

8 Pre - LGM and Lateglacial at the southern end of the Alps (Maritime Alps)

Excursion Leaders: Adriano Ribolini, Matteo Spagnolo, Lukas Rettig

Draft Itinerary: Torino-Demonte (Stura Valley) -Valdieri (Gesso Valley)-Limone Piemonte (Vermenagna Valley)-Torino

Definitive cost per head: € 650

Accommodation arrangements: Hotel

Proposer Contact Details:

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Description

The field excursion focuses on the main terminal moraines of the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) and the Lateglacial phases at the southernmost edge of the Alps, i.e. the Maritime Alps. The morphological characteristics of the moraines will be shown, framing them in the palaeoglaciological reconstruction of the individual valleys and in the chronological context of the Alpine stadials. The main sites that have returned the chronological constraints (surface exposure ages) of the LGM, and of Lateglacial stages (e.g. Bhull, Egesen) will be visited. The field excursion will cover the frontal moraines of the LGM and the Lateglacial phases of the Valle Stura di Demonte, Valle Gesso and Valle Vermenagna. During the field excursion, reconstructions of the glacial palaeoshapes will also be shown so that participants can appreciate their consistency with the glacial landforms evident in the landscape. Finally, the palaeoclimatic conditions estimated through palaeoglaciological methods will allow us to appreciate how the geographical position (proximity to the Mediterranean Sea, latitude, local atmospheric circulation) may have guided the glaciation style in this alpine sector where, to date, the southernmost glaciers of the Alps exist.

