



A walk among pasture fields and over steep slopes to the church of San Lucio (1542 m), which stands on the border pass between Val Colla (Switzerland) and Val Cavargna (Italy) and offers amazing views over the surrounding mountains and the Alps. In the past this was an important transit route. Near the church, the refuge "San Lucio" provides refreshments and lodging and is open all year round mob. +39 3383110521.

ITINERARY: Cavargna - Monti Coloné - San Lucio

WALKING TIME ONE WAY: 2 h

ASCENT: 471 m

DIFFICULTY: Steep climb requiring good fitness levels

TRAIL SIGNS: From Cavargna to Monti Coloné: red-white-red signposts with a crossed "no. 3"

CONNECTIONS: Bus C14 (Menaggio-Cavargna) to Cavargna

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



ROUTE: **Cavargna** (1071 m) is the highest municipality in the province of Como and lies in the remote valley of Val Cavargna, clustered to the slopes of Monte Garzirola. From the bus stop, head to the Parish church and take the track on the left side of the church climbing uphill to the "Colonia". The path follows a short stretch of "Sentiero delle 4 Valli", a 50 km long hiking trail that takes you from Breglia, above Menaggio, to Dasio above Lake Lugano. The trail winds up its way through four valleys - Val Sanagra, Val Cavargna, Val Rezzo and Valsolda - and can be walked in three days.

The path skirts the edge of a beech wood called "Bosco Sacro" - which forms a natural barrier against snow and landslides - before entering the steep, narrow Val Marda. After crossing the bridge over the stream in the Val Molino, the trail ascends the opposite side of the valley. At the fork you turn right and follow the track through the pastures to **Monti Coloné** (1400 m, 1 ½ h), where you find a group of houses. From here the view embraces the Val Cavargna. To reach San Lucio, take the small trail behind the fountain leaving the "Sentiero delle 4 Valli". The path winds up the steep slope over the pasture fields to the crest in the direction of the church of **San Lucio** (1542 m). The church stands right on the Swiss - Italian border. It dates back to the 15th century and has always been a cultural and devotional point of reference for Swiss and Italian people. Inside, there are paintings from the 15th up to the 17th century and a 15th century wooden statue which represents Saint Lucio, patron of shepherds and cheesemakers. He is celebrated on the 12th of July and 16th of August with a popular festival attracting a lot of people from the surrounding Italian and Swiss valleys.

Next to the church, you can find Rifugio San Lucio, a former Customs police



The church of San Lucio

barracks built in 1903. Customs Service used to patrol the border and check for contraband. As a matter of fact, smuggling was a widespread phenomenon in this region, due to the poor living conditions. When the economic conditions improved in the 1960's, the barracks was closed and left abandoned until it was turned into a Rifugio in 1999.

WALK TO MONTE GARZIOLA

From San Lucio you can reach the top of Monte Garziola (2116 m) following the signs at the rifugio San Lucio (1h 45 min).

Note: We advise you to visit the Val Cavargna Museum in front the Parish Church in Cavargna. The museum illustrates the local history and customs focusing on the smuggling phenomenon and the old siderurgical activities. www.valcavargna.com



Val Cavargna

