# Italy: Hiking at the foot of the Monte Rosa and the Aosta Valley

## Monday, 30 August 2027 12:00 - Saturday, 11 September 2027 09:00

Western Alps - Milano (MI)



The Monte Rosa (4,633 m, 15203 ft), one of the most iconic peaks of the Western Alps, will provide the backdrop for two weeks of hiking on its southern flank, across the two Italian regions of Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta.  Our first week in Piedmont will bring us closer and closer to the Monte Rosa as we traverse small valleys and remote hamlets steeped in history and culture.  The valleys we will cross are not widely known and offer a glimpse into life in the Alps away from large tourist crowds--and away from digital connectivity and the hustle and bustle of everyday life.  Our second week will take place right below the Monte Rosa massif, with a chance to see its snow-capped summits up close. We will cross passes and follow ridges for unimpeded views, discover alpine lakes nested in glacial valleys, and walk across villages that seem frozen in time.  Small hotels in the valleys will provide comfort and good food and mountain lodges, an integral part of the experience of hiking in the Alps, will welcome us with hearty meals and a communal atmosphere.  This is the perfect trip for those who love to hike in lesser-known places, surrounded by pastures, streams, and mountains with birds and wind for soundtrack.

**Highlights**:

-Discover the Walser heritage – Explore historic villages rich in Alpine culture and tradition.
-Monte Rosa landscapes – Cross panoramic passes with spectacular views of Monte Rosa.
-Authentic hospitality – Stay in traditional mountain lodges and enjoy local cuisine.
-Remote Alpine valleys – Hike historic trails through valleys, forests, and mountain pastures.

## DAY BY DAY PROGRAM

## Sun, August 30, 2027 (Day 1)

### Meet at Malpensa Airport and travel to Rimella

We will meet at Malpensa Airport by early afternoon (time tbd depending on incoming flight) and travel by private transfer to the village of Rimella in Val Mastallone, a side valley of the Valsesia valley in Piedmont. Time permitting, we might stop along the way in the small town of Varallo to see its Sacro Monte, a XV century pilgrimage site and UNESCO World Heritage Site. After settling into our comfortable hotel, we will have an introductory briefing and walk around the village, before enjoying a welcome dinner of local specialties. Rimella is one of the villages where the Walser people, originally from Switzerland, settled in the XII century. *Transfer: Approx 2 hrs*

*Night at hotel in Rimella (-, -, D)*

## Mon, Aug 31, 2027 (Day 2)

### Through the Walser hamlets of Rimella to the Forno Pass

Our first day of hiking will take us east, for an out-and-back hike through delightful hamlets with painted chapels and the characteristic wooden houses of the Walsers. We will follow the GTA, or Grande Traversata delle Alpi, a 1000-km trail that follows the arc of the Western Alps all along the region of Piedmont. If the weather is clear, we will catch our first glimpses of the Monte Rosa massif in the distance. We will return to Rimella in the afternoon, possibly in time to learn a bit about the Walsers' history and traditions.

*Hike: 10 km, +750 m, --750 m – 4 hours*

*Night at hotel in Rimella (B, L, D)*

## Tue, Sept 1, 2027 (Day 3)

### Rimella to Alpe Baranca

Today we start making our way west, towards the Monte Rosa, following the GTA (and also the Sentiero Italia, a much longer long-distance trail that covers all of (mountainous) Italy. From Rimella we will hike to Alpe Res, descend to La Piana in the nearby valley, near the village of Fobello, and start climbing again to along a stream to Alpe Baranca (or Alpe Selle), where a mountain lodge will welcome us for the night.

*Hike: 10.5 km, +940 m, --540 m – 5 hrs*

*Night at mountain lodge in Alpe Branca or Alpe Sella (B, L, D)*

## Wed, Sept 2, 2027 (Day 4)

## Alpe Baranca to Carcoforo

The traverse from Val Mastallone to nearby Val d'Egua features some of the best mid-mountain landscapes of the Pennine Alps: green pastures, larch and rhododendron woods, streams, small waterfalls and lakes, rustic alpine farmhouses. The valleys are wide and not too steep, the mountain passes offer beautiful views, and the route is overall pleasant. There is no shortage of historical points of interest along the way: the remains of an old villa, shelters built under rocks, stories about the Resistance movement during World War II.... We will reach Carcoforo in the early afternoon and settle into a simple but comfortable hotel, before taking a walk around the charming village and possibly exploring the local museum.

