

ITINERARY 3F

CAJADA FOREST



© PN Dolomiti Bellunesi

description

UNESCO Dolomites system	Pale di San Martino, San Lucano, Dolomiti Bellunesi, Vette Feltrine
mountain group(s)	Schiara - Pelf - Serva (Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park)
UNESCO values	<p>Landscape: the stunning Cajada valley, in the Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park, is a typical example of traditional mountain pastureland which lies on large mantles of scree at the foot of Dolomite peaks (Cimon, Cime di Caiada, Cirvoi) and on the undulating surface of the glacial deposits linking them. The distinctive characteristics of this landscape are due to the positive interaction between man and nature over the course of the centuries: vast forests of Norway spruce, silver fir and beech alternate with hay pastures and large rolling meadows (the marshy Palughet pasture is active). The importance of the flora, fauna and biodiversity here is largely linked to man's intervention over the centuries and his traditional tending of the ground.</p> <p>Geology: the valley is a clear example of climatic morphology associated with ancient glaciation. It formed when a giant paleo landslide detached from Cime di Cajada when a glacier was partially melting during the last Ice Age (25 - 30,000 years ago approx.), blocking the Desedan Valley. This kind of morphogenesis is typical of the Dolomites in this area, where powerful landslides (stabilised or active) and vast mantles of scree characterise the geomorphology of the land and are dynamic elements of this constantly evolving landscape.</p>
description of the route	From the car park in Casere Cajada, follow the untarmacked road in the woods in the direction of Malga Palughet (sign no. 509). After a couple of metres, there is a short tarmacked uphill stretch which is not very steep and leads to a

grassy area where you will see some “casere” (typical houses) which in the past were used by mountain shepherds. The route now continues on the flat for about 250 m then enters the forest on a road which has alternating tarmacked and untarmacked sections with varying inclines: at first you climb for about 300 m on a tarmacked section (maximum incline of 10%) then it flattens out or climbs slightly on a dirt track that is slightly uneven in some parts. After a short climb (with 15% sections), you will reach a clearing where Villa Scotti stands, offering a lovely view of Cime di Cajada and the “Queen of Cajada”, an ancient silver fir that stands 40 metres high and is thought to be 200 years old. The route continues, descending slightly (4-5%), to the Rui de Caneva stream. Along this last part of the route, there is a stretch (about 5-6 m long) that can become muddy right across the road with the smallest amount of rain. Once you come upon the Rui de Caneva stream, cross a section of unstable terrain (take care here) and immediately afterwards you will start climbing on a tarmacked section that is about 100 m long and with an incline of 20%. At the end of this section there is an untarmacked stretch that is very uneven (60-70 m long) and then the hay pastures of Col d'Igoi. Here you can stop and drink fresh water from the small fountain and admire the lush, green Cajada forest and Mount Zervoi, Mount Becola and Pelf which surround it. From Col d'Igoi you follow the dirt track downhill slightly and enter the forest. In nearly no time at all you will get to the Palughet valley, over some short uneven stretches; from here Malga Palughet, the arrival point of this excursion, is just 250 m away, up a gentle uphill dirt track. You return the same way you came.


advice

recommended period	June to September. At this time of the year, we recommend this route in the morning when the weather is usually more settled. Autumn (October) is also a lovely time to appreciate the scenery along this itinerary, with the spectacular display of the beech and silver fir trees changing colour.
recommended gear	Wear comfortable clothes in layers. Always take some heavy clothing with you (even in the summer) and protection from the rain. It is advisable to take sunscreen and a hat to protect you from the sun, as well as something to drink, a snack, a change of clothes and a first aid kit. Always carry a tyre repair kit and pump. Tyres for dirt tracks are recommended.
recommended equipment	Because of the terrain, the inclines and obstacles to be found along the way, off-road wheelchairs or wheelchairs with a front wheel are recommended.; wheelchairs with a front wheel may find some sections of the route difficult where the terrain is uneven or there is unstable gravel or obstacles (stones sticking out, 'steps' where the surface goes from untarmacked to tarmacked); it is therefore advisable not to go on your own.
recommendations	Average-challenging route. Due to a number of obstacles along the way ('steps' where the surface goes from untarmacked to tarmacked, uneven terrain or terrain with unstable gravel, narrow drainage channels which stick up above the level of the road), it is advisable not to go on your own. Take care when descending to always go very slowly when crossing channels and where the terrain changes because you might come up against these 'steps'. Similarly, be careful when descending and braking because there can be unstable gravel and uneven untarmacked sections.

