



Rifugio Menaggio (1400 m) is situated on the southern slope of Monte Grona where one can enjoy spectacular view of Lake Como and the surrounding mountains. From the rifugio you can add on more by hiking to Monte Grona (1736 m) and to Monte Bregagno (2107 m). The rifugio provides refreshments and lodging and is open daily all the summer- for the rest of the year on Saturdays, Sun- and Holidays. For information and reservation tel. +39 03441930017 or +39 3755108734.

ITINERARY: Plesio, fraction Breglia (749 m),– rifugio Menaggio

LENGTH ONE WAY: 5 km

WALKING TIME ONE WAY: 1h 45min

ASCENT: 650 m

DIFFICULTY: Hike with a steep ascent, walking boots required.

TRAIL SIGNS: Red-white-red

CONNECTIONS: Breglia can be reached from Menaggio with bus line C13

Parking possibility at Breglia or at Monti di Breglia (1000 m) Attention! Vehicles driving to Monti di Breglia need to pay a road charge at the ticket machine at the beginning of the road (3 euro-coins only)

N.B.: Avalanche beacon mandatory on snow covered trails above 1500 m



ROUTE: Breglia is a small mountain village situated in the municipality of Plesio, 7 km above Menaggio. From the bus stop at Breglia (749 m) ascend the small road leading up to Monti di Breglia (sign indicating "Rifugio Menaggio"). At the second bend, just beyond a fountain, take the first short-cut to the right (sign Monti di Breglia/Rifugio Menaggio). It ends up on the road again, which you cross to pick up the next shortcut. After 20 m, at the electricity pylon, turn right. The steep trail leads to the road again, which you follow for about 100 m. Then you find the next shortcut to the left which leads across a field. After crossing the road again follow the trail through the woods to **Monti di Breglia** (1000 m). A little further on you reach a picnic area with a fountain and a beautiful view (you deserve a rest). Here you leave the road and follow the trail over some rocks up to the left (sign). You reach a parking area which you cross and then pick up the trail to the left. At the junction turn right up the panoramic path (in case of heavy snow we recommend the trail to the left). It leads among birches and broom shrubs up to the junction for S. Amate and Monte Bregagno. Turn left. The now quite level trail leads along the slope of the mountain to rifugio Menaggio. The view embraces the whole central lake area with the towns of Menaggio with Monte Crocione (1640 m), Bellagio with Monte San Primo (1682 m) and the Corni di Canzo and Varenna dominated by the Grigne (2410 m).

WALKS FROM RIFUGIO MENAGGIO

- Pizzo Coppa

Fifteen minutes from the rifugio there is a viewpoint called "**Pizzo Coppa**" from where you have a splendid view not only of Lake Como but of the whole Menaggio valley with Lake Piano and Lake Lugano. Take the trail on the left side of the rifugio (facing the building).



Ascent to Monte Grona (© A. Morganti)

- Monte Grona (1736 m)

From **Monte Grona** you can admire one of the best views of the Pre-Alps. Apart from the three lakes Como, Piano and Lugano, the close-by peaks of Monte Bregagno, Monte Legnone, Pizzo di Gino and Grigne, you can also see many peaks of the Alps from Monviso to Bernina.

Ascents:

Via Normale - time: 1 h 15 min; ascent: 336 m

This trail starts behind the rifugio. At the fork S. Amate – Monte Grona turn left to ascend to the saddle called "Forcoletta". Turn left again and follow the steep rocky exposed trail. A metal cable helps you along the final stretch to the summit.

Via Direttissima - Time: 1 h; ascent: 336 m

As this trail is facing south, it does not accumulate much snow in winter but it is steeper and more exposed than the Via Normale. Behind the rifugio follow the signs "Via Ferrata". Soon you reach a saddle where you turn right and follow the sign post for the "Via Direttissima" which climbs up along the south gully. At the end of the gully turn left to ascend the rocky slope. A metal cable will help you along the final stretch to the summit.

Via Ferrata - Time: 3h

Only for Alpinists with adequate equipment. To reach the ferrata follow the signs "Via Ferrata" behind the rifugio.

S. Amate (1623 m - time 45min - ascent 240 m) and **Monte Bregagno** (2107 m - time 2h30min - ascent 707 m)

From Rifugio Menaggio you can hike walk to the little chapel of **Sant'Amate** and from there to the top of **Monte Bregagno**.

Take the steep trail behind the Rifugio signed as "Forcoletta" and "Monte Grona Via Normale". At the junction turn right to S. Amate. The trail leads around the Val Pessina and reaches the grassy mountain ridge. From here walk down to the saddle of S. Amate and its chapel. The spectacular view from here embraces Lake Como, the woods and pastures of the Val Sanagra, Lake Lugano and the Alps.

If you now follow the signs "Breglia", the trail will lead to a saddle called "el capel de Giuan", ("Johnny's Hat" in local dialect) which eventually meets the path previously followed from Breglia up to rifugio Menaggio. If you wish to reach the top of Monte Bregagno, follow the grassy mountain ridge from S. Amate. Right at the start of a steep ascent, ignore the detour sign for Rifugio La Canua (1520 m tel + 39 3358097897). You reach the altitude of 1905 m (Bregagnino) from where the trail descends to a saddle and then climbs again to reach the rounded top of Monte Bregagno. The view of Val Albano, Valtellina and the Mesolcina mountains to the north, Lake Lugano, Val Cavargna and the Lepontine Alps to the west and Lake Como with Monte Legnone to the east is stunning.

