



Macugnaga – Lago delle Fate



Loop trail among the hamlets of Macugnaga, at the foot of the spectacular East Face of Monte Rosa, with ascent to Alpe Burki and the enchanting Lago delle Fate (Fairy Lake) in Val Quarazza.

Departure from the parking lot of the town hall in **Frazione Staffa** di Macugnaga (1309 m). Alternatively, you can start from the large parking lot at the Belvedere chairlift in Fraz. Pecetto (1369 m).

From the Town Hall Square, take **Via Horloveno**, to the left of the Town Hall (e-bike recharge point), which you follow until you reach the upper part of the village, past a parking lot, where on the left you take a small bridge from which a dirt road begins that leads to the Dorf, with its characteristic wooden houses, and to the **Chiesa Vecchia** of Staffa with its centuries-old linden tree, the symbol of the local community. Continue along the pedestrian road that climbs towards Pecetto, cross the **Rio Tambach** and reach the public parking lot, at the end of which you climb to the right towards the **Centro Sportivo di Pecetto** (Bar and e-bike charging point). Past the sports center you keep left entering a small road at first paved then dirt road that runs at the foot of the slope skirting high the entire hamlet of Pecetto. After a few ups and downs you reach the locality "**Croce dei Wasma**," then the track bends left entering the woods to the large **helicopter landing pad**. You cross the lower apron in the direction of an embankment (which you leave on the right) to take a very short single-track that leads onto the ski slope. Follow the service track that goes up the ski slope to reach the middle station of the Pecetto - Belvedere chairlift, then take the flat track to the right in the direction of **Alpe Burky** with an adjoining farmhouse where the sixth generation of farmers and ranchers who pass on their passion for this work and their love for the places where they do it operate.

From the Alpe you start to descend along a nice single-track (pay attention to pedestrians!) that brings you back on the uphill track just before a ford, across which you take a sharp right along the track that initially skirts the embankment and then runs below the chairlift and finally leads to the **start of the lift** to Belvedere (e-bike recharge point). Cross the wide parking lots to take the paved road that descends skirting the Anza, and immediately afterwards on the right a wide **concrete bridge** allows you to cross the stream. Immediately after the bridge turn right along a dirt track that continues skirting the Anza on the right bank for a long time. Pass the hamlet of **Opaco**, then the small cluster of houses of **Ronco** until arriving just before Isella. Before the village, there is a detour to the right that begins to climb with moderate gradient, then with a

challenging ascent leads to the scenic hamlet of **Motta** and finally reach the beautiful **Lago delle Fate** (e-bike charging point). From here the more trained will be able to continue for almost 2 km along a bumpier track up the valley until reaching the ancient mining site of **Crocette**, known as the "Dead City").

Returning to Lago delle Fate along the same route, cross the stream on the bridge downstream of the dam and take the **Mulattiera degli Alpini**, a rather steep and at times rough sheep-track that descends with wide hairpin bends to the bottom of the valley to the village of **Fornarelli**, which you cross and, following the main asphalt road, you arrive at the **bridge over the Anza** that leads toward Borca. Before the bridge we refuel with water at **Fonte Scheber** and, without crossing the bridge, continue along the sheep-track that goes up the hydrographic right bank of the Anza. Immediately beyond a large boulder on the right, the path forks: keeping to the right (possibility of crossing electrified fences for grazing animals) we soon arrive at **Isella** where an old bread oven can be visited. Take the dirt road that runs along the Anza, pass the **Civil Defense Center** building until you reach the fork to Lake delle Fate. From here continue straight on retracing a section of the outward track until you reach the village of Staffa where a **new bridge** allows you to cross the Anza again. Beyond the bridge continue to the right on a new track until you rejoin the little road that once led to the old bridge demolished by an avalanche. Follow the small bicycle/pedestrian road that comes to skirt the **Rio Tambach** and turns onto **Via Ludovico Jacchetti** at the ecological island. You turn right and almost immediately cross the State Road, which you climb up to the left for a few dozen meters until you reach the **Town Hall** square again and the starting parking lot.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Trail of medium difficulty mainly on dirt tracks and back roads. The bottom of the trails can be bumpy and slippery in places.

POINTS OF ATTENTION

1. Always pay attention to the many pedestrians in crossing the historic village centers.
2. The descent from Lago delle Fate to Fornarelli has bumpy sections.

TECHNICAL DATA.

