VAL FORMAZZA, A LAND TO BE DISCOVERED

On the extremity of Piedmont, on the border with Switzerland, Val Formazza is the land of origin of the Walser community, a Germanic population that has lived for centuries in fierce isolation. Rich in magnificent landscapes, hiking trails and numerous alpine species, it is today a significant tourist destination for nature lovers, both in winter and in the summer.

POMATT!

Resilience activities to emphasise agro-biodiversity and promote the local economy in Val Formazza.

The initiative, promoted by Istituto Oikos and the Municipality of Formazza and funded by Fondazione Cariplo, aims to restore the local mountain potato cultivar and promote local products (potatoes, dairy products and medicinal herbs), gastronomic and cultural tourism initiatives and environmental awareness activities for students and tourists. With one objective: to tackle the depopulation of mountain areas and encourage sustainable socio-economic growth in the area of Formazza.

The protection of the land must in fact lead to concrete actions for the development of the environment and traditional culture, in synergy with local reality.

For further information:
www.turismovalformazza.it
www.istituto-oikos.org
municipio@comune.formazza.vb.it

The Valley can be reached by Strada Statale 33 Gravellona Toce – Sempione, Baceno exit – Formazza.

VAL FORMAZZA, GUIDED EXCURSIONS

From walks in the lower valley to hikes at high altitude, all routes have been designed for all trekking enthusiasts who want to discover the beauties of Val Formazza, a unique area from a naturalistic, gastronomic, historical and cultural point of view.

BOOKINGS:

Formazza Tourist Office, Town Hall, Ponte di Formazza.
+39 0324-63059
prolocoformazza@libero.it
Book up until one day before the excursion

www.valformazza.it

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PROJECT
PROMOTED BY
FUNDED BY
**TRADITION AND CULTURE, TRAIL WALK TO FONOTUIMA**

**Duration:** 4 hours

**Difference in altitude:** 480 m, not very difficult

**Meeting point:** In front of the Town Hall in Ponte di Formazza, at 9 am and 2 pm

The first stop of the excursion is a visit to the educational botanical garden in Valdo, to find out about little-known plant families, used in the Alps to improve the environment. In this area, in fact, a number of varieties of ferns present in the Alps are also cultivated here. These are a delice of the area, protected for this reason by local institutions and now recognized by botanists and those who take care of the plants.

During the excursions, it is not possible to visit “Formazza Agricola”, the Pennati family farm which produces a large range of dairy products, and learn about the entire production cycle of the Formazza cheese varieties, recovered and developed also thanks to the project PRIN and FSE 2007-2013.

The itinerary concludes at Ponte di Formazza, with a visit to Casa Forte (entrance: EUR 2, EUR 1 for visiting the botanical garden). The Pennati family has been present in the area since the 18th century, and the farm has been managed by the family for five generations. The building is now the country headquarters of the Formazza district agricultural and livestock association. The Pennati farm has been the object of a number of regional and European projects and is now a reference point for the production of high-quality Formazza cheese.

**THE JEWEL OF THE VALLEY, THE TOCE WATERFALL**

**Duration:** 4 hours

**Difference in altitude:** 475 m, not very difficult

**Meeting point:** In front of the Town Hall in Ponte di Formazza, at 9 am and 2 pm

The waterfall is one of the most beautiful and mighty in the whole of the Alps. Its drop, is the highest in Europe and, according to the Swiss naturalist Nicolas-Théodore De Saussure, “the most beautiful and mighty in the whole of the Alps”.

The excursion starts from the historical Duino Bridge – the first village built by the Walser who, in the year 1220, left the district of Goms in the Valeis – to reach the Morasco dam. From here, a very pleasant walk offers wonderful panoramic views of the lake. After going up 500 meters in altitude, walkers reach the Bettelmatt valley (1810 m). Here, there is a parking area, from where it is possible to start the climb, including 143 meters drop, to reach the waterfall.

After passing a number of cascades, the path continues towards the ancient St. Nicholas church, which is located in front of the waterfall. The path continues along the valley, passing by the Toce waterfall, passing by the Toccum bridge and the Tocchale dam, and reaching the main square of Ponte di Formazza.

**THE “RAISIN” AREA IN FORMAZZA: VAL TOGGIA, BODEN LAKES, REGINA ALP**

**Duration:** 6 hours, climbing time 3 hours

**Difference in altitude:** 150 m, not very difficult

**Meeting point:** Centro Fondo, Strada Statale 659, Riale - at 9 am

An itinerary of high natural and botanical interest, starting from the footbridge, bordered by the Lepontine Alps at 1660 m of altitude. From here, a path, steep and sometimes difficult, leads to the botanical garden. From here, the path continues along the valley, passing by the Toccum bridge and the Tocchale dam, and reaching the main square of Ponte di Formazza.

**THE “MAEST” AREA IN FORMAZZA: VAL TOGGIA, DODONI LAKES, OFFIGLIA**

**Duration:** 6 hours, climbing time 3 hours

**Difference in altitude:** 136 m, not very difficult

**Meeting point:** Centro Fondo, Strada Statale 659, Riale - at 9 am

This pleasant excursion starts from Riale and goes up with an easy walk to reach the glacial loop, from which the deep Toggia valley can be found, with the lake and dam of the same name.

The path then descends to the north, up to Gals Valley. At the beginning, a unique landscape can be observed, with large boulders and the famous “Offigl” rock, located on the left bank of the Toggia Valley. The path then continues in the direction of the Offigl lake, passing by a number of clear streams and a natural lithification made of pebbles in grey rock. The path is ascending and well-signposted.

The excursions have been organized by the Formazza Tourist Office and ATCF (Association for Guided Tours) and will be covered by R.C. Insurance for procedures.

For additional information, visit the website [www.turismoformazza.it](http://www.turismoformazza.it).