Riale

Croso del Riale, Riale di Balmuccia, Riale di Gavala

Create: 2025-09-26 22:52:16	**Update:** 2026-08-22 16:01:41	**Print:** 2026-10-30 12:10:21
Country: Italia / Italy **Region:** Piemonte **Subregion:** Vercelli **Town:** Balmuccia		
Difficulty: a little difficult	**Grading:** v4 a1 III	**Total time:** 2h35
Approachtime: 25min	**Tourtime:** 2h	**Returntime:** 10min
Altitude entry: 800m	**Altitude exit:** 560m	**Delta Altitude:** 240m
Canyon length: 500m	**Highest rapell:** 30m	**Amount rapells:** 10
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:** diabase	**Drainage area:** 0.80km²
Season: April - June	**Orientation:** Northwest	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 3.4 (3)	**Info:** ★ 1.5 (2)	**Belay:** ★ 2 (2)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 1x60 m + 1x40 m

Summary:
During the summer months it has little water; the ideal flow is found in April/May/early June or after storms.

Hydrology:

Access:
From S.P. della Valsesia, upon reaching Balmuccia, continue toward Alagna. After 500 m, there is a small descending road on the left—take it and park immediately at the first hairpin.

Approach:
Descend and cross the Sesia on the bridge toward Otra di Balmuccia, then reach the village. After the last house, there is a trail ascending toward the small stream, which is almost always dry. After 100 m, you turn right following some blue points. Climb via traces on the right-hand slope until you find an old trail leading to "Pra di Prello," ascend for 15 minutes.
On the left, you can see the chasm of the gorge; you exit the forest for a stretch (meadow) before re-entering. Continue ascending until reaching a wider, slightly less steep forest, then cut to the left (always blue signs). On the edge of the gorge, there is a group of trees with a boulder nearby: this is the only point where you can descend inside the gorge for 10 meters without a rope. Then there is another group of trees from which you rappel 15 m to enter the stream. Total approach: 25 min.

Tour:
First C7 right from a tree
Then MC right from a small tree (only with high flow, for safety) and C12 right
Then MC4 right + C16 right, C10 left (single anchor)
Then interesting passage with the characteristic “suspended boulder”; C15 right + C25 left (anchor behind the boulder)
Then MC8 left + C22 left, C7 right
Reach the last 45 m waterfall, doable in a single rappel or divided into C30 right + C15 right (single anchor). After this, exit on the left to rejoin the approach trail; 5 min back to the car.

Total: 10 rappels, 2 h.

The only exit route is on the right before the last large waterfall; it is clearly marked with rungs and pipes from a water intake. For the rest of the descent, it is impossible to exit but in some places there's the possibility to take shelter from possible floods.

Return:
After the last waterfall, take the left exit, rejoining the approach path to Otra and the car

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 45.8100 8.1394
Canyon End 45.8134 8.1369
Parking Entry and Exit 45.8155 8.1333

Reports:

2026-08-22 | Matteo Delfitto | | | | Low | Not done
We've added blue markers along the approach trail and at the trailhead—now anyone who gets lost is a total dork! (machine translated)

2026-04-25 | Matteo Delfitto | ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ | | ★ ★ | | ★ ★ | Normal | Completed
Modified and doubled some points from quick link to rings and replaced two belays (which were at two disconnected points) with chain and ring...optimal conditions, with good flow it is definitely more interesting, all pools fill up and all rappels are under flow. Added stone cairns on the approach trail and a cairn on a boulder at the entry point. (machine translated)

2025-09-22 | Marco Pasquera | ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ | | | Normal | Completed
It may be a rainy time in the area but the creek had a good flow of acqya which makes it fun. Hard to figure out where to enter. We came off the main trail on the left to the side of the gorge, then not finding the spot described in the description we rappelled down a tree 30 m or so, perhaps a little]ahead avoided a rappel (machine translated)

2025-07-22 | Matteo Delfitto | ☆ ☆ ☆ | | ★ | | ★ ★ | Low | Completed
Coordinates Input: 45.8108070, 8.1385061 Exit: 45.8132495, 8.1370071 Small canyon with 10 rappels, quite forked and aesthetically beautiful. With one escape route before the last waterfall on the right. 1.30 h route. Equipped by me (machine translated)

First descent: 15.07.2025 by Matteo Delfitto, Tommaso Porri