

## Discovering the water holes of Monte Generoso

Mountain farming was the main activity on Monte Generoso until just a few decades ago. While it has always enjoyed an ideal climate and vegetation for flocks and herds to stop for long periods of time, the dryness of Karst mountains like Monte Generoso has given rise to major problems of water shortage. Consequently, the mountaineers were forced to create “water holes” – the characteristic ponds (almost always round in shape) by isolating the base using foliage and the ashes that accumulated in fireplaces and hearths to retain rainwater. There are various “water holes” you can visit on Monte Generoso. Some have been abandoned, others are partially operational and others are fully functional as they have been restored in recent years, becoming an ideal habitat for many insects and small animals.

### First option:

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Duration:	2 hours (round trip)
Difficulty:	none
Difference in altitude:	approx. 150 m

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Hiking map (XXL photo map from [www.gps-tracks.com](http://www.gps-tracks.com))

- Water hole above Cascina d'Armirone
- Cava Balüsa water hole
- Water hole above Alpe Grassa
- Water hole below the Dosso Bello crossroads
- Water hole above the Dosso Bello crossroads



**Second option:**

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Duration: 3 hours

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Difficulty: none

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Difference in altitude: approx. 270 m

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Hiking map (XXL photo map from [www.gps-tracks.com](http://www.gps-tracks.com))

- Alpe Pesciò water hole
- Alpe Orimento water hole
- Alpe Squadrina water hole

Both of the trips above are described in greater detail in the booklet "Monte Generoso, 26 routes to discover the mountain". The water holes and their workings are described in the booklet "Water and the bubbles on Monte Generoso".