*Hike: 9 km, +670 m, - 940 m – 4hrs*

*Night at village lodge in Carcoforo (B, L, D)*

# Thur, Sept 3, 2027 (Day 5)

## Carcoforo to Rima

Today's hike is typical of alpine traverses: up one valley side to a pass, then down the other side. Summer farmhouses and stone stables mark our ascent and descent, reminding us of the hardships of the traditional practice of bringing cows and goats to the higher pastures in the summer so as to preserve the hay in the valley for winter feeding.

*Hike: 8 km, +1050 m, --950 m – 4hrs 30*

*Night at hikers village lodge in Rima (B, L, D)*

# Fri, Sept 4, 2027 (Day 6)

## Rima to Alagna Valsesia

Another day, another pass to cross. We hike up through confier forests under the mighty Monte Tagliaferro to the Colle Mud and descend into the main Valsesia valley at Alagna. Alagna (1,200 m) is a larger village than those encountered so far and will welcome us back to "modern" life and allow us to enjoy some extra comfort. Tonight, dinner is on your own in one of Alagna's several restaurants

*Hike: 12 km, +900, - 1100 m – 5hrs*

*Night at hotel in Alagna (B, L, D)*

# Sat, Sept 5, 2027 (Day 7)

## Alagna: Rest day or hike in the Parco Naturale Alta Valsesia

Today we will stay in Alagna and get a chance to rest. But if we feel like hiking, the possibilities are many. An easy and rewarding hike could take us to Rifugio Pastore, a mountain lodge spread across various restored houses in a small hamlet with a fantastic view of the south-eastern flank of the Monte Rosa. If we are lucky with the weather, we may catch a glimpse of Capanna Margherita, at 4554 m the highest hut in Europe. A nearby natural history museum offers a change to get to know some wildlife (if we have not met any already). After lunch at the lodge we will return to Alagna and enjoy a leisurely afternoon. Tonight, dinner is on your own in one of Alagna's several restaurants.

*Optional hike: 9 km, +400 m, -400 m – 3hrs30 (The distance can be shortened by taking a local shuttle)*

*Night at hotel in Alagna (B, L,-)*

# Sun, Sept 6, 2027 (Day 8)

## Walser villages in the Otro Valley

An out-and-back hike will take us to some of the most pictoresque Walser villages of the Alagna Valley. From Alagna, we will leave the GTA (which heads south to stay into Piedmont) and follow the Tour del Monte Rosa (TMR). We will head into the Otro Valley to reach the hamlets of Follu and Dorf, with their beautiful wooden houses and painted chapels. After a light lunch at a local hut, we will return to Alagna. After picking up our luggage at the hotel, we will cross into the Gresosney Valley by cable car, reaching the Salati Pass at 2975 m, from where a last cable car ride takes mountaineers to the start of climbs on glaciers and peaks. Crossing into the Gressoney Valley, we will descend by cable car to the hamlet of Staffal, our home for the next two nights.

*Hike: 7 km, +500 m, - 500 m - 3 hrs 30*

*Night at hotel in Gressoney-La-Trinitè (B, L, D )*

# Mon, Sept 7, 2027 (Day 9)

## Hike to the Sorgenti del Lys: Up close to the Monte Rosa glaciers

We will get to take a close look at the Monte Rosa glaciers today, hiking up to the source of the valley's river, the Lys. We will learn about a century of studies on glaciers and get a chance to see the impact of climate change first hand. Our picnic today will offer one of the most impressive views of the whole trip.

(Gressoney offers plenty of opportunities for hiking and/or relaxing. Depending on weather and group conditions, we may hike up towards the glacier or just down along the valley to the village of Gressoney-Saint-Jean for a visit to its historic church and castle. It would also be possible to just rest. )

*Hike: 6.2 km, +600m, -600m - 3 hrs*

*Transfers: Possibly a public shuttle bus from Staffal to Gressoney and back*

*Night at hotel in Gressoney-La-Trinitè (B, L, -)*

# Tue, Sept 8, 2027 (Day 10)

## Gressoney Staffal (1,820 m)-Rothorn Pass (2,690 m)-Resy (2,070 m)

Back on the Tour del Monte Rosa, we head across the Rothorn Pass to the Ayas Valley. We will reach the Sant'Anna chapel, with spectacular views of the south face of the Monte Rosa, and continue to the Sallero lakes and the Rothorn Pass. A beautiful descent through scree and meadows, by a stream and a lake, will take us to our mountain lodge, located in a traditional Walser house in the hamlet of Resy. *Transfer: Cable car to Sant'Anna*

*Hike: 10.5 km, +650 m, -680 m - 4h30*

*Night at mountain lodge Guide di Frachey in Resy (B, L, D)*

# Wed, Sept 9, 2027 (Day 11)

## Across the Ayas Valley

Starting off from Resy, we will cross the head of the Ayas Valley and hike up through pastures and working farms, where we may get to taste some locally-made cheese, to Rifugio Gran Tournalin, nested in the mountains

*Hike:7.6 km, +850 m, -600 m - 4 hrs*

*Night at mountain hut Rifugio Grand Tournalin (B, L, D)*

# Thur, Sept 10, 2027 (Day 12)

## Cross into the Valtournenche Valley

Majestic views of thr Monte Rosa and Matterhorn await us, if the weather cooperates, as we cross the Col di Nana and descend into the Valtournenche Valley.  After checking into our hotel, we will get a chance to relive our journey and toast to our accomplishment at a farewell dinner.

