



The mountain refuge "Croce di Campo"* is located in Val Cavargna at 1741 m a.s.l. It is a fantastic balcony overlooking the Lepontine Alps and a good starting point to reach the surrounding peaks such as Pizzo di Gino (2245 m) and Cima Pianchette (2168 m).

*At the time of writing this guide, the refuge is temporarily closed. For information contact Comune di San Bartolomeo - tel. +39 034466123

ITINERARY: San Nazzaro - Tegnivo - Tecchio - Croce di Campo

WALKING TIME ONE WAY: 2 ½ hours

ASCENT: 750 m

DIFFICULTY: Stretches with a steep ascent

TRAIL SIGNS: Red-white-red markers and some signposts

CONNECTIONS: Bus C14 (Menaggio-Cavargna) to San Nazzaro

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

Note: You can also reach Tecchio (1287 m) by car from San Nazzaro: follow via S. Antonio until you find the small church of S. Antonio on the left. Opposite the church, take the narrow road that goes up to Tecchio on the right. The road winds its way through the woods for about 2 km.

 This route is also recommended for well-trained mountain bikers.



ROUTE: San Nazzaro, clustered to the south slope of Pizzo di Gino, lies at an altitude of 995 m in the remote valley of Val Cavargna. In the past, life was very hard in the valley and people would live on smuggling or migrate. Due to the proximity to Switzerland, people now work as cross-border commuters. This has improved the living standards and brought modernity to the valley.

When you arrive at San Nazzaro, get off the bus at the stop close to the Parish church of Santi Nazzaro e Celso (ask the driver for the "*chiesa*"). From the bus stop walk up via Burena in the direction of the church. The church is of very old origins but nothing has remained of the original building. From the church follow the bend in the road, ignore via Cardé, and proceed along the cement road that climbs up steeply above a small water canal that delimits Contrada Canale. Then turn right in via Cos Pumbal and after a few meters take the steps on the left. Then turn right again ignoring the path that leads to a big fountain and after 20 m, at

the height of an old mountain hut, turn left. The old mule track connecting San Nazzaro with Tegnivo starts here. You ascend through the woods un-til you reach the hamlet of **Tegnivo**, an old cattle pasture. In the 18th century it was home to miners who were employed at the mines of Tecchio and Val Caldera.

The beautiful view embraces Monte Galbiga (1698 m) in front of you, the slopes of Monte Garzirola (2103 m) on the right and the small church



Tecchio

“Regina dei Monti” on the left.

Follow the level path to the left. It leads below a chapel and leaves the small village. At the fork, leave the level path and walk up the red way-marked mule track to the right. You will gain altitude quickly and - after a few bends - reach a little white house. From here, on the left, a small road leads to a fountain and a row of wooden huts in the locality of **Tecchio** (1287 m), a former campsite.



Rifugio Croce di Campo

Behind the huts, two flights of steps lead up to a road that reaches **Rifugio “Croce di Campo”**, visible up ahead on the right. Do not follow the paved road but turn onto the pine forest trail (sign “Sentiero nel bosco”). After a steep climb of about 20 minutes, the path leaves the forest and opens onto a mountain ridge that you follow uphill until you join the road to the Rifugio. You can now either follow the road or a series of shortcuts. Soon you can spot, in the distance, a pasture hut (“Piazza Vacchera”) below the impressive rocky pyramid of Pizzo di Gino (2245 m).

From Rifugio Croce di Campo you have a breathtaking view: on the left you can spot a small part of Lake Como and the Grigne (2410 m), ahead there is Monte Crocione (1640 m) and Monte Galbiga (1698 m) and on the right Cima Fiorina and Monte Garzirola (2013 m)

From Rifugio Croce di Campo it is possible to continue with wonderful walks towards the surrounding peaks with stunning views of the lakes and the mountain ranges of Lombardy, Piedmont and Switzerland.

- Pizzo di Gino (2245 m): 2 h
- Cima delle Pianchette (2168 m): 1 ½ h
- Monte Tabor (2080 m): 2 ½ h
- Monte Bregagno (2107 m): 4 ½ h

Val Cavargna

