

# Sentieri selvaggi in Val Grande

text and pictures by Alberto Conte

**Località di partenza:**

Regione Piemonte, Provincia di  
Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, Cossogno, Frazione  
Cicogna

**Tipo di itinerario:**

a piedi

**Fondo stradale:**

Fuori strada

**Difficoltà a piedi:**

Escursionisti Esperti

**Dislivello in salita (m):**

1104

**Dislivello in discesa (m):**

940

**Tempo (hh:mm):**

9:00

**Periodo consigliato:**

from May to October

**Cartografia:**

Cartine Zanetti 1:50.000 - Sheet 54 - Parco  
Nazionale Valgrande

**Punti di appoggio:**

Bivacco del parco at Pian di Boit (1123 m),  
always open

**Uffici informazioni:**

Ente Parco Nazionale Val Grande  
Villa S. Remigio - 28922 Verbania Pallanza (VB)  
Tel. 0323.557960 - Fax 0323.556397  
pvgrande@tin.it

**Accesso al percorso e note:**

How to get there:

Cicogna can be reached from the A 26  
Genoa-Gravellona motorway, exit at Verbania;  
then, at Fondotoce take the road for San  
Bernardino Verbano and follow the signs for  
Rovegno - Parco Val Grande.

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**A 2-day trek in the wilderness of  
Val Grande means full-immersion  
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The Val Grande park is the most extensive wild area in the Alps; its closeness to Lake Maggiore and to one of the most densely-populated metropolitan areas, has not spoilt the characteristics of this area, which in 1992, was made a National Park.

The establishment of a protected area made it possible to save numerous species of animals and plants, which, thanks to the very low anthropic level and to the fact that it is very difficult to reach

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most of the area, have found their ideal habitat in the Park.

the crossing of the Parco da Cicogna at Finero is one of the most beautiful itineraries you can take within the protected area. It requires a good level of fitness and good technical preparation, and can take two days.

#### First leg

Leave the car in the car park in the square at Cicogna and descend towards the valley. At the first bend take the path for Pogallo. The path was built by Carlo Sutermeister, a Swiss engineer who worked in the timber business for a long time in Val Grande, and follows the Val Pogallo. The "Strada Sutermeister" has wonderful views of the river, with its alternating rapids and quiet pools, where those who do not feel the cold can have a bath.

After walking for an hour and a half in the shade of the woods, we arrive at Pogallo (777 m), a characteristic mountain pasture in the middle of a grassy hollow. We descend through the trees leaving the first houses on the left and cross a little bridge over the river. We continue along some apparently flat ground skirting the river Pianezzoli, which we cross twice and then cross a beech grove. After an undulating section we arrive at the ruins of Alpe Preda (1005 m); we then climb through the beech grove until we finally arrive at Pian di Boit, where we can spend the night in the Park bivouac.

#### Second leg

We climb through the woods along a steep path towards Alpe Terza (1428 m), which, climbing along the left of the crest, gets steeper arriving at Bocchetta di Terza (1836 m), the pass that leads to the Finero valley.

We descend along steep paths, reaching the ruins of Alpe Val Viccio (1440 m), after which we enter the woods on the right, then crossing a canal and continuing along some apparently flat ground. A short distance after this, we meet a path that descends from Alpe Uovo which we take, following the river as far as Provola. Here we cross the river and arrive at Finero (896 m), where the path ends.