

Directions and places of interest along the Via Engiadina Summer Package



Allegra e cordial bainvgnü

We are delighted to welcome you to the Engadin Scuol Zernez holiday region.

These documents provide a concise overview of the route and the sights along the 'Via Engiadina'. This document contains a standard description and may differ from the trip you have booked. Alternatives to the regular stages, mostly easier hikes, are also described.

The long-distance hiking trail is signposted with signposts bearing the number 87 'Via Engiadina'. Enjoy the hike along the sunny Engadin High Trail through typical Engadin villages and the views of the Lower Engadin Dolomites.

A revair e bellas vacanzas

Tourismus Engadin Scuol Samnaun Val Müstair AG

Day 1 of the hike: Stage Zernez – Ardez

There are two routes to choose from for your hike, each with different levels of difficulty and walking times. On the first day, you can start your long-distance hike either in Lavin (Route 1) or in Guarda (Route 2). If you prefer an easier and shorter route, we recommend the section along the Way of St James in the valley.

Route 1: Lavin – Ardez

Take the Rhaetian Railway from Zernez to Lavin and relax as the stunning scenery of the Lower Engadine rolls past. Your hike begins at the small station in Lavin.

A more challenging hike: Lavin – Alp Dadoura – Guarda – Alp Suot – Ardez

Via Engiadina; SchweizMobil-Nr. 87

A hike high above the valley from Val Lavinouz to the ‘Schellenursli’ village of Guarda. This varied, and scenically stunning stage takes you high above the valley floor through alpine landscapes and typical Engadine villages.

From Lavin station, first follow the road eastwards, pass the church, and, at the village exit, turn left under the railway line and the cantonal road onto a forest track. From here, follow the Via Engiadina signposts through the forest to Val Lavinouz.

Across the Dadoura Alp, the route initially follows an alpine road before branching off to the right and climbing somewhat more steeply through fields of alpine roses. Along the way, impressive views open up over the Val Lavinouz, with the striking Verstanclahorn and the Vadret da las Maisas glacier below. On the opposite side of the valley, the imposing Piz Linard rises high into the sky.

The trail continues along the flank of Piz Chapisun to Chamanna dal Bescher, crossing the Gonda avalanche path – the natural phenomenon that gave the village of Lavin its name. The descent then follows, crossing the mountain stream La Clozza. A section just before Guarda runs along the well-known ‘Schellen-Ursli Trail’.

In Guarda – the famous ‘Schellen-Ursli village’ – cosy places to stop for refreshments, such as the Chasa Crusch, invite you to take a break.

A hike above the valley floor through the alpine pastures and mountain huts of Guarda and Ardez

From Guarda, you first head uphill along the ‘Schellen-Ursli-Weg’. Heading towards Val Tuoi, you cross the Clozza stream once more and follow the path via Plan Champatsch to Alp Suot.

On the opposite side of the valley, the path leads uphill again – first along a narrow track, later along a forest road – to Alp Sura. Across vast alpine meadows, the route continues gently uphill to Murtera Dadoura, the highest point of this stage and one of the most beautiful vantage points on the Via Engiadina.

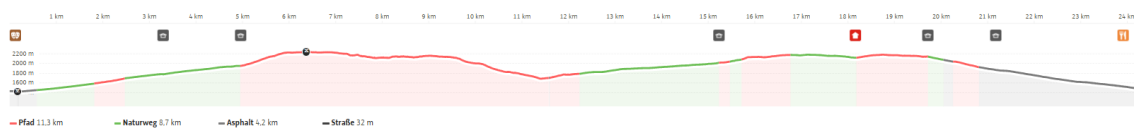
From here, you descend through open pastures and lush meadows to the mountain huts of Munt and on across the stream to Chöglas. You can already spot your destination for the day from afar: Ardez with its striking castle ruins.

Details

View the hike online:
engadin.com



Distance	24.2 km	Duration	9:00 h
Ascent	1428 m	Relegation	1379 m
Max. height	2239 m	Min. height	1422 m



An alternative, easier hike: Lavin – Guarda – Bos-cha – Ardez

Way of St James; SchweizMobil-Nr. 43

This easier route takes you along the sunny side of the valley through the typical Engadine cultural landscape and is ideal for a leisurely hike of moderate difficulty.

After setting off from Lavin, you'll reach a dirt track just past the church, from where you can see the ruins of Gonda. On your way towards Guarda, you'll walk through the unspoilt Val Tuoi, which delights visitors with its diverse flora and fauna.

