòudo*.

This is the highest point of the *Alta Via n.3*.

After the saddle, continue south-west, high under the rocks of *Ra Zèsta (La Cesta)*. After crossing various mountainsides and scree, you reach the *Forcella Falòria*, 2309m, with huge views over the *Dolomiti Ampezzane*.

Now path 223 goes up to the right (north-west; while the 215 goes south) and follows the whole of the rocky crest of *Monte Ciasadiò*.

After the higher stations of the *Falòria* chairlift, you soon go down to the *Rifugio Tondi*, 2327m.





Particular view of the Antelao from the Cristallo area

The *Rifugio Tondi*, privately owned, offers basic hotel services with typical local cooking. 8 beds, mains electricity, hot water and shower. Tel: 0436 5775

From the *Rifugio Tondi*, continue west until you come to a fork in a hollow near the top of a ski lift. Here you take to the left (south-west) path 214, which, with a wide curve, takes you right back to the south-east into the *Val Orita*. When you reach the valley, go down towards the bottom until you are just under a narrow where the path turns decisively right (west) and leads you over a steep and very panoramic mountainside on the mountains of the *Val Bòite* (*Antelao, Pelmo, Croda da Lago, Tofane*).

You now enter the wood and descend until you meet a little road which leads to Zuèl, c.1170m, a ward of *Cortina d'Ampezzo*, where you can get the bus to *San Vito di Cadore*.

From Zuèl, if you decide to continue on foot, you should head from the ward of *Socòl* along the road of the Olympic ski-jump, then down to the *Bòite* torrent, beyond which you go onto the road marked n.426

which runs almost always through the wood near the right bank of the torrent. Beautiful view over the *Croda Marcòra*.

After a comfortable, rewarding walk of about 5km, you reach the *Ponte Geralba*, 997m, near *San Floreano*. Go up the opposite side and after another 2km, you come to *San Vito di Cadore*, 1011m, where Day Three ends.

7 hours from the *Rifugio Vandelli*.

San Vito di Cadore is an important summer and winter holiday resort, in a superb position, with wonderful views. Close to *Cortina d'Ampezzo*, and an excellent base for walks and hikes to the *Pelmo, Antelao, Sorapiss* and *Marmaròle*. Lovely alpine lake nestling in the greenery.

Worth a visit are: the *Chiesa Parrocchiale* (Parish Church), dating from 1764, *Chiesetta* (little church) *della Madonna della Difesa* (1512 – 1516) and the *Museo delle Tradizioni Popolari* (Folk Traditions Museum). Tennis, mountain bike, skating. Bank ; chemist; all types of shops; one to four-star hotels; guesthouses. For accommodation in private houses, contact the Tourist Office in Via Nazionale, 9. Tel: 0436 9119.

Variant 3

■ **From the Rifugio Vandelli to San Vito di Cadore along the Percorso alpinistico attrezzato (Equipped mountaineering route) “Francesco Berti”.**

This is a mountaineering itinerary with stretches which are very exposed and partially equipped; it is therefore suitable only for expert hikers with appropriate equipment. It is a little shorter than the original day's route, but considerably harder. The first part of the descent down the erosion channel is particularly tricky.

From the *Rifugio Vandelli*, go round the shores of the lake, following path n.215 south-west and then go up towards the *Tonde de Sorapiss*. About 300 metres before the impassable *Forcella* (or *Valico*) *sóra la Cengia del Banco*, which lies between the *Punta Negra* and the *Fopa di Matia*, the path, now marked n.242, goes left and enters into a rocky erosion channel which leads onto the *Cengia del Banco* itself.

This ledge, always very exposed and with the risk of falling



stones in one or two stretches, crosses – slightly in descent – the whole of the western section of the *Fopa de Matia-Sorapiss* and leads onto the large detritus terrace which lies south-west of the *Croda Marcòra*.

The path, which here takes the name of *Percorso alpinistico attrezzato “Francesco Berti”*, crosses the whole overhanging panoramic bank until it goes round the southern edge and from there down a steep channel with fixed ropes and metal ladders. Difficulty EE and EEA.

At the bottom of somewhat daunting, detritus filled channel, you meet the traces of path n.241 which comes up from *Dogana Vecchia-San Vito di Cadore*.

This is one of the most dangerous points for falling stones; helmet recommended.

