

Loop tour through the vast high-altitude grasslands of the **Grande Est di Devero**, a plateau of more than 7 km² above 2,000 m, the production area of **Bettelmatt cheese**.

The route is challenging overall, but it is one of the most beautiful trips in Ossola: the spectacle will make up for the hard work.

From the terminal parking area in **Devero**, we climb to the little church at the Alpe (Loc. **Ai Ponti**), continue straight ahead, and halfway up the plain, take the dirt road that climbs to **Crampiolo**, a small cluster of expertly restored stone huts. Here, in the summertime, there are dining and lodging facilities and retailers of the **dairy** products produced at Alpe Forno and Alpe Sangiatto, which we will visit on our route. With a very short detour, it is also worth seeing the nearby **Witches' Lake**.

Behind the small church of Crampiolo we take the tractor track that climbs very steeply to the **small dam of Lake Devero** (a section that is not very rideable, more suitable for e-bikes).

We continue along the trail from the dam, skirting the lake halfway up the hillside. We first cross the **Rio della Valle**, then the **Rio della Satta**, and reach a steep paved section that climbs to the **Spygher hut**. From here, the trail continues steep and somewhat bumpy, but in a short time, we go to **Alpe Canaleccio**, where the trail continues at a moderate gradient and, at times, flat in the so-called **Marmot Valley**.

When we get to the bottom of the little valley, we can see **Lake Pianboglio** on the left: from here, the again is very steep and with some narrow hairpin bends. The slope and uneven surface force us to get out of the saddle and push the bike.

With a last stretch halfway up the hillside, we finally reach **Alpe Forno Inferiore** in breathtaking scenery because of the extent of the pastures. At the Alpe, depending on the time of day, we can watch the **Bettelmatt cheese** being made in summer (Alpe Forno is used as an alpine pasture, usually from July 20 to early September).

From Alpe Forno to continue, we go back 150 m along the trail to the Ford on **Forno Stream** and take the path to Alpe della Satta: this section of the trail offers some of the most beautiful scenery in the Ossola mountains, with small lakes, high-altitude meadows, peat bogs, grazing cows, and superb views. The trail is wide, almost flat, with some "rockier" sections.

Halfway down the stretch, we pass a wooden footbridge where we can see that the stream disappears inside a fracture in the rock: this is a **karst sinkhole**.

The semi-flat section ends just before **Alpe della Satta**, overlooking a belvedere that offers a beautiful view of **Devero Lake**.

The trail descends to cross the stream, and then, without climbing to the Satta alpine huts (although the view from there is worth it), we follow **trail H14** in the direction of Alpe della Valle: the **trail is narrow, very uneven**, middle ground and rather exposed, especially in the first part. In this more exposed section, it is highly recommended to carry your **bike by hand**.

After a ford over a small stream that sometimes forces us to get our feet wet, the trail becomes smoother though a bit narrow, and with a final middle ground stretch, we reach the **small bridge over the Rio della Valle**.

We cross the bridge and immediately take the path to the left towards Corte Corbernas - Alpe Sangiatto: we climb briefly with a **portage** of about 3-4 minutes on a steep and uneven path (non-pedalable section). Then we get back on the bike and continue along a scenic path among rhododendrons, skirting a beautiful flat peat bog area and finally reaching the vast plain of **Corte Corbernas**.

From here, a short uphill section with a few obstacles forces a few fast descents from the saddle, then down to **Alpe Sangiatto**, an area of Bettelmatt cheese production.

A short detour also allows us to admire the uppermost **Lake** of the **Sangiatto**, in whose waters the Devero Mountains are reflected.

From Alpe Sangiatto, we take the alpine pasture track that descends with a few hairpin bends and reaches **Corte d'Ardui** and then the **Motto di Crampio**.

We descend to cross the **Devero Stream** and head toward the small village of **Crampio**. Just before **Locanda Fizzi**, we turn left and take the path to **Vallaro**, which climbs slightly and then descends along a beautiful little valley.

When we reach the last houses of Vallaro, overlooking the Devero plain, it is worth taking the **track that descends to the right**, which, with some wide curves, goes down to the **Cantone** locality. To complete the tour, we can make the **loop of the Devero plain**, passing through **Giavina, Alsona, and Pedemonte** to finally reach the little church of Devero and the parking lot.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

The route is challenging overall, with some steep sections approaching 25%. This route is recommended for pedal-assisted mountain bikes, preferably trail bikes with bi-axles

POINTS OF ATTENTION

1. Steep climb between Crampiolo and the small dam
2. Steep climb before Canaleccio
3. Narrow and exposed section downstream Alpe della Satta
4. Ford between Alpe della Satta and Alpe della Valle

TECHNICAL DATA

Relevant geographical area:	Ossola /Devero Valley
Starting place and arrival:	Alpe Devero parking lot (1625 m)
Number of legs:	1
Length:	21.6 km
Height difference:	620m
Total ascent:	700 m indicative
Total descent:	700 m indicative
Difficulty:	OC(CHALLENGING)
Average duration:	3 hours 30 minutes
Minimum altitude:	1620 m.a.s.l.
Maximum altitude reached:	2240 m.a.s.l. (above Alpe della Satta)
Degree of cyclability:	good
Recommended period:	July-September
Presence of dedicated signage:	no
Target audience:	experienced mtb lover

REFRESHMENT POINTS

Devero and Crampiolo.