Hike: +400 m, -1000 m, 10k - 4 hrs

*Night at hotel in Valtournenche (B, L, D)*

# Fri, Sept. 11, 2027 (Day 13)

## Departure

Departure after breakfast by private van to Malpensa Airport for early afternoon flights out.  (For earlier flight, an earlier transfer could be arranged at an extra cost)

*Transfers: Private van (approx 2.5 hrs)*

*Services (B, -, -)*

# ITINERARY CHARACTERISTICS

Medium length: 10 km
Average time: 5h30
Medium difference in height: 950 m
Difficulty: Intermediate: Intermedia

# PRICE AND CONDITIONS

**Prezzo** : a_partire_da 2790 €

**What is included:**

- Transportation to/from Malpensa Airport
- Accommodation in 2/3-star hotels with breakfast or mountain lodges

- Dinners except on days 7-9
- Picnic or light lunches except those on Days 1 and 13
- English-speaking guides during the whole tour
- Cable car rides where indicated
- Transfer by private or public transportation where indicated
- Luggage transfer as described in the program

**What is excluded:**

- Dinners on days 7-9
- Gratuities for trip guides
- Items of a personal nature such as beverages other than water, laundry fees, internet fees
- Any other services not clearly mentioned in the Trip Itinerary and in list of included items above

**Trasporto incluso**

**Luggage:** Transfers will be by private transfer, but you will need to carry your luggage for short distances to reach the accommodations, at times climbing some stairs or steep steps and on uneven terrain.  You will need to carry your gear for up to three days/two nights during the hut-to-hut traverses, while the rest of your gear will be transferred to the next hotel.  You will need an overnight pack (minimum 30 liters or 2000 cubic inches) and ONE duffle or rolling

Numero minimo partecipanti: 6. Numero massimo: 12.

## MEETING POINT

**Meeting point** 11 am Milano Malpensa airport, Aeroporto di Milano Malpensa (MXP), 21010 Ferno VA, Italia,

## REQUIREMENTS

- Avere buona preparazione fisica
- Capacità di percorrere sentieri stretti, a volte esposti e su fondo misto (sassi, pietre, erba)

## CLOTHING AND BACKPACK

Tee shirts (quick-dry, synthetic)Long sleeve shirt (synthetic, lightweight, sun protection)Fleece/mid-weight layerHiking pants (convertible, quick-dry, lightweight)Hiking shorts/skirt (quick-dry, lightweight)Hiking socks (synthetic or wool)Hiking boots (mid-weight, ankle support recommended; NO light trail shoes)Rain jacket (hooded, wind- and waterproof, breathable)Rain pants (lightweight, waterproof, breathable)Bandana Light wool hatGlove linersQuick-drying towel for overnight hikesSleeping bag liner (sleeping bag not needed) (can be purchased locally if needed)Sun block, sunscreen for lips (SPF 50 recommended)Sun hatSunglassesDay/overnight pack (30L-2000 cu. in.)Pack rain cover; dry sacks to protect clothing in the backpackTrekking polesTravel plate, fork, spoon, pocket knifeWater bottles (two 1-quart) or hydration systemPersonal bathroom kit: some toilet paper, ziplock bags for waste, personal wipes or soap, hand cleaner; ear plugs, ToothbrushPersonal first aid kit/medications (basic/lightweight)Insect repellentHeadlampCasual clothing for travel and town wear (lightweight, easily washable)ToiletriesWalking shoesElectrical adapter plug and converterLuggage (1 piece, wheeled, light enough to be lifted up steps etc.; small light duffle bag for overnight clothes)

## INFO AND RESERVATIONS

Marta Zarelli - Passamontagna Viaggi Tour Operator

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WhatsApp - Telegram

Link evento https://www.passamontagnaviaggi.it/en/scheduled-trekking-in-italy/2070-monte-rosa-gran-paradiso-monte-bianco-val-d-aosta-hiking-trip-mountain-italy-2-2027-italy