After you leave the *Francesco Berti* route, which goes up, with considerable difficulty, to the *Bivacco Slapater*, go down south over moving gravel, then cross above the banks of rock to the west, at c.1986m, and decisively down the valley to *Dogana Vecchia*, 1117m, on the SS51, about 7km north-west of *San Vito di Cadore*, 1011m, to which the road leads.

About **5 hours** from the *Rifugio Vandelli*.

Day four

■ From San Vito di Cadore to the Rifugio Venezia

Gradient:	990m in ascent, 55m in descent
Length:	about 10 kilometres
Time required:	3,30 hours
Path:	n. 470
Difficulty:	E

From here the *Alta Via* leads into the heart of the *Pelmo*, 3168m, the giant of the *Cadore*, one of the best known and popular of the Dolomite masses.

The following is merely a transfer stage.

From *San Vito di Cadore*, go down a little and cross the *Bòite* tor-

The Pelmo, "Caregon del Padreterno" ("the almighty's throne")



rent at the *Ponte di Sèrdes*, then go up the little road marked 470 and walk on the *Ponte dei Ciampeòi* on the *Ru de Orsolina* at 1029m.

From here, in a westerly direction, go up a short-cut which takes you back onto the road just before the *Grotta della Madonna*.

At the fork at 1204m, go back south-east for 300m, then go up and along the edge of the *Ru Tiera* and then through the valley of the *Ru Pian da Madiér* until you reach the *Rifugio Venezia “Alba Maria De Luca”*, 1946m.

3,30 hours from *San Vito di Cadore*

The *Rifugio Venezia*, built in 1892 and restructured in 1954, is owned by the Venice Section of the CAI. Open from 20th June to 20th September. Basic hotel services, 55 beds plus nine places in the winter shelter; water inside; electricity with generator; inside toilets with shower and hot water; CNSAS “118” Rescue Station. Tel refuge: 0436 96 84 (or the manager on 0435 42 02 53) E-mail: rifugiovenezia@libero.it

Day five

■ From the Rifugio Venezia to the Rifugio Remauro-Forcella Cibiàna

Gradient:	500m in ascent, 900m in descent
Length:	about 15 kilometres
Time required:	6 hours
Path:	n. 471, 475, 493, 456, 494, 478, 479
Difficulty:	EE

From the *Rifugio Venezia* path n.471 takes you in a few minutes to the wide pastureland saddle of the *Passo di Rutorto*, 1931m, between the *Val del Bòite* and the *Val di Zoldo*. From here the route, marked n.475, leads to a good path (not numbered on the map), which goes round the *Penna* (*Pena* on the map) to the north, then runs along its eastern side until it reaches the grassy hollow of the *Forcella Colonèl de la Stanga*, 1860m. From here it flanks the ridge towards the south-east, meets a path, follows the 493 east for a bit and, from another fork at 1646m, goes decisively south towards the little lake, or rather, the *Palù del Serla*, 1627m, where the path (not numbered on the map),

re-joins, at 1584m, the little road coming from *Zoppè di Cadore*.

Following the little road east, you reach the *Forcella Ciandolàda*, 1565m, then, still on the little road which now goes south onto path n.456, you come to the nearby *Rifugio Gianpietro Talamini*, 1582m, open with the possibility of refreshment and overni-ght accommodation.

c.3 hours from the *Rifugio Venezia*.

From the refuge, path n.494 crosses the northern slopes of the *Col Duro* (*Dur*) for a long time, entering into the *Anello Zoldano*, then goes up again to the pleasant grassy hollow of the *Forcella di Val Inferna*, 1748m, where, if need be (in bad weather, for instance), you can go directly down to the south east along the military mule-track marked n.494 onto the SS 347 near the *Quattro Tabià*, 1475m, i.e. 1km under and west of the *Forcella Cibiàna*.

From the *Forcella di Val Inferna*, continue east on path n.478 (*Anello Zoldano*), which goes up the *Monte Pera* and reaches, after a descent and a long traverse, the *Forcella Déona* (or *de Rite*), 2053m, where it meets a road coming up from the *Forcella Cibiàna*.

Follow the road towards the left (east), marked n.479, which will soon take you to the top of *Monte Rite*, 2183m, from where there are exceptionally wide views over the *Val del Piave*, the *Val del Bòite* and the *Val di Zoldo*.

2 hours from the *Rifugio Talamini*.

5 hours from the *Rifugio Venezia*.