In Guarda – the famous 'Schellen-Ursli village' – a particularly charming, culturally rich stroll through the village awaits you. For a pleasant break, we recommend stopping for coffee and cake at the Garde-Manger. You then continue your hike towards Ardez. The route takes you past the hamlet of Bos-cha and several beautiful vantage points overlooking the valley. You will soon reach your destination for the day, Ardez, with its striking castle ruins.

The Way of St James is generally less exposed and technically easier to walk than the higher-altitude route of the Via Engiadina.

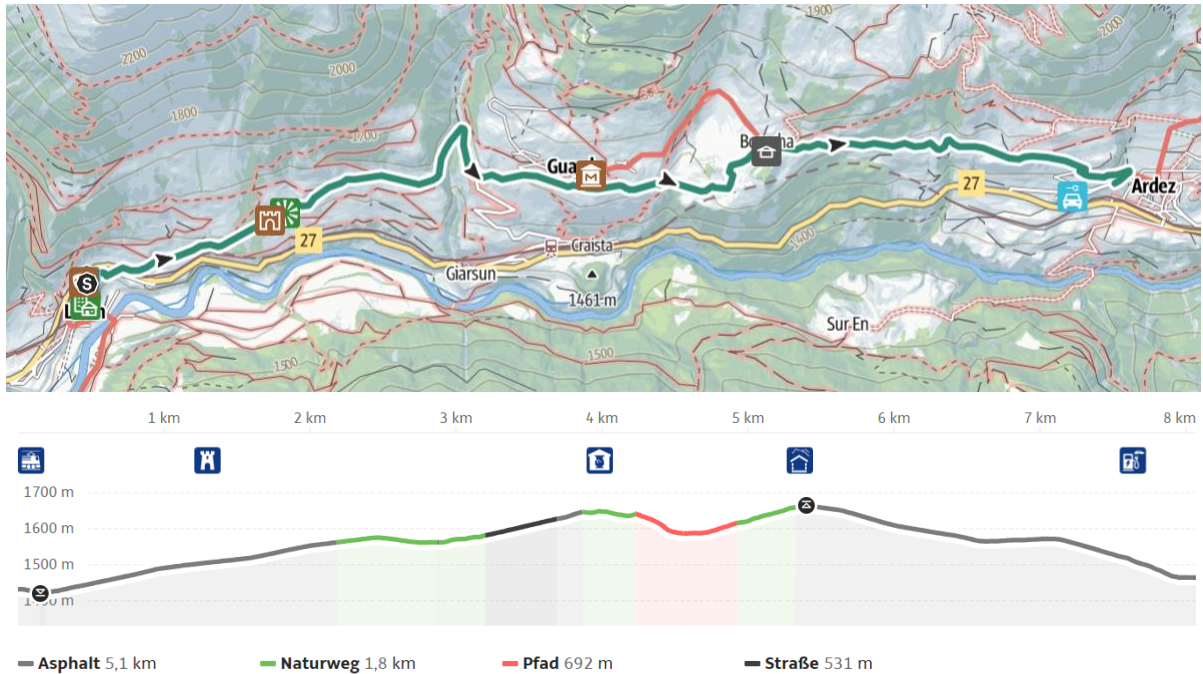
Details:

View the hike online:
engadin.com



Distance 8.1 km
 Ascent 307 m
 Max. height 1667 m

Duration 2:20 h
 Relegation 275 m
 Min. height 1422 m



Route 2: Guarda – Ardez

Alternatively, take the Rhaetian Railway from Zernez to Guarda and start your hike in the idyllic ‘Schellen-Ursli village’. For keen hikers, we recommend the longer and more challenging Via Engiadina route. Those who prefer a more leisurely pace should choose the easier option via Boscha (Way of St James).

A more challenging hike: Guarda – Alp Suot – Maragun – Alp Sura – Alp Murtera Dadoura – Ardez

Via Engiadina; SchweizMobil-Nr. 87

A hike above the valley floor through the alpine pastures and mountain huts of Guarda and Ardez
 From Guarda, you first follow the ‘Schellen-Ursli-Weg’ uphill. Heading towards Val Tuoi, you cross the Clozza mountain stream and continue via Plan Champatsch to Alp Suot.

On the opposite side of the valley, the path climbs again: first along a narrow track, then along a forest road, until you reach Alp Sura. From here, the route continues across vast alpine meadows on a gentle incline to Murtera Dadoura – the highest point of this stage and one of the most beautiful vantage points on the Via Engiadina.

