



This new high-altitude route in the mountains of the upper Maggia Valley, straddling two regions, offers five exciting days in the great outdoors in a spectacular Alpine lake landscape with countless lakes to discover: from a tiny, hidden pool nestled between the mountains to the ripple on a small lake, drawing your curious gaze from afar and offering a grassy shore for a well-deserved rest, to the mirror-like surface of a basin quietly working to produce renewable energy. The trail also runs alongside watercourses, specifically the springs, waterfalls, rivulets, brooks and streams that feed into the main rivers of the Lepontine Alps, namely the Maggia, Ticino and Toce. Then there is the ice: the landscape is dotted with glistening glaciers large and small.

TREKKING DEI LAGHETTI ALPINI MAGGIA VALLEY



A journey of discovery through a landscape of blue lakes and skies

The trail offers sweeping views: at every turn, your eye is drawn to a new valley between Vallemaggia, Formazza and Leventina as you trek through the spectacular scenery with constantly changing views. The trail runs above the tree line through open spaces, offering a pristine Alpine landscape dominated by the sky. The region is home to countless animal species, from the ibex to the chamois, from the golden eagle to the peregrine falcon, and from the marmot to the stoat, fox and white hare. Not to mention the warm welcome, from the unattended refuge, where you can have fun at the stove, to the typical Alpine hut run by people who know how to spoil you or the mountain hotel with rooms and showers: the evenings provide further opportunities to discover something new. In short, on this tour, water is not the only highlight.

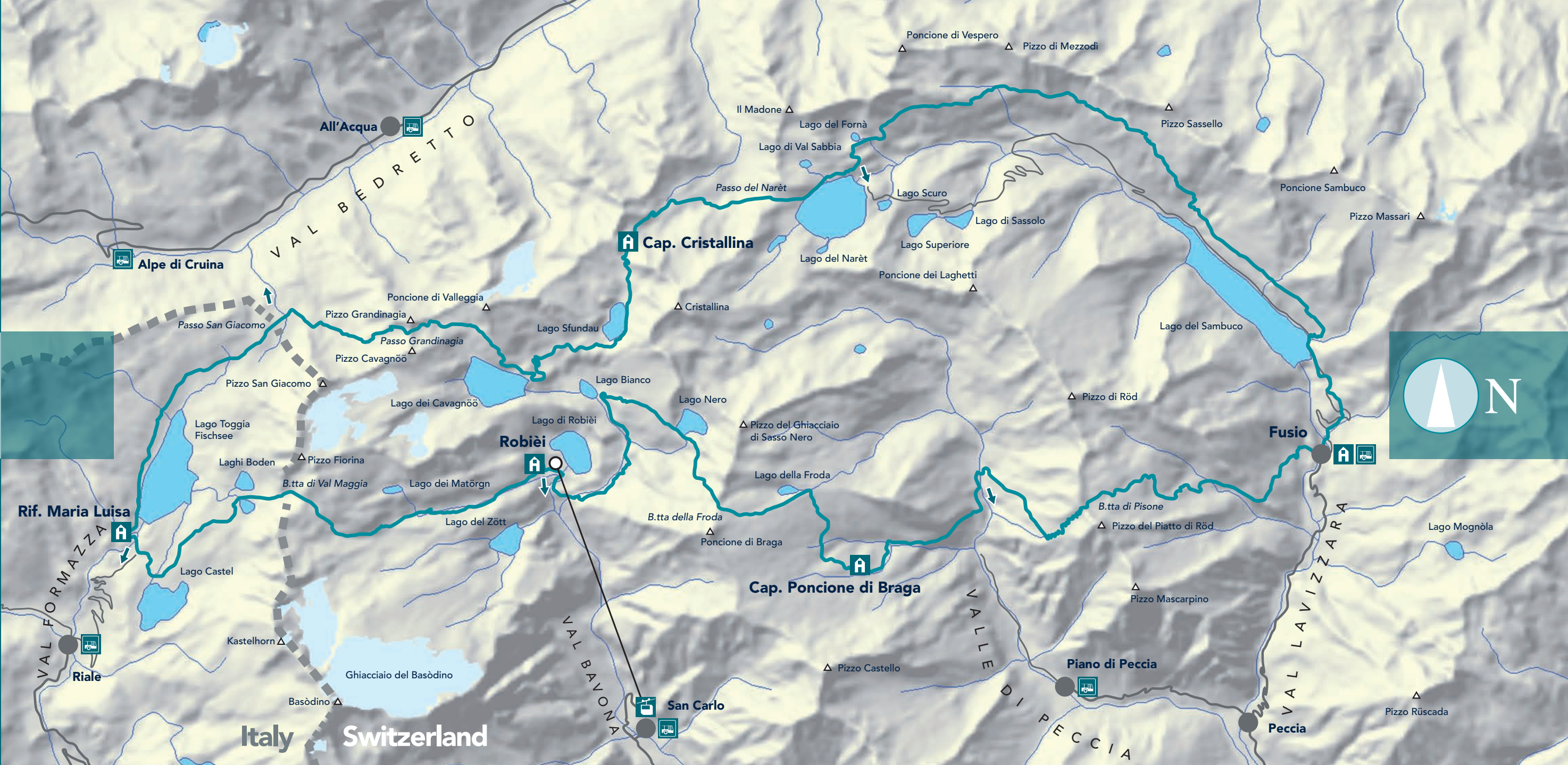
61 km
5 days and 4 nights
Difference in altitude 5020 m
Max altitude 2698 m
14 alpine lakes
Wonderful views
Silence and nature
Infinite experiences!
Are you ready?



