

Post-Workshop Field Trip

“The tectonic evolution of Gran Paradiso - Nappe stacking and metamorphic evolution of a Prealpine basement”

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Preliminary Program (18.-19. Sept. 2009)

1. Day

Departure from Valnontey (3 km north of Cogne). We will follow a footpath up to the Rifugio Sella (from 1677m to 2579m, 3h). A few geological stops will be made along the footpath, especially to look at Triassic marbles and cagneole along a decollement surface. Close to the Refuge, we will enjoy a broad (and dramatic) panoramic view of the contact between the Gran Paradiso basement and the overlying ophiolite. Overnight at Rifugio Vittorio Sella at Lauson.

2. Day

We will follow an easy (but narrow in places!) footpath along the left bank of the Valnontey, from the Rif. Sella to the PNGP hut (l'Herbetet, 2441). Several stops will be devoted either to a panoramic view on the opposite side of the Valnontey, or for examining rocks (several types of orthogneisses, Permian metasediments recording the eclogite-facies event, ...) and structures (ductile shear zones at the regional scale). We will then continue along an old (Royal) footpath down to the Pont de l'Erfalet (1845m). Our interest will then turn to the Money window, where there are exposures of Carboniferous metasediments, alkaline metavolcanics (similar to those found in the “Zone Houillère” of the Briançonnais), as well as strongly deformed peraluminous granitoids that intrude the Carboniferous rocks. First-class panoramic views of the opposite side of the valley will give us insight into the structure of the window. This will be a long day in mountains before we finally reach the small village of Valnontey (not earlier than 17-18 h).

The field trip costs **€100**.