

Via Francigena Gran San Bernardo to Pont San Martin



This week unfold first among a superb mountains scenery then continues through stone roofed villages, tiny painted churches and cliff perched castles while peaceful meadows give away to vineyards covered slopes. Bourg St Pierre can be reached by train from Geneva or Lausanne to Martigny then by bus and you will find at your hotel all the material you need for your trip: hotel vouchers, the detailed description of the walking and the GPS maps.

Tour highlights: The crossing of the Alps - The mountains landscape - The historical Hostel at the Pass - Aosta Roman remains - Val d'Aosta villages and castles

Level: Moderate to difficult - **Total Mileage:** 114km - **Walking time:** 4– 6hrs **Duration:** 7
Nights

Day by day walking program

BOURG St PIERRE

Day 1 – Arrival in Bourg St Pierre – Altitude at departure point : 1.632 m

Welcome meeting, dinner and night. **(it is possible to have a fondue or a raclette which are typical Swiss)**

St BERNARDO PASS

Day 2 – Bourg St Pierre/San Bernardo Pass – Distance 11,50 km - Walking time: 4h00

Altitude gap: +750 -Highest point 2473 m

This segment has a symbolic value as we cross the Alps. Scrambling along mountain trail we reach the historical hospital of the Agostinian Friars founded more than 1000 years ago, who along the centuries saved so many lives of pilgrims with their famous dogs.. **(Hotel Italia has a Spa)**



ETROUBLES

Day 3 – San Bernardo Pass – Etroubles –

Distance 13,30 km - Walking time: 4h00 - Altitude gap: +35m/ - 1232m - Highest point: 1270 m

The superb scenery of the Pass with the small lake

and the crown of high mountains greet us at departure. Entirely on trails the route passes through St. Rhémy en Bosses, well known for the ham it produces. We descend to Etroubles. Since ancient times this village has acted as the main centre of the area; the Roman soldiers had here their winter quarters.

AOSTA

Day 4 – Etroubles – Aosta – Distance 16,00 km Walking time: 4h30 - Altitude gap: +85m /- 825 - Highest point 1305

To reach Aosta, today we walk along the Rus, irrigation canals, very important for the agriculture. They are generally at mid height and we follow them before descending more steeply towards Aosta. Of Roman origins, Aosta has kept many historical remains of that period such as the Pretorian Arch and the theatre. Also very interesting the cloister of the main St Orso Church..

CHAMBAVE

Day 5 – Aosta – Chambave – Distance 25.5 km - Walking time: 7h30 - Altitude at arrival: 470m - Altitude gap: +540/ - 590m - Highest point 775

From now on we follow the “Chemins de Vignobles” vineyards trail, also marked as “Via Francigena” The first castle we encounter is Quart (XII century) on the highest point, then Nus Castle, also on a cliff, while at the bottom of the valley we can see the Fenis castle built by the Challant family. We end at a wine producing agriturismo few km before Chambave **(Gourmet stop)**

VERRES

Day 6 – Chambave – Verres – Distance 27.2 km - Walking time: 7h30 - Altitude at arrival: 370 m. - Altitude gap : + 450/-550m - Highest point 775.

A very pleasant walk along trails that wind among vineyards and orchards, with higher mountains as a back drop. The river Evançon runs at the bottom of the main valley while the imposing Verrès castle stand at the entrance of the Val d’Ayas side valley. It is an imposing fortress with 2m thick walls. And can be reached only on foot.

PONT St MARTIN

Day 7 – Verres – Pont St Martin – Distance 20.0 km - Walking time: 6h00 - Altitude gap: +750m/ - 800m - Altitude at arrival : m345

Many interesting things on the way, from the Echilod bridge to the Bard Fotress not forgetting the original Roman road called “Via delle Gallie” near Donnas.

DEPARTURE

Day 8 – end our services



Accommodations



Bourg St Pierre



Grand St Bernardo Pass



Etroubles



Aoste



Chambave



Verrès



Pont St Martin

