



COMUNE DI CARCOFORO

Di un'Alpe Carchoffeni si parla nei documenti a partire dal 1383, in un periodo in cui era in corso la colonizzazione delle terre valsesiane del versante sud del Monte Rosa ad opera delle genti Walser provenienti dall'Alto Vallese. Le tipiche case in legno e pietra raccontano di quella Carcoforo originaria che si può ancora osservare nei crocicchi delle vie del piccolo centro abitato, vessato nel tempo da alcune calamità naturali (come la grande alluvione del 1775 o l'incendio del 1863) che hanno in parte disperso il patrimonio architettonico più antico. Il paese, uno dei più piccoli in Valsesia per numero di abitanti, è attraversato dal torrente Egua che si unisce al torrente Sermenza all'altezza di Rimasco. Tutelato per una porzione dal Parco Naturale Alta Valsesia, Carcoforo è abbracciato da lussureggianti pascoli e boschi di larice, confina con Fobello (est), Rima (ovest) e Macugnaga (nord).

Territorio
There is mention of an "Alpe Carchoffeni" in documents dating as far back as 1383, at a time when colonisation of Valsesia land on the south side of Monte Rosa was taking place by the Walser peoples arriving from Haut Vallois. Even today, you can see traces of that original Carcoforo in the typical wood and stone houses on the crossroads of the little central streets, battered through the ages by natural calamities (the great flood of 1775 or the fire of 1863) which partly destroyed the oldest architectural heritage. The Egua stream runs through this village, one of the smallest in Valsesia in terms of inhabitants, and flows into the Sermenza stream when it gets to Rimasco. Protected by a section of the Alta Valsesia Natural Park, Carcoforo is encircled by lush pastures and larch woods and has its boundaries with Fobello (east), Rima (west) and Macugnaga (north).

Arte & Cultura
Caratterizzato da uno stile tipicamente alpino, l'abitato è adornato in ogni dove di eleganti meridiane, piccoli affreschi – come quello straordinario realizzato su Casa Cantore da Eugenio Rappa, oltre a bellissime quanto rare torbe, edifici tardomedievali che risalgono al periodo di fondazione dell'insediamento. Tra i luoghi artistici di grande interesse troviamo la chiesetta della Madonna del Gabbio, le cui linee armoniche e semolici accolgono i visitatori all'ingresso del paese. Edificata in origine come piccola cappella votiva in un luogo intorno al quale si tramanda una particolare leggenda legata al trasporto miracoloso di una statua raffigurante la Vergine, venne quasi totalmente distrutta dall'alluvione del '700 ma, come vuole la tradizione, la statua rimase al suo posto, dando ai carcoforresi (carcofini) il motivo per la costruzione di una vera e propria chiesa. All'interno si conservano splendidi affreschi di Antonio Orgiazzi il Vecchio. Entrando nel centro del paese si passa attraverso l'Arco della Buona accoglienza (Welcoming Arch) built in 1734 over the old mule-track before arriving at the parish Church of Santa Croce. The church was consecrated in its current form in 1618. Inside there is the wooden gilt 'ancona' from the Baroque period, paintings of the stations of the Via Crucis from the eighteenth century and a painting by A. Avondo in one of the lateral chapels. The organ is original from 1841 and is the work of the famous organ-maker from Sabbia, Bartolomeo Gippa: the story goes that it was put into position thanks to the women of the village, who carried it on their shoulders from Boccioleto and were then compensated with 'una scioppa di vino' (a bottle of wine) according to the church records. The Natural History Museum of the Alta Valsesia Natural Park is in the Tetta Minocco hamlet, inside a beautiful Walser house. It is equipped with exhibition rooms, descriptive panels and multimedia areas complete with an interactive, didactic laboratory to better understand themes

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cultura locale. Recentemente è stata approntata anche una sala sensoriale, pensata per i visitatori non vedenti.

Curiosità
Nel 1991 Carcoforo è stato eletto "villaggio ideale d'Italia" dalla rivista Aironc. Quasi tutti i paesi della Valsesia conservano il proprio abito tradizionale e nel caso di Carcoforo, si contraddistingue da quelli degli altri paesi della valle per il suo "ligam" (o "stroppa"), il caratteristico nastro di lana o seta multicolore che viene indossato annodato sul davanti con un grande fiocco.