On the summit of *Monte Rite*, on the site of the fortresses built during WW1 and partially restored, is the *Museo nelle Nuvole* (Messner Mountain Museum), completed with funding from the European Community and the Veneto Region. Worth a visit.

A shuttle bus service links the museum and the refuge beside it with *Forcella Cibiàna*.

Next to the Museum is the *Rifugio Dolomites*, privately owned. Open from the end of May until the first snow, it offers basic hotel services and sleeps 25, in en suite bedrooms with sheets and duvets. Typical local cooking ; toilets with hot water; heating; CNSAS “118” Rescue Station. Tel: 0435 3 13 15.

The Monte Rite and its museum





Sformiòl, Sasso di Bosconero and Rocchetta Alta

It might be a good idea to end Day Five here. It would give you the chance to visit the Museum properly and enjoy – weather permitting – a truly memorable, unparalleled sunset and sunrise. Since the following day's route is short, there is no reason why you should miss out on this opportunity.

To reach the underlying *Forcella Cibiàna* you can use the shuttle service, or walk down onto the military road, marked n.479, and go round the seven very sharp hairpin bends to the *Forcella Cibiàna*, 1530m.

The saddle is located in a charming landscape of fields and woodland, scattered with little wooden huts.

Nearby is the *Rifugio Remauro*, 1536m, privately owned. It offers basic hotel services and sleeps 34, with sheets and duvets. Typical local cooking. Open from June 1st to 15th March of the following year. Mains electricity; hot water; rooms with private bathroom; CNSAS "118" Rescue Station. Tel : 0435 74187

Day six

■ From the Rifugio Remauro-Forcella Cibiàna to the Rifugio Casèra di Bosconero

Gradient:	460m in ascent, 540m in descent
Length:	about 6 kilometres
Time required:	3,30 hours
Path:	n. 483, 485
Difficulty:	EE

From the *Rifugio Remauro* and the *Forcella Cibiàna*, 1530m, a little road leads south, marked n.483 (*Anello Zoldano*), and crosses an area of enchanting fields, with little rural buildings scattered here and there, then goes moderately up until it passes close by the *Casèra Copàda*, 1692m, which can be reached in a short time if need be.



The Sformiò, in the Bosconero group

At 1873m, in the *Pian d'Angiàs* area, there is an important crossroads. Path n.483, which we have followed up to here, goes off to the left (east) towards the *Sassolungo di Cibiàna*; n.485 continues to the right (south-west) towards the *Bivacco Darè Copàda* and beyond, while towards the south east go paths n.482 and 485, together until Al Crònf, 1789m, well beyond the *Forcella de le Ciavazòle* and under the *Cima Nord* (north peak) *dei Sformiò*.

From the crossroads, go up south-east, following the joint 485-482, and you will soon reach the *Forcella de le Ciavazòle*, 1994m, which frames the crags of *Bosconero* to the south and the brilliant

green fields to the north.

1,30 hours from the *Forcella Cibiàna*.

Now you go down the opposite side along the steep gravelly channel, called *La Gava*, until the broad head of the *Val Bosconero*, on the slopes of the *Sformiò*.

Here you should leave path 482 (which continues south, at the base of the western walls and then goes up to the *Forcella della Toanèlla*) and take the 485 to the right (south-east), which goes

down the valley over fragments of rock and then in the wood until it reaches the *Rifugio Casèra di Bosconero*, 1457m, dominated by the *Sasso di Bosconero*.

3,30 hours from the *Rifugio Remauro-Forcella Cibiàna*.

The *Rifugio Casèra di Bosconero*, rebuilt in 1983 on the ruins of an old rural building used for cattle in the summer, and enlarged in 1995, is owned by the Val di Zoldo Section of the CAL. It lies high in the *Val Bosconero*, in the heart of the striking amphitheatre of superb crags with romantic names: *Sfornidi*, *Sasso di Bosconero*, *Sasso di Toanèlla*, *Rocchetta Alta*, *Rocchetta Bassa*.

