

## ITINERARY 4A

## ZEMOLA VALLEY - CAVA BUSCADA



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### description

UNESCO Dolomites system	Dolomiti Friulane
mountain group(s)	Duranno
UNESCO values	<p><b>Landscape:</b> the Zemola Valley lies to the north of the village of Erto and its nature and landscape, which are still largely untouched, are of great importance. The valley is dominated all around by the steep walls of the group of Mount Duranno which, standing at 2652 m a.s.l., is the highest peak in the Dolomiti Friulane Park and one of the most imposing in the region. The landscape is typical of high-altitude grazing land, with meadows and hay pastures. Shepherds' houses and dairies (which were used collectively) have been renovated and are still used and there are also the remains of old houses once inhabited by woodcutters and charcoal burners. Today the old quarry, where red limestone rich in ammonite ("Ramello Rosso Ammonitico") was extracted, can be visited to learn more about this open-air museum. The old quarriers' house is a reminder of its mining past, when everything was done by hand, and it has been renovated and turned into a mountain hut (Cava Buscada). There is a great variety of flowers in the valley, with examples of more unusual species like the martagon lily, the orange lily, gymnadenia and edelweiss, testimony to the pristine natural environment.</p> <p><b>Geology:</b> this area is of great interest for reconstructing the Quaternary evolution of the Dolomites since it contains deposits from glacial lakes, outwash plains, known as sandurs and other well preserved deposits from the late glacial age. The Jurassic deposits from the sea that is generally very deep (the Soverzene, Igne, Vajont, Fonzaso and Rosso Ammonitico formations) are</p>

	mainly calcareous rock and make up the Dof-Najarda area, the area to the west of Cimolais, the Cellina summit and the upper part of the Raut massif. [source: <a href="http://www.dolomitiunesco.info">www.dolomitiunesco.info</a> ]
description of the route	This excursion is challenging due to its length (almost 5 km) and difference in height (just under 600 m) but it is very scenic and has many features of natural, historical and cultural interest. From the village of Erto, drive along the scenic road leading to the Zemola Valley which is tarmacked at the beginning and then becomes a dirt road. Leave your car in the car park at Casera Mela. The itinerary begins here, along a fairly steep dirt track (average incline of 12%). Along the route you will see a lot of interesting evidence of the quarrying which took place in this area in the past (Rosso Ammonitico limestone quarry). The route continues through beautiful beech woods and then, where the trees end, opens up onto the far-reaching panorama of the Vajont Valley. Here there is a lovely view over Mount Duranno and the folds of the Mount Porgeit fault, as well as the huge Vajont Valley as far as the Monte Col Nudo chain. Go through the short tunnel to the Cava Buscada mountain hut, the end of the route. Along the dirt road, about 200 m before getting to the hut, there is a short climb to the archaeological site of the old Rosso Ammonitico marble quarry ( <a href="#">4A_Buscada_Cava_marmo.gpx</a> ).
<b>advice</b>	
recommended period	From spring to autumn when the mountain hut is open (every day in the summer; weekends the other times of the year). info: <a href="https://www.cavabuscada.com/">https://www.cavabuscada.com/</a>
recommended gear	Clothing suitable for the mountains, an anorak in case the weather suddenly changes and a change of clothes (T-shirt and socks), hiking boots and poles, sunscreen and sunglasses, food and water, binoculars to watch the wildlife (marmots).
recommended equipment	Due to the condition of the terrain, we recommend hiking (electric off-road chairs) or Joëlette wheelchairs. Given the distance, when using an electric wheelchair, it is a good idea to take some spare batteries.
recommendations	Always travel with others, so they can help you deal with any difficulties you may encounter. When following the itinerary in a wheelchair, on a mountain bike or with a pushchair, fit tyres with deep treads and always carry a complete tyre repair kit with a pump and spare inner tube.
N.B.	Road closed to traffic. Customers of the mountain hut, however, may use their own vehicles (with off-road all-wheel drive).
<b>info</b>	
altitude	1200 m - 1800 m
starting point	Car park at Casera Mela GPS coordinates: 46.2947, 12.36848 Altitude: 1175 m a.s.l.
arrival point	Cava Buscada mountain hut GPS coordinates: 46.30055, 12.35904 Altitude: 1760 m a.s.l.
distance	4800 m (one way only)
overall difference in height	585 m
incline	The whole route climbs; the steepest section (about 600 m long) is just before

	the tunnel
minimum width	2.50 - 3.00 m (track)
terrain	The terrain is compact with a mixture of fine and medium gravel
obstacles	Deep narrow channels across the path
exposed stretches	There are no protective barriers along the whole route (from Erto)
<b>facilities</b>	
access	With private means as far as the car park at Casera Mela
restrictions	Road closed to traffic (from Casera Mela to the Cava Buscada mountain hut)
car park	Free car park with no reserved spaces
accessible toilets	At the Cava Buscada mountain hut
refreshments	At the beginning of the itinerary: Casera Mela mountain hut ( <a href="http://www.caseramela.it/">http://www.caseramela.it/</a> ) At the end of the itinerary: Cava Buscada mountain hut (two steps to enter)
recharging stations for electric bikes	None
network coverage	Patchy along the whole route (only main providers)
GPS mapping	<a href="#">4A_Val_Zemola-Cava_Buscada.gpx</a> <a href="#">4A_Buscada_Cava_marmo.gpx</a>
street view	None
signs along the route	CAI signs; information boards in the car park at Casera Mela; educational boards along the route to the old red marble quarry
UNESCO info points	None
guides	<b>Excursions:</b> Dolomiti Friulane Park guides [info: <a href="http://www.parcodolomitifriulane.it/visite-guidate/le-guide-del-parco/">http://www.parcodolomitifriulane.it/visite-guidate/le-guide-del-parco/</a> ] <b>Transfer to Cava Buscada hut:</b> a shuttle service (upon booking only) is provided by the manager of the Cava Buscada mountain hut (with four-wheel drive from the car park at Casera Mela to the hut): <a href="https://www.cavabuscada.com/">https://www.cavabuscada.com/</a>
rental services	None
emergency numbers	112 European emergency telephone number
<b>contacts</b>	
contact for info	<a href="mailto:prenotazioni@dolomitifriulane.it">prenotazioni@dolomitifriulane.it</a> ; <a href="mailto:fabianobruna68@gmail.com">fabianobruna68@gmail.com</a>
information provided by and itinerary checked by	Dolomiti Friulane Park guides
route mapped on	autumn 2019
<b>responsibility</b>	
<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><b>Weather:</b> <a href="https://www.meteo.fvg.it/home.php">https://www.meteo.fvg.it/home.php</a> <b>Local tourist board:</b> Erto and Casso Visitor Centre <a href="https://www.parcodolomitifriulane.it/vivere-il-parco/centri-visite-e-punti-info/centro-visite-di-erto-e-casso-pn/">https://www.parcodolomitifriulane.it/vivere-il-parco/centri-visite-e-punti-info/centro-visite-di-erto-e-casso-pn/</a></p>	