COMUNE DI RIMASCO

Rimasco sorge sulle confluente di due torrenti, l'Egua e il Sermenza, che danno i nomi alle rispettive valli che attraversano. Nel 1925 venne realizzata una diga a valle dell'abitato che diede vita ad un invaso artificiale utilizzato per la produzione di energia elettrica: tutt'ora il paesaggio rimaschese è conosciuto e reso inconfondibile proprio dalla fisionomia che questo lago gli conferisce. L'abitato centrale è abbracciato da alcune piccole quanto deliziose frazioni: Campo Ragozzi, Dorca, Ferrate, Priami, Balmelle, Cà di Zelle and Oro. Una parte del territorio rimaschese è protetto dal Parco Naturale Alta Valsesia.

Territorio
Rimasco rises at the confluence of two streams, the Egua and the Sermenza, which give their names to the respective valleys they flow through. In 1925 a dam was built downstream of the village which gave rise to an artificial reservoir used for the production of electricity: today too the Rima landscape is unmistakable owing to this artificial lake. The village centre is encircled by some tiny but charming hamlets: Campo Ragozzi, Dorca, Ferrate, Priami, Balmelle, Cà di Zelle and Oro. Part of Rima's land is protected by the Alta Valsesia Natural Park.

Arte & Cultura
In frazione Ferrate si può ammirare l'affresco della "Gloria della Vergine" che campeggia sulla facciata della chiesa dell'Assunta: la tradizione vuole che sia stata eretta per via di un evento miracoloso legato ad un'icona mariana. Poco distanti, sono degni di nota anche gli affreschi contenuti nell'Oratorio di San Giovanni Battista attribuiti a Teseo Cavallazzi (XVI secolo). Stilisticamente affini, questi edifici sono ingentiliti dai tipici porticati ritmati da colonnine e completati da imponenti campanili dalla guglia appuntita. Dal labirinto rimaschese si nota bene come Rimasco sia tutta raccolta intorno ad un caratteristico nucleo di case dalla solida architettura in pietra. Nei pressi dell'incontro dei torrenti Egua e Sermenza sorge la chiesa parrocchiale dedicata a San Giacomo, rimaneggiata fino ad assumere le forme attuali entro il 1688: al suo interno spicca l'altare maggiore, costruito in legno su un tabernacolo piramidale e arricchito dalle sculture che ritraggono San Giovanni Battista e San Giacomo. Alle pareti laterali sorprendono alcuni lacerti di affreschi del XV secolo raffiguranti i mesi e il lavoro dell'uomo, unico esempio in tutta la valle. Le zone alpine soprastanti l'abitato sono ricche di fascino ambientale ed etnografico: riportano alla mente la vita delle origini stanziali dei primitivi villaggi, lo scambio culturale tra le popolazioni Walser – giunte da Rimella e dalla Res di Fobello – e quelle propriamente valsesiane.

Arte & Culture
With its typically Alpine style, the village is decorated at every turn with elegant sundials – mini frescoes like the extraordinary one to be found on Casa Cantore, by Eugenio Rappa. There are also rare and beautiful torbe, late mediaeval buildings dating back to the foundation of the settlement. Among the places of great artistic interest there is the little church of the Madonna del Gabbio, whose harmonious and simple architectural lines welcome visitors at the entrance to the village. Originally built as a votive chapel in a place around which a particular legend has grown, (linked to the miraculous transportation of a statue of the Virgin), it was almost completely destroyed by the eighteenth-century flood but, according to tradition, the statue remained in its place, thereby giving the people of Carcoforo the reason for the construction of a proper church. Preserved inside are splendid frescoes by Antonio Orgiazzi il Vecchio. Entering the centre of the village you pass under the Arco della Buona Accoglienza (Welcoming Arch) built in 1734 over the old mule-track before arriving at the parish Church of Santa Croce. The church was consecrated in its current form in 1618. Inside there is the wooden gilt 'ancona' from the Baroque period, paintings of the stations of the Via Crucis from the eighteenth century and a painting by A. Avondo in one of the lateral chapels. The organ is original from 1841 and is the work of the famous organ-maker from Sabbia, Bartolomeo Gippa: the story goes that it was put into position thanks to the women of the village, who carried it on their shoulders from Boccioleto and were then compensated with 'una scioppa di vino' (a bottle of wine) according to the church records. The Natural History Museum of the Alta Valsesia Natural Park is in the Tetta Minocco hamlet, inside a beautiful Walser house. It is equipped with exhibition rooms, descriptive panels and multimedia areas complete with an interactive, didactic laboratory to better understand themes