Open from 20th June – 20th September, it offers basic hotel services with 24 beds plus four in the winter shelter. Water inside; electricity; inside and outside toilets with hot water and shower. CNSAS “118” Rescue Station. Tel: 0437 78 73 46. E-mail: mbosconero@libero.it

Day seven

■ From the Rifugio Casèra di Bosconero to the Bivacco Tovanella along the Viàz de le Pònte

Gradient:	1040m in ascent, 820m in descent
Length:	about 8 kilometres
Time required:	5 hours
Path:	n. 490, 482
Difficulty:	EE, with a stretch of EEA

This is the most fascinating stretch of the whole *Alta Via n.3* because it runs through an environment which is not at a particularly high altitude, but which is extremely harsh and wild, between the *Val di Piave* and the *Val del Maè* (also called *Canali*, channels, which renders the idea of the shape, similar to canyons).

On the large, jagged crest, which from north to south follows the course of the two rivers, you will zigzag along the splendid, itinerary called *Viaz de le Pònte*, where in times gone by, hunters chased the chamois driven out from the underlying *Val Tovanella*, which today is a nature reserve.

Considering the fact that at the *Bivacco Tovanella* (or until *Longarone*, for that matter) you will find nothing, you ought to stock up on food and water for two days.

From the *Rifugio Casèra di Bosconero*, you take path n.490 in the wood which immediately goes up south-east and into the steep gorge which breaks off from the *Val Toanèlla*.

Zigzag up the daunting, difficult gravelly gorge, deeply marked between the huge *Sasso di Bosconero* and the superb *Sasso di Toanèlla*, until you touch upon the narrow *Forcella de la Toanèlla*, 2150m.

From here, go down first into the *Val Tovanella* (pay attention to the signs; do NOT go down too far into the extremely treacherous vegetation of the valley), then go to the right onto the watershed crest between the *Val di Piave* and the *Val or Canal del Maè*.

Now continue to the south, on the *Viàz de le Pònte*, a splendid hunting trail which passes the *Spionèra* (place for lying in wait for the chamois), which, after the *Col de la Busa*, leads to the *Forcella del Viàz de le Pònte*, 1909m. From here, go down a rocky erosion channel (equipped with good fixed metal ropes) to the east.

From the base of the channel, keeping at an altitude of c.1800-1850m, go round the foot of the rocks of the *Rocchette de la Serra* for a while towards the south, on the upper side of the underlying *Vant* (or *Gaf de la Serra*, which drops wildly down to the west).

Continue on the detrital slopes which stretch out to the west of the *Cima Alta de la Nisia, della Madonna* and *dello Spiz del Vant de la Serra*, remaining always more or less high near the crest. A detrital ledge, which is safe because it is equipped, forces you to proceed on all fours. Just after that you meet a rock plate without fixed equipment, which is a little difficult, although there are two pegs to help you if need be.

Now go up to the *Porta de la Serra*, 2050m, an attractive authentic little notch between the rocks, just a metre wide; a real gate between two large valleys, where the wind blows from both sides.

Just after the “gate”, in a sort of rock corridor, you can spot, on one of the rock walls, two beautiful bronze medallions featuring Mario Brovelli and Bruno Tolot, who invented and designed the *Alta Via 3 dei camosci*.

No better spot could have been found to honour the memory of the imaginative pair behind this and other *Alte Vie*.

Now go down south, still on path 482, down the slope of sparse grass, to the pasture of *Teàz de Laresèi*, 1834m, an old dairy hut now in ruins, only the walls of which remain, with some sheets of tin across the top forming an emergency shelter for hunters.

After you follow the tracks in the grass to the pastureland plateau, you go onto a good mule-track which soon leads to the *Bivacco "Osvaldo Tovanella"* at *Casèra Pezzèi*, 1688m, now visible below, a building on the shelf of a funnel-shaped valley which runs into the *Canale del Maè*.

5 hours from the *Rifugio Casèra di Bosconero*.

The *Bivacco Tovanella*, owned by the Longarone Section of the CAI, was built from the remains of the old shepherds' shelter of *Casèra Pezzèi*, renovated in 1975. Today, basic as it may be, it is an important support point in an area which is harsh and solitary.

Always open and unstaffed, it has 8 camp beds in the garret, which can be reached from the outside. No mattresses, few blankets; wood burning stove (which does not work very well); no cooking utensils; water from a cistern in front of the bivouac (but probably not drinkable); Tel. Longarone Section of the CAI : 0437 57 65 61.

The setting of the *Bivacco Tovanella* is very attractive, because it is far away from everything, but if you really don't feel up to spending an "adventurous" evening and night here with no home comforts, you will have to go down at least as far as *Podenzòi*, or better still, to *Longarone*, thus reducing the itinerary by one day and enjoying the comforts of civilisation.