N.B.	When following the itinerary in an electric wheelchair, always take a spare battery.
info	
altitude	1000-1500 m a.s.l.
starting point	Casere Cajada, 32013 Longarone (BL) GPS coordinates: 46.241030, 12.247529 Altitude: 1143 m a.s.l.
arrival point	Malga Palughet, 32013 Longarone (BL) GPS coordinates: 46.224513, 12.238971 Altitude: 1257 m a.s.l.
distance	5800 m (return trip)
overall difference in height	150 m uphill; 150 m downhill
incline	Average 3%, max 15% in two short sections (at Casera Villa Scotti and between Rui de Caneva and Col d'Igoi). All the steeper parts of the route are tarmacked. On the way, some of the gentle downhill sections (incline of 4-5%) are gravelly: between Casera Scotti and Rui de Caneva and from Col d'Igoi to Malga Palughet for about 250 m
minimum width	3.0 m (track)
terrain	Relatively even (untarmacked with tarmacked stretches). The steeper parts of the route are tarmacked. The untarmacked sections are generally good but the surface can be uneven or unstable in a couple of short stretches. There are currently three critical points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in the area where the route meets the Rui de Caneva stream there is rather unstable coarse gravel; - on the way, just before getting to Col d'Igoi, there is a very uneven section with unstable gravel; - in the section between Col d'Igoi and Malga Palughet, there are around 20 m of uneven terrain with the odd stone sticking out. Between Casera Scotti and Rui de Caneva there is an approximately 5-6 m long part of the route that can become muddy right across the road with the smallest amount of rain
obstacles	Water erosion has created differences in height (2-3 cm to 10 cm high) near where there is a change in terrain (untarmacked-tarmacked or untarmacked-cement); narrow drainage channels stick up above the level of the road and are not always easy to see; no barrier
exposed stretches	None
facilities	
access	The starting point can be reached using private means. Take the tarmacked road which leaves from the train station in Faè (municipality of Longarone) and climbs for 8 kilometres. It is 3.5 m wide and requires experience driving on mountain roads
restrictions	None. The road between Faè and Casere Cajada is normally closed in the winter. Should you wish to follow the itinerary in spring, always check that the road is open
car park	Free car park with no reserved spaces
accessible toilets	None
refreshments	None
recharging stations for electric bikes	None

network coverage	No coverage. The signal is lost halfway along the access road from Faè to Casere Cajada.
GPS mapping	3F_Cajada.gpx
street view	https://www.google.it/maps/@46.2409953,12.2475413,3a,75y,245.74h,88.94t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1ss_IXcYwqtomlDRvHDMb_rw!2e0!7i13312!8i6656
signs along the route	CAI signs and educational boards in Italian and English of the Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park (illustrating the landscape, geology, vegetation, fauna and anthropology of the Cajada Forest)
UNESCO info points	None
guides	Local guides available who have attended the special training course run by the UNESCO Dolomites Foundation-Accademia della Montagna del Trentino [info: http://www.mazarol.net/]
rental services	None nearby. The nearest e-bike rental centre is in Belluno
emergency numbers	112 European emergency telephone number 118 Italian emergency telephone number

contacts

contact for info	Mazarol Guide Naturalistiche; guide.pndb@gmail.com
information provided by and itinerary checked by	 <p>COOPERATIVA MAZAROL</p> <p>http://www.mazarol.net/</p>
route mapped on	09/10/2018
revised	17/06/2019
responsibility	<p>The contents of this information sheet do not exempt hikers from responsible behaviour.</p> <p>The weather in the mountains can change very quickly and the degree of difficulty of the itineraries depends on a number of factors which often cannot be foreseen, including the conditions of the route, how fit you are and your equipment. Before starting out, always check the weather forecast and contact the local tourist board for an update on the conditions of the route.</p> <p>Weather: http://www.arpa.veneto.it/previsioni/it/html/meteo_dolomiti.php Local tourist board: www.valdizoldo.net</p>