Da Carcoforo al Colle d'Egua

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From Carcoforo to Colle d'Egua
★★★
Loc di partenza / Starting point
Carcoforo - 1304 m
Difficoltà / difficulty
●○○
Interessi / interests:
naturalistico - paesaggistico
naturalistic - landscape
Tempo di Percorrenza / Crossing times
2h 30'
Dislivello / Altitude difference
935 m
Punti Tappa / Stage points:
Rifugio Boffalora
Periodo di Percorrenza / Best time
primavera - estate - autunno
spring - summer - autumn



Territory
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Art & Culture
In the Ferrate hamlet you can admire the "Gloria della Vergine" fresco on the façade of the Chiesa dell'Assunta: tradition has it that the church was built due to a miraculous event connected to an icon of the Virgin Mary. Close by, in the Oratorio di San Giovanni Battista, the frescoes attributed to Teseo Cavallazzi (XVI-century) are also worth a visit. Stylistically similar, these buildings are softened by typical arcades on regular columns and completed by imposing bell-towers with pointed spires. From the artificial lake of Rimasco you can see how the village is huddled round a distinctive core of houses of solid stone architecture. Near the confluence of the two streams Egua and Sermenza is the parish church of San Giacomo, altered to its current form no later than 1688: inside there is an impressive altar, built of wood on a pyramidal tabernacle and enriched with sculptures depicting San Giovanni Battista and San Giacomo. On the side walls there are some surprising fragments of frescoes from the sixteenth-century depicting the months and man's toil, the only example in the whole valley. The alpine zones above the village are full of environmental and ethnographical appeal: they remind us of the non-migratory origins of the primitive villages, the cultural exchanges between the Walser peoples – from Rimella and Res di Fobello – and the people of Valsesia.

Art & Culture
In the Ferrate hamlet you can admire the "Gloria della Vergine" fresco on the façade of the Chiesa dell'Assunta: tradition has it that the church was built due to a miraculous event connected to an icon of the Virgin Mary. Close by, in the Oratorio di San Giovanni Battista, the frescoes attributed to Teseo Cavallazzi (XVI-century) are also worth a visit. Stylistically similar, these buildings are softened by typical arcades on regular columns and completed by imposing bell-towers with pointed spires. From the artificial lake of Rimasco you can see how the village is huddled round a distinctive core of houses of solid stone architecture. Near the confluence of the two streams Egua and Sermenza is the parish church of San Giacomo, altered to its current form no later than 1688: inside there is an impressive altar, built of wood on a pyramidal tabernacle and enriched with sculptures depicting San Giovanni Battista and San Giacomo. On the side walls there are some surprising fragments of frescoes from the sixteenth-century depicting the months and man's toil, the only example in the whole valley. The alpine zones above the village are full of environmental and ethnographical appeal: they remind us of the non-migratory origins of the primitive villages, the cultural exchanges between the Walser peoples – from Rimella and Res di Fobello – and the people of Valsesia.

Il Rifugio Massero ed il panoramico Colle della Bottiglia.

