

BRAULIO VALLEY

We are in the Valley that connects Bormio with the Trafoi Valley and the Venosta Valley through the Stelvio Pass. The Braulio Valley takes its name from the mountain that overlooks it and which reaches an altitude of 2980 m. This is a very wild area, especially in the lower sector, despite the presence of the Stelvio road and the Pass which in summer are crossed by thousands of cars, motorcycles, and cyclists.

Yet a few hundred meters from the road there are rugged and wild territories, steep slopes, and dense vegetation, inhabited by abundant wildlife. The valley is deeply engraved and shaped by the Braulio stream which flowing has drawn jumps in the rock, waterfalls, and gorges.

The morphology of the Valley can be divided into two sectors: the upper one, called Alta Valle del Braulio and characterized by an ancient glacier modeling, and the lower one, called "Bassa Valle del Braulio" and between the so-called Braulio mouth and the outlet of the stream in the Adda river in the locality of Boscopiano, where, over time, the stream has dug a very deep gorge!

Braulio peak had an extraordinary strategic importance at the time of the First World War; in fact, it represented a fundamental node of the Italian defensive system in the face of the Austro-Hungarian troops occupying the Stelvio, and important evidence of this long occupation has recently been found at Scorluzzo peak. Braulio peak housed a line of Italian trenches still visible today, a line that continued as far as the mouth of the Forcola di Rims and then climbs up to the Punta di Rims. This line was intended to control the Austro-Hungarian enemy line within an overall framework of defensive strategy that the Italian army maintained during the First World War, attacking on the Venezia-Giulia front without attempting to invade South Tyrol.

Mount Braulio is today a little visited peak, despite the relative ease of access and the surprising breadth of the panorama: it probably suffers from the rivalry of the nearby Punta di Rims and Piz Umbrail, both of shorter access. The climb can take place in two ways: the III Casa Cantoniera at the church of S. Ranieri or the IV Casa Cantoniera at the pass of Umbrail or of Giogo of S. Maria. The two routes can be combined in a ring, and in this case, it is better to start from the III Casa Cantoniera.

The Braulio Valley is today also an open-air laboratory for the study of the water of the Stelvio Park! In fact, in three points of the long valley, the Stelvio Park constantly monitors the waters through automatic hydrometric stations. The monitoring, aimed at knowing how much water flows in this stream, is part of the larger Idrostelvio project that the Park has developed and coordinated since 2010 with the collaboration of the University and Polytechnic of Milan. The Idrostelvio measuring stations are located near a gorge dug by Braulio in its lower section (beautiful but reachable only through a steep and demanding path), coinciding with a bridge in the upper section of the valley and on one of the initial sections of the stream, near the V Casa cantoniera dello Stelvio, among the pastures that dominate the high-altitude landscape here.