Relevant geographical area:	Verbano Cusio Ossola / Ossola / Anzasca Valley
Place of start:	Macugnaga hamlet of Staffa (town hall square)
Place of arrival:	Macugnaga hamlet of Staffa (town hall square)
Number of legs:	1
Length:	18 km
Total ascent:	600 m indicative
Total descent:	600 m indicative
Difficulty:	BC (MEDIUM)
Average duration:	1 hour 30 minutes
Minimum elevation:	1165 m asl (below Fornarelli)
Highest altitude reached:	1590 m asl (Alpe Burky)
Degree of cyclability:	Total
Recommended period:	May - October
Presence of dedicated signage:	No
Target Audience:	Mtb lover

VANTAGE POINTS

Pecetto with a view of the Monte Rosa Wall

Lago delle Fate

EATERIES

Numerous dining options at Staffa, Pecetto, Alpe Burky, Isella, Lago delle Fate and Borca

TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES

MACUGNAGA - Piazza Municipio, 6 - 28876 Macugnaga (VB), Tel. +39 0324 65119,
iat@comune.macugnaga.vb.it

BIKE SERVICE

Schranz Sport, **Rental**, Staffa hamlet - 28876 MACUGNAGA (VB), Tel. +39 0324 65172, Cell.
+39 338 5376551, schranz.sport@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/schranzSport/

I-Snow, **Rental**, hamlet of Staffa and Pecetto - 28876 MACUGNAGA (VB), Cell. +39 348
2221679

CHARGING STATIONS

Piazza Municipio, 1 - Fraz. Staffa 28876 MACUGNAGA (VB)

Pecetto Sports Center Fraz. Pecetto 28876 MACUGNAGA (VB)

Bar Funivia Belvedere Fraz. Pecetto 28876 MACUGNAGA (VB)

Val Quarazza - loc. Lago delle Fate 28876 MACUGNAGA (VB)

Centro del Fondo Fraz. Isella 28876 MACUGNAGA (VB)

PLACES OF INTEREST

Along the route

Macugnaga

At the foot of the east side of Monte Rosa, Macugnaga is one of the most important tourist resorts in the Alps. The Walser village retains in its wooden buildings and the order of its meadows the imprint of ancient German culture. Symbols of Macugnaga are the Old Church (a Romanesque building from the 14th century) and the centuries-old linden tree under whose branches the community council met to deliberate. In the adjoining cemetery, mountaineers who fell on Monte Rosa are buried and a page of mountaineering history can be read there. In Borca the Walser Museum is housed in a wooden house with a stone base (17th century), a splendid example of alpine architecture, while in Staffa the Mountain Museum documents the mountaineering history of Monte Rosa. In Borca, the Guja Mine, a spectacular tunnel gold mine, is worth a visit. The central tunnel is 450 meters long and goes down to below the level of Lago delle Fate.

Nearby

The eastern slope of **Monte Rosa**, Europe's second largest mountain, is formed by an imposing wall three kilometers wide and 2,500 meters high. It is the largest wall in the Alps and the only one of Himalayan dimensions. The wall is slightly concave and, on the ridge, it is divided into the four peaks of Monte Rosa: Ghifetti (4554 m), Zumstein (4563 m), Dufour (4634), and Nordend (4609 m). Two mighty rocky ridges border the wall to the north and south: the St. Catherine Ridge and the Signal Crest.

At the foot of the great wall in 1969 the **Macugnaga Wildlife Oasis** was established in order to encourage the reintroduction of the ibex, now almost extinct in the Alps. The specimens released over several years came from Valsavaranche, in the Gran Paradiso Park, where one of the last colonies in the Alps lived. Finding suitable environmental conditions, the ibexes later reproduced, colonizing the upper Anzasca Valley and the Antrona Valley.

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 in such a way that you are always in control of 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 properly

These trails are not for bicycle use only but are also shared by hikers on foot. So, especially downhill, speed should be moderated: around a bend there may be someone coming up. Let other trail users know you are about to overtake them through a friendly greeting or use of a bell. Bicyclists must give way to all non-motorized trail users. Cyclists proceeding downhill should give 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 appearance of the first mountain bikes, 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.

The N.O.R.B.A. Code has been adopted by many clubs, organizations, associations and schools throughout Italy. 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 right of way 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, rather apologize and greet politely.
3. Keep mountain bike speed under control at all times 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 route, thus minimizing environmental impact (permanent damage to surrounding vegetation and subsequent soil erosion).
5. Do not disturb or frighten animals, whether domestic or wild; 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 collect 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 all cases, if possible, go directly to the landowners to ask for permission to pass. "No trespassing" often just means "Please ask permission if you want to pass."
8. During cycle hiking it is always advisable to be self-sufficient. The destination to be reached and the speed at which one moves should be proportionate to the psychophysical fitness and ability of the driver, the equipment, the environment, the terrain and, above all, the weather conditions.
9. Never undertake a cycle excursion alone, except in cases of force majeure. Do not pass through isolated areas far from major roads and always leave clear directions regarding the route to be taken and the estimated time of return.



10. Minimize impact with nature: steal only images and memories, and leave, at most, the barely perceptible imprint of the wheels of your vehicle.