Il Rifugio Massero ed il panoramico Colle della Bottiglia.
Rifugio Massero and the panoramic Colle della Bottiglia.
★★★
Loc di partenza / Starting point
Carcoforo - 1304 m
Difficoltà / difficulty
●○○●●
Interessi / interests:
naturalistico - paesaggistico
naturalistic - landscape
Tempo di Percorrenza / Crossing times
2 h 30' - 4 h 20'
Dislivello / Altitude difference
778 m al rifugio, 1302 m al colle della Bottiglia
Periodo di Percorrenza / Best time
estate - autunno / summer - autumn

Territory
This itinerary has a great variety of landscapes which makes it particularly interesting from the environmental and naturalistic point of view. Leaving the car in the municipal car park, take the dirt track alongside the Rio Fornetto stream as far as Alpe Coste where you cross it. Continuing on trail 112 you pass Alpe Chignolo, leaving the smooth rocks of Cengio del Badile on the right and reach Alpe Fornetto at an altitude of 1926m. A little higher up, near Alpe Massero (2082m), is the mountain hut of the same name, owned by the Alta Valsesia Natural Park; there is wonderful view over the valley below and of all the main peaks in the municipality's territory. From here it is possible to make numerous excursions to the passes and peaks which form an amphitheatre around the mountain hut; one particular recommendation is the climb to Colle Della Bottiglia, the historic Pass between Carcoforo and Macugnaga at 1607m, from where there is a breathtaking view of the south and east faces of the Monte Rosa. To get there, leave the mountain hut behind you and continue on trail 112 which crosses the last few pastures before entering an ever more post-glacial environment characterised by stony ground and smooth rocks. The trail crosses the gully below the pass and climbs the steep stony ground before reaching the top.



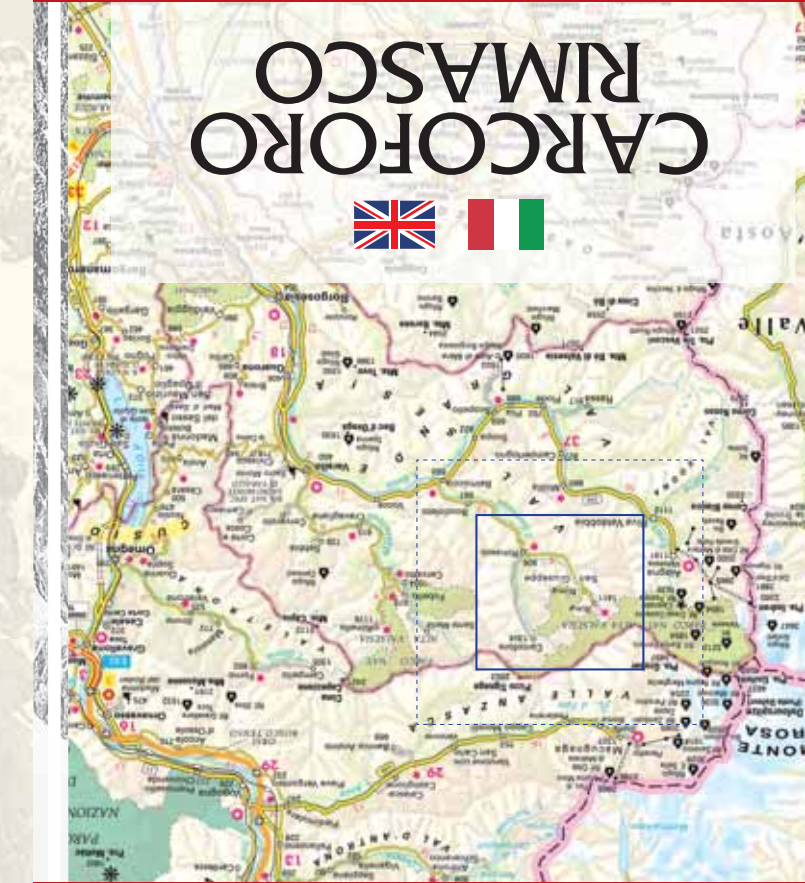
ALTRI ITINERARI CONSIGLIATI:
da Ferrate di Rimasco - 1158 m
132 Alpe Lampono (2077 m) ↓ 919 m | ●○○ | ⌚ 2h 30'
356 Alpe Colma (1914 m) ↓ 756 m | ●○○ | ⌚ 2h 15'
da Carcoforo - 1304 m
111 Bocchetta del Bas (2050 m) ↓ 746 m | ●○○ | ⌚ 2h 15'
112 Colle del Termo (2351 m) ↓ 1047 m | ●○○ | ⌚ 2h 30'
117 Passo della Miniera (2650 m) ↓ 1346 m | ●○○ | ⌚ 4h 45'
destinazione ↑ **dislivello** ●○○ **difficoltà** ⌚ **tempo di percorrenza** ★ **gradevolezza dell'itinerario**
destination altitude difference difficulty walking time pleasantness of itinerary

