

# From Colle Varenò to Orseto Castle

## Road access from Bergamo:

Clusone (Valle Seriana), Bratto, Colle Varenò  
Km. 50

## Start of excursion:

Colle Varenò, plant square, Angolo Terme (1392 m.)

## Travelling time:

2<sup>h</sup> (a/r)

## Height difference:

98 m.

## Difficulties:

AT   

## Recommended period:

April to October

## Water on the route:

YES

## Rest stop:

NO

## Information:

ERSAF Ente Regionale Servizi Agricoltura e Foreste Tel. 02 67404451

## Topographic map:

IGM F. ° 34 IV N.E. Vilminore di Scalve

## Geographical coordinates:

45,901261° N, 10,103987° E

We reach the starting point of the Colle Varenò ski lifts from Bergamo, ascending from Dorga.



Near the departure of the Colle Varenò ski lifts, you can park.



As soon as we begin the path opposite the car park, we encounter a small lake.



After passing it, we continue on and then turn left, following the signs indicating Castello Orsetto.



Continuing along the path, we encounter signs for "Foreste di Lombardia" and "Val di Scalve".



After about 700 m. from the start, we reach a picnic area on the left of the path.



Along the trail, there are didactic signs about the animals present in the forest.



The Deer.



The Badger.



There is a totem informing about the geological itinerary along the route.





Continuing along the path, we encounter an area with a bench to admire, comfortably seated, the panorama of the valley.

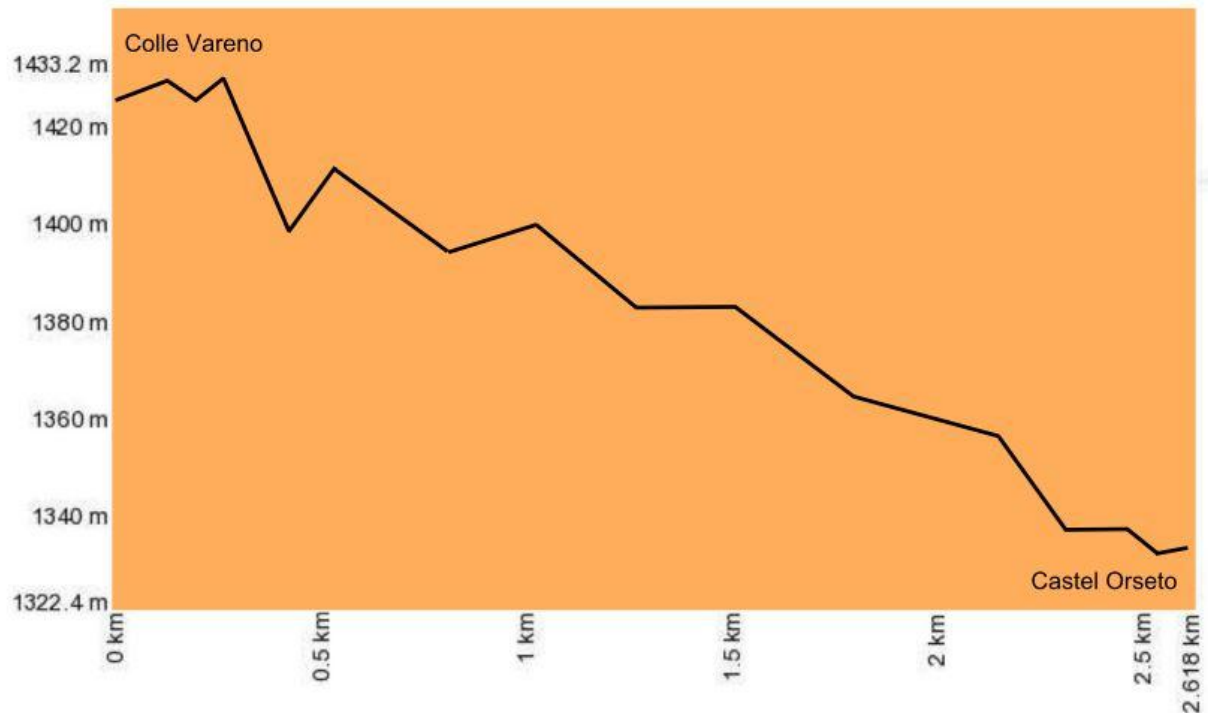


Almost at the end of the route, a wooden shrine appears on our right.



We arrive at the saddle of Castello Orseto (1278 m) after about 45' from the start. The legend of the 'Red Berries' is told about Castello Orseto. In Giorgio Baioni's 'Legends of Val Camonica and Val di Scalve', we read that a terrible bear escaped from a hunting party, sowed terror and exterminated the flocks in the area. The mountain dwellers did not dare confront him and it was useless to set traps and snares for him. Only a more courageous young man decided to challenge him and, armed with an axe, climbed the cliff where the bear found refuge. It happened, however, that the young man never returned and nothing more was heard of him. While the bewildered friends were gathered in the hut in Val Fada, a white-haired squirrel burst into the hut and began to speak: 'Friends,' he said, 'I am the soul of the one who never returned,' well, know that there is only one way to make the bear die. Prepare a bowl full of red goat's milk, mixed with dried gentian root and hawk's blood. Leave it at the foot of the bear's cliff on a dead moonlit night, after all the bells have sounded the Ave Maria. Woe to you if you are wrong and do this before time". The shepherds did everything the recommended way, and one of them brought the cup with the strange mixture and deposited it in the appointed place. The next day they returned to the spot believing they would find the dead bear there, but they did not even see any traces of it. They only saw that, at the spot where the bowl had been deposited, a bush of red berries had sprouted, the wild rowan tree. The bear was never sighted again, but the cliff, around which numerous rowan trees grow, is still referred to as 'Castel Orseto', i.e. Bear Castle, and not far away is the hut with the red roof: the 'CastelOrsetto' hut. After reading this legend, we set off again towards the Colle Vareno car park, retracing our outward journey.

# Altimetry



## Mappa del percorso