vialtavallemaggia.ch

Sponsorship
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Fusio – Capanna Poncione di Braga

This is the most physically demanding section of the route, making it the perfect start to the adventure. The trek begins in Fusio, a village clinging to the mountain with both traditional and eclectic architecture. From there, the trail climbs through larch woods, then up a steep stretch to Alpe di Röd and on to Bocchetta di Pisone, a pass neglected by hikers for decades and relaunched with this trekking route. On the other side of the pass is the Peccia Valley, famous for its marble. Below lies the only white marble quarry in Switzerland. After a short, steep descent of almost 1000 meters, you can admire the majestic Ri della Crösa waterfall before crossing over to the opposite slope. The trail continues along a natural ledge and then uphill to the Poncione di Braga mountain hut, a tranquil retreat at your free disposal.

Capanna Poncione di Braga – Robièi

The first hour is spent leisurely climbing up the vast green slopes of Alpe Masnee, lit by the morning sun, as a warm-up for the trek ahead. You then continue along a rocky stretch, with the little gem of Lake Froda on your right, guiding you to Poncione di Braga. Your destination, however, is not the summit, but Bocchetta della Froda, a wide saddle on your right. The pass offers a sweeping view of countless peaks, first of all the Basòdino, the second highest massif in the Ticino Alps, crowned by its glacier, the largest in the canton. From there, the trail continues downhill towards the Robièi valley. If you are lucky, you may even see a herd of ibexes grazing up close. The path eases out and goes on to skirt Lago Nero and then Lago Bianco. You eventually reach Robièi, a popular destination for local hikers as well as hikers from further afield, connected to the Bavona Valley by a cable car.

Robièi – Rifugio Maria Luisa

Randinascia: a small idyll; a microcosm of small valleys, peat bogs, alluvial plains, rocks smoothed by the action of the glacier, fascinating vestiges of a centuries-old human presence at the foot of the Basòdino, and home to an extraordinarily rich flora. The shortest section of the trek is a good excuse to stop and admire the beauty of the landscape, listen to the silence and breathe in the scents: there is no hurry. The trail then continues towards Bocchetta di Val Maggia and over into the Piedmont region: Welcome to the upper Formazza Valley, the home of the Walser people, who settled there in the early 13th century. The German dialect of the upper Valais was once spoken here, as evidenced by the names of the lakes-Boden Lakes (Bodensee); Lake Castel (Kastelsee); Toggia Lake (Fischsee). At Alpe Toggia is the Maria Luisa refuge, where you will be spending the night.

Rifugio Maria Luisa - Capanna Cristallina

An easy-going dirt road, closed to traffic, skirts Lake Toggia and takes you all the way to the San Giacomo Pass. Built in 1929, the road had aroused fears among the Swiss of belligerent intentions. All that is in the past: today it is a place of utter peace and tranquillity. Just below the pass is a white-plastered chapel, namely the oratory of Saints Nicholas, Catherine and James, the last remaining trace of a hospice that stood there in the Middle Ages, welcoming wayfarers, pilgrims and merchants crossing the Alps. Here, too, are lakes and watercourses. From here, a narrow path climbs up a barren scree slope to the Grandinagia Pass (2698 metres)—the final destination of the entire trek. As you descend, you will see the Robièi basin from a different perspective. Then, passing Lake Sfundau, you will climb up to the Cristallina mountain hut, a milestone in modern high-altitude architecture, newly built and inaugurated in 2003. There is nothing more beautiful than to watch the sun set from its terrace.

Capanna Cristallina - Fusio

A short interlude in the upper Torta Valley, a side valley of the Bedretto Valley, enables you to circumvent the famous Cristallina massif to the north. The Narèt Pass leads back into the Maggia Valley and to an elegant reservoir adorned with numerous natural lakes. Their waters meet to form a fast-flowing stream which goes on to become the River Maggia. From here, a final long descent runs alongside the meadows on the left slope of the Val Sambuco, namely the sunny side affording panoramic views. Stretching out below you is Campo la Torba, one of the oldest and most prized mountain pastures in the region, long disputed between Airolo and Fusio. Later on, the path continues along a ledge overlooking the blue Sambuco fjord, which takes you all the way to the abandoned mountain farmland of Larecc. Now it's time to tackle the final stretch to Fusio, completing the long loop and bringing to a close five memorable days in the great outdoors. An unforgettable experience in a spectacular Alpine lake landscape.