I walser di Rimasco: l'insediamento di Dorca

I walser di Rimasco: l'insediamento di Dorca
The Walsers of Rimasco: the Dorca settlement
★★★
Loc di partenza / Starting point
Rimasco - Loc. Sotto il Montù - m 906 m
Interessi / interests:
storico - culturale - architettonico
historic - cultural - architectural
Dislivello / Altitude difference
347 m
Periodo di Percorrenza / Best time
primavera - estate - autunno
spring - summer - autumn



Territory
This itinerary is highly recommended for those who are interested in discovering a little corner of Walser culture from both a historical and architectural point of view. Some recent studies claim that this settlement was founded before the thirteenth century, indeed as far back as the colonisation by the Celts. Instead the first confirmed document relative to this settlement dates back to the fourteenth century in a census showing Dorca among the properties of the Mensa Vescovile (Bishop's canteen) di Novara and under the management of the Scarognini di Varallo. The oldest written document containing names of some of the inhabitants of Dorca dates back to 1414, the year in which Scarognini leases to brothers Pietro and Zanetto Antonietti and other relatives of Dorca, the pasture and the place of Dorca in Val d'Egua for an annual sum of 13 lire and 10 cents, and 50 pounds of cheese (ref. State archives of Varallo); it was the Walsers who made the pasture an inhabited hamlet all year round. Another indication of how old the place is can be found in the date "1276" carved on an ancient Walser house with stone columns. The Dorca hamlet can be reached in less than an hour on foot by following the beautiful mule-track which starts in "Sotto il Montù" in Rimasco.



PANORAMICA DEGLI ITINERARI

COMUNE DI CARCOFORO
Nome dialettale / Origin name: Chalchoufu
Superficie / Surface: 22,89 kmq
Festa patronale / Patronal festival: 26 dicembre, Santo Stefano
26 December, Santo Stefano
Altezza / Height: 1.304 m
Abitanti / People: Carcoforesi