SCENIC POINTS

Alpe la Satta and Spigher.

BIKE SERVICE

Agriturismo Alpe Crampiolo, **Rental**, località Crampiolo, Alpe Devero - 28861 BACENO (VB)
- Tel. +39 348 7235974 - info@agriturismoalpecrampiolo.it - www.agriturismoalpecrampiolo.it

CHARGING STATIONS

Alpe Devero, Covered Parking Area - 28861 BACENO (VB)

Agriturismo Alpe Crampiolo, località Crampiolo, Alpe Devero - 28861 BACENO (VB), Tel. +39 348 7235974, info@agriturismoalpecrampiolo.it, www.agriturismoalpecrampiolo.it

PLACES OF INTEREST

Along the route

Alpine Pasture Museum in Devero, Traditional Architecture in Crampiolo, Witches' Lake, Devero Lake, Marmot Valley, Pianboglio Lake, Alpe Forno Bettelmatt cheese production area, high altitude grasslands, peat bogs, snow ponds, karst swallow hole, Sangiatto Lakes, Alpe Sangiatto Bettelmatt cheese production area.

In the vicinity

On the way up to Alpe Devero, we recommend a visit to:

BACENO

Parish Church of San Gaudenzio, a national monument.

CROVEO

Ancient wine press, Croveo Parish Church, Chaplain's House Museum, old bridge, and glacial potholes.

Standards of behavior

1. Stay on the trails

Respect the trail and any prohibitions on access. Respect private property.

2. Leave no trace

Respect the land. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable than dry trails. Stay on existing trails, and do not create new ones. Don't take shortcuts by cutting corners. Take any litter with you.

3. Drive carefully

A moment's distraction can endanger both yourself and others. Abide by speed limits and ride so that you can always control your bicycle. Always wear a helmet.

4. Don't scare the animals

Animals are easily startled by an abrupt approach, a sudden movement, or a loud noise. Allow them enough space and time to adjust to your presence.

5. Give right of way

These trails are not only for bicycle use but also shared by hikers on foot. So, especially downhill, speed should be moderated: around a bend, someone may be coming up. Let other trail users know you will overtake them through a friendly greeting or a bell. Bicyclists must give way to all non-motorized trail users. Bicyclists proceeding downhill should give the right of way to those going uphill. Make any overtaking as safe and polite as possible.



REMINDER:

BIKERS MUST ALWAYS GIVE WAY TO OTHER USERS

RULES OF CONDUCT FOR BIKERS

Since the first mountain bikes appeared, the N.O.R.B.A. (National Off-Road Bicycle Association) drew up a code of conduct intended to regulate off-road activity with full respect for nature and other frequenters of the mountains and trails.

Many clubs, organizations, associations, and schools throughout Italy have adopted the N.O.R.B.A. Code. It consists of a series of general tips that, if followed carefully, can help make this sporting and hiking practice so much in vogue today more enjoyable for everyone.

N.O.R.B.A. Code

1. Always give priority to hikers on foot.
2. Slow down and use caution when approaching and overtaking hikers on foot or other cycle walkers, always making sure to signal your arrival well in advance; avoid cackling or shouting instead, apologize, and greet politely.
3. Always keep the speed of the mountain bike under control and approach turns with extreme caution, anticipating sudden obstacles. The pace should be commensurate with the type of terrain, the type of trail, and each person's experience.
4. Always stay within the marked path, thus minimizing environmental impact (permanent damage to surrounding vegetation and subsequent soil erosion).
5. Do not disturb or frighten domestic or wild animals; give them time to move away and off the path.
6. Do not, for any reason, leave garbage as a result of your passage; you should pick up your own and, when possible, also those abandoned by other "distracted" hikers.
7. Always respect private and public property, leaving gates, mobile barriers, or bars as they are found. In any case, go directly to the landowners to ask for permission to pass. "No trespassing" often means "Please ask permission if you want to pass."
8. During cycle hiking, it is always advisable to be self-sufficient. The goal to be reached and the speed at which one moves should be proportionate to the psychophysical fitness and skill of the driver, the equipment, the environment, the terrain, and, above all, the weather conditions.
9. Never undertake a cycle tour alone, except in cases of force majeure. Stay away from isolated areas distant from major roads, and always leave clear directions regarding the route to be taken and the estimated return time.
10. Minimizing the impact with nature: stealing only images and memories and leaving, at most, the barely perceptible imprint of the wheels of one's vehicle.