General information

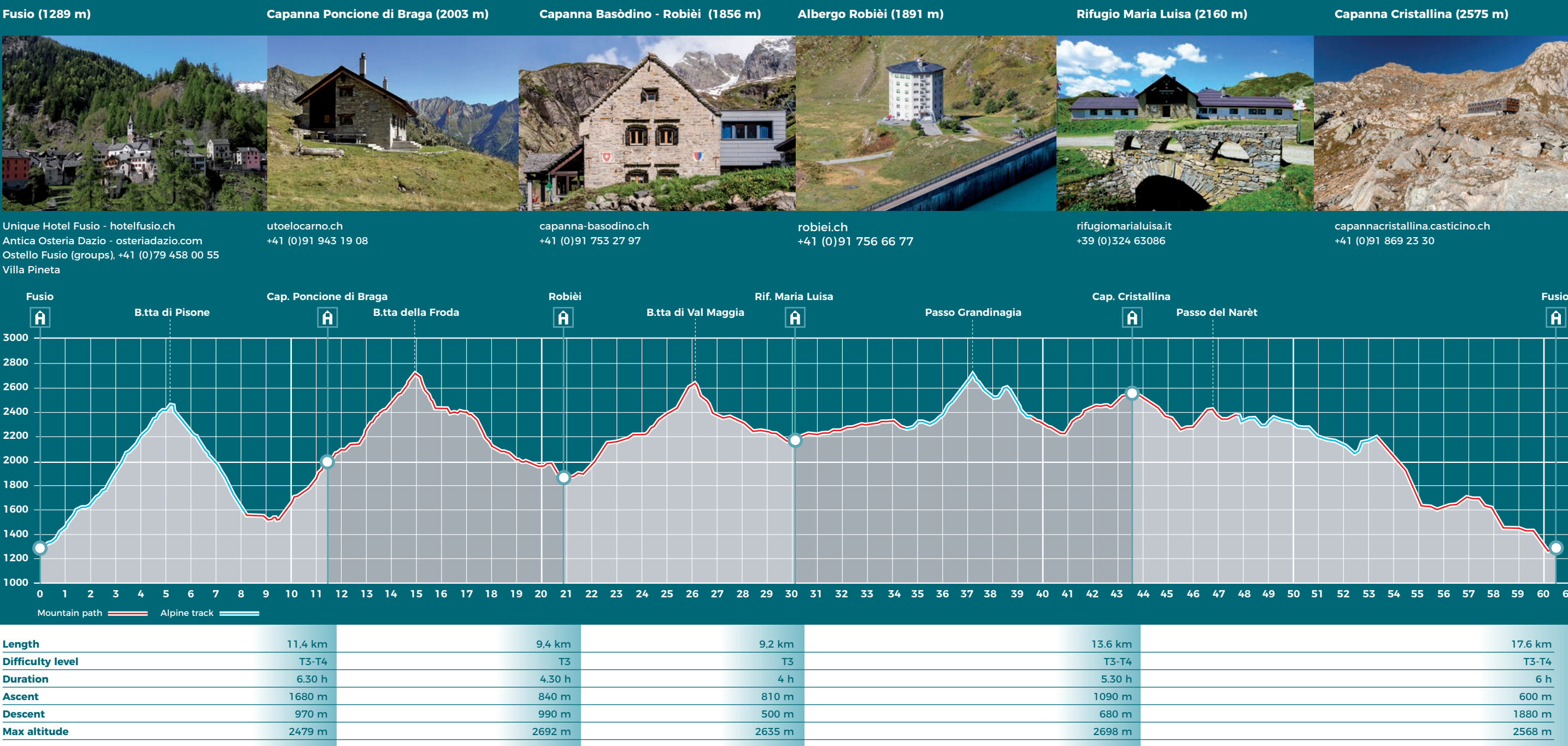
Some huts open as early as June, when the connecting sections are usually still covered in snow. Generally, the best season for trekking is between July and September/October. However, even in the height of summer, you are advised to contact the guardians to check the state of the route. Overnight stays must be booked in advance in order to avoid unpleasant surprises and find oneself without accommodation.

Useful links:

vialtavallemaggia.ch	inVallemaggia.ch
	capanneti.ch (mountain huts)
	map.geo.admin.ch (topographic map)
	robièi.ch (Robièi cable car)
	ascona-locarno.com (hotels)

Useful telephone numbers:

REGA - Rescue emergency number 1414



Recommendations

The Alpine lakes trekking route (Trekking dei laghetti alpini) runs mainly along mountain paths (level of hiking difficulty: T3) with some section of Alpine tracks (T4). However, the trek should not be taken lightly, especially in terms of the length of some of the sections and the elevation, reaching altitudes of around 3,000 metres above asl in places. The following are therefore required:

- good physical condition
- detailed planning (current conditions, weather forecast etc.)
- surefootedness on uneven ground (scree etc.)

Recommended equipment:

- good hiking boots
- suitable clothing
- sunglasses and sunscreen
- map with a scale of 1:25,000, altimeter and, if possible, GPS
- travel pharmacy and emergency thermal blanket
- sufficient food and drink
- identity card and cash (francs and euros)

Not to be underestimated:

- high elevation
- sudden weather changes
- presence of snow at the beginning of the season
- trekking time (particularly when hiking in large groups)
- often no mobile coverage
- lack of drinking water sources along some sections