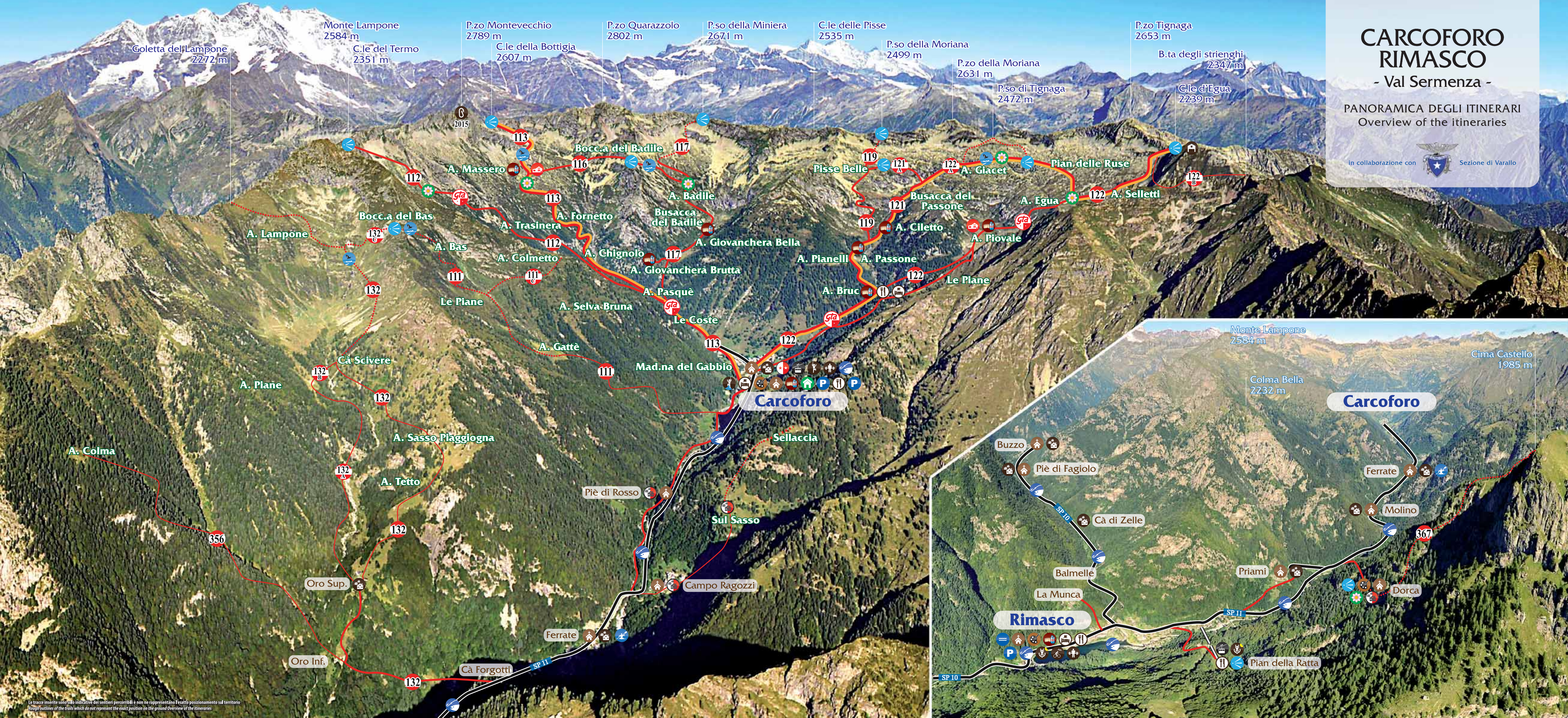
COMUNE DI RIMASCO
Nome dialettale / Origin name: Rimasck
Superficie / Surface: 24km²
Altezza / Height: 906m
Abitanti / People: Rimaschesi
Festa patronale / Patronal festival: 25 luglio, San Giacomo / 25 July, San Giacomo
Provincia di VerCELLI - Servizio Turismo e Montagna Via S. Cristoforo n. 3 - VerCELLI - tel. 0161 - 590.274
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CARCOFORO RIMASCO

- Val Sermenza -

PANORAMICA DEGLI ITINERARI
Overview of the itineraries



Le tracce inserite sono solo indicative dei sentieri percorribili e non ne rappresentano l'esatto posizionamento sul territorio.
Route outlines of the trails which do not represent the exact position on the ground. Overview of the itineraries.

- PUNTO INFO INFORMATION POINTS
- PARCHEGGIO CAR PARK
- FUNIVIA SKI/CHAIR LIFT
- SENTIERO N° TRAIL No.
- LAGO LAKE
- SENTIERO NEL PARCO NATURALE PARK TRAILS
- BORGATA TRADIZIONALE TRADITIONAL HAMLET
- ELEMENTO CULTURALE WALSER WALSER CULTURAL ELEMENT
- BORGATA WALSER TRADIZIONALE TRADITIONAL WALSER HAMLET
- CHIESA / CAPPELLA CHURCH / CHAPEL
- RIFUGIO CUSTODITO STAFFED MOUNTAIN HUT
- BIVACCO INCUSTODITO STAFFED MOUNTAIN HUT
- SOSTA SOLO B&B B&B ONLY
- SOSTA SOLO RISTORAZIONE REFRESHMENTS ONLY
- CASA DEL PARCO
- Sentiero principale multistrada
- Traccia di sentiero a tratti non visibili o pericolosa. Riservato ad escursionisti esperti
- Traccia di sentiero, scarsamente visibile o totalmente assente. Riservato ad escursionisti molto esperti
- Itinerario di carattere alpinistico
- Percorso "Alpeggio servito" ("Alpeggio servito" (Stage point) trail)

- Main path or mule-track
- Not always visible or dangerous trail, expert hikers
- Partially visible or non-existent, highly experienced hikers
- Mountainering itinerary
- "Alpeggio servito" (Stage point) trail
-