

13 - Pre Quaternary glacialism of the Aosta Valley: a transept from the Ivrea end moraine system to the Monte Bianco Massif

Excursion Leaders: Franco Gianotti and Maria Gabriella Forno (Turin Earth Science Department)

Proposed Excursion Dates: July, Thursday 6th - Monday 10th

Draft Itinerary: Turin (Porta Nuova railway station)-Ivrea-Cervinia-Aosta-Courmayeur-Turin (Caselle Airport and Porta Nuova station)

Definitive cost per head: € 700

Minimum number of participants: 10

Maximum number of participants: 30

Accommodation arrangements: Hotel X

Proposer Contact Details:

Franco Gianotti

Institution and Address: Earth Sciences Department, Turin University

Phone: 338 9014515 39 011 6705167 Email: franco.gianotti@unito.it

Description

The Aosta Valley is a wide branched mountain basin in the Italian Western Alps, bounded by some of the highest peaks in Europe, where glacial, periglacial and gravitative landforms are widespread. We'll focus on glacial deposits and forms, starting from the Ivrea Morainic Amphitheatre dating back to all the Pleistocene glaciations. Its main lateral moraine (Serra of Ivrea) is the biggest of the Alps. Light mountain trips (trekking items are required) will be alternated to the visit of the Lateglacial stadial sites in the valley floor (eg. Fenis) and of Holocene/LIA apparatus (Cervino and Miage). High mountains will be visited very closely (Mont Cervino by cableway to Plan-Maison at 2550 m; Mont Blanc by Skyway at 3466 m). The overnight stay in a hut will allow us to see the interactions between glacial modeling and a large DSGSD at Vetan, the oldest archaeological site in the region (Mesolithic) and a very exemplar doubled ridge (Becca France), from which a rock avalanche broke off that destroyed the village of Thora in 1564 AD. Participants will enjoy the history and architecture from Roman (Bessa gold placer dumps, Donnaz road, Aosta town, bridges) to Medieval (castles and churches) and Modern age (Ivrea industrial city, Unesco World Heritage)