In particular, you can enjoy some excellent ice cream, *Longarone* is considered the world capital of ice cream !

Just bear in mind that going right to *Longarone* will take you another 2 or 3 hours, although, except for a short stretch at the beginning, it is all downhill on an easy mule-track.

Day eight

■ From the Bivacco Tovanella to Longarone in the Val di Piave

Gradient:	150m in ascent, 1030m in descent to Podenzòi, 1365m to Longarone
Length:	about 10 kilometres to Longarone
Time required:	3 hours
Path:	n. 482
Difficulty:	E and T

From the *Bivacco Tovanella*, take the mule-track marked n.482 which goes south, almost immediately going up a bit into the sparse woodland until it reaches a hollow on the *Costa del Dòu*, 1840m.

From here on, the climbs are really over.

From the saddle, cross to the east, passing nearby the *Casèra Colón*, 1746m, and from here go south-east.

At c.1500m the path goes back towards east and touches the bottom of a little valley where there is sometimes water (spring higher up). Then go definitively down to the south-east, pass the *Col da Luni*, 1383m, and the *Pian da Costa*.

Just before the *Col Da Lol*, at 1144m, an excellent mule-track takes off to the left (north-east) and leads directly and easily to *Podenzòi*, passing by the *Casèra Casin*, 977m.

But you can also continue down the hillside until the *Casèra Brustolà* area, at about 1000m, where path n.482 turns abruptly left (north-east) and runs parallel to the *Casèra Casin* path, but lower down. Then, after some rural buildings, it soon leads comfortably to *Podenzòi*, 809m, which lies in a pleasant clearing on the hillside overlooking *Longarone*.

About **2 hours** from the *Bivacco Tovanella*.

To go down to *Longarone* (the tragic *Vajont* dam is clearly visible opposite, beyond the Piave), you can follow the tarmac road, perhaps even taking a lift.

Or, at the large bend south of the town (nearly there is the

Cappella Vittime del Vajont, a chapel in memory of those killed in the *Vajont* disaster), take a shortcut which avoids five sharp bends and then goes back onto the road which immediately leads to the first houses and then on to the centre of *Longarone*, 474m, where our great Dolomite adventure along the *Alta Via n.3* or “*dei Camosci*” comes to an end.

Longarone, 474m, one of the best-known industrial towns in the Belluno area, lies at the confluence of the *Maè* and *Vajont* torrents into the *Piave* River. Almost completely destroyed as a result of the huge catastrophe caused by the *Vajont* landslide on the 9th of October 1963, *Longarone* was rebuilt in a rather modern style, unfortunately thus losing the characteristic appearance of a typical Veneto town.

The new *Chiesa Parrocchiale* (Parish Church), designed by the architect Michelucci, is worth a visit not only for its artistic value, but also because in a sense it symbolises the advent of a new style of architecture seemingly determined- and it is no coincidence that it should be precisely in *Longarone*- to sever all links with the past.

You can also visit the *Museo del Vajont* and the Trade Fair Building.

Longarone offers a variety of accommodation (two and three star hotels), as well as restaurants, pizzerias, bars, ice cream parlours, banks, shops of all kinds, railway station (*Padova – Calalzo* line), sports hall, indoor swimming pool, buses to and from the main resorts in the Dolomites and the Veneto plain.

Tourist information from the *Pro Loco* in Piazza Tasso, 2, tel: 0437 770177. You can also contact the *Pro Loco* to get the *Alta Via n.3* badge and to exchange information on the *Alta Via*.

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Maps

Carte Tabacco 1:25.000,

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for the stretch from Villabassa to Carbonìn

Mapn. 03 "*Cortina d'Ampezzo e Dolomiti Ampezzane*", for the stretch
from Villabassa to Carbonìn

Mapn. 025 "*Dolomiti di Zoldo, Cadore e Agordine*", for the stretch
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Refuge stamps

Refuge stamps

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For any other information you might require regarding the Alta Via n.3, see the Tourism Sector of the Province of Belluno.

For problems regarding bookings, confirmations, cancellations, opening and closing periods of mountain huts, etc., you can also contact, apart from the respective managers of course, the Italian Alpine Club Sections who own the properties, keeping in mind that the CAI members are volunteers and are not often present during office hours in the relevant Administration sections. For the refuge telephone numbers and those of their managers refer to the text.

Italian Alpine Club Sections

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