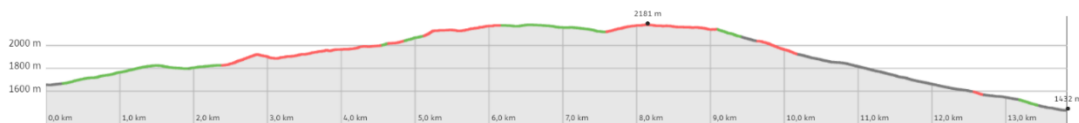
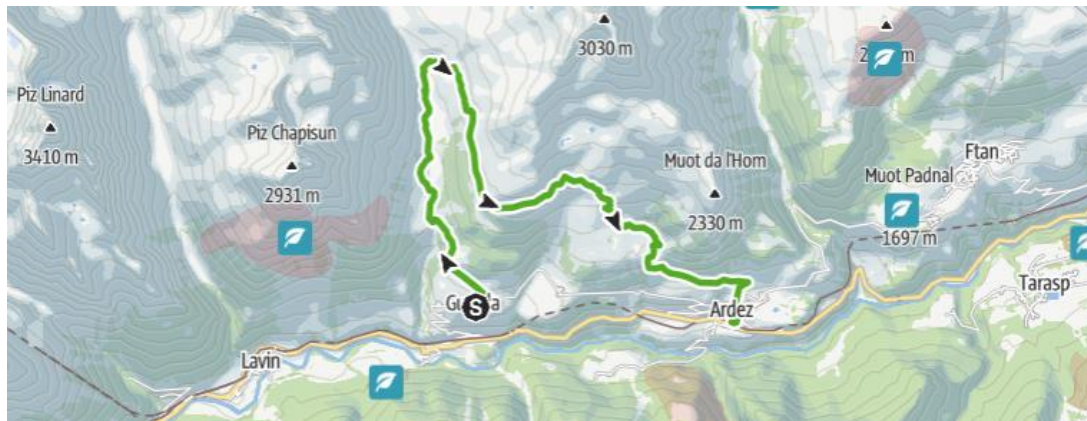
You then descend through lush meadows and open pastureland to the mountain huts of Munt and on across the stream to Chöglias. You can already spot your destination for the day from afar: Ardez with its striking castle ruins.

Details

View the hike online:
engadin.com



Distance	13.8 km	Duration	4:45 h
Ascent	627 m	Relegation	848 m
Max. height	2181 m	Min. height	1432 m



An alternative, easier hike: Guarda – Bos-cha – Ardez

Way of St James; SchweizMobil-Nr. 43

A leisurely walk between two Engadine villages: Guarda – Ardez

Your walk begins in the mountaineering village of 'Guarda', the famous 'Schellen-Ursli village', which sits on a sunny terrace high above the Inn. Typical Engadine architecture, local produce, and the story of Schellen-Ursli lend the village a very special charm.

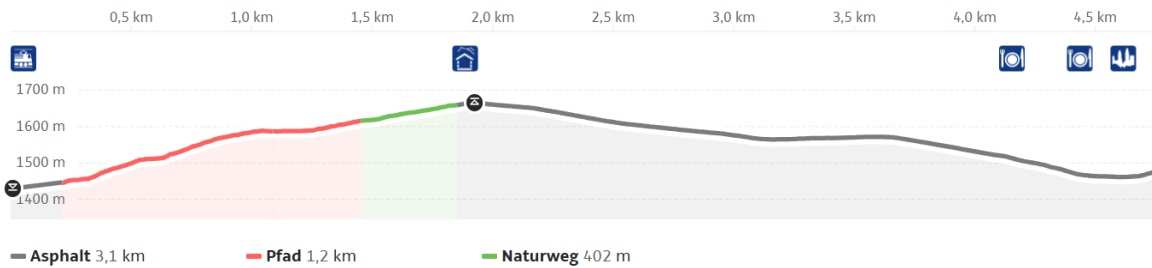
You'll start by walking along a quiet road, mostly on level ground, to the hamlet of Bos-cha. Along the way, you'll enjoy beautiful views of the surrounding mountain landscape time and again. The route then takes you gently downhill along the same road to Ardez, one of the best-preserved villages in the Engadin, renowned for its traditional Romanesque architecture. The striking castle ruins catch the eye even from a distance – a fitting end to your stage.

Details

View the hike online:
engadin.com



Distance	4.8 km	Duration	1:35 h
Ascent	250 m	Relegation	206 m
Max. height	1667 m	Min. height	1432 m



Places of interest on the first day of the hike

Zernez – the gateway to the Swiss National Park

Despite having been destroyed by fire on several occasions, Zernez offers several very interesting sights. These include the Protestant parish church with its Romanesque bell tower, which was built in the early Baroque style at the beginning of the 17th century, and the late Gothic Chapel of St Sebastian, located next to the church. The National Park Centre opened in 2008 and houses extensive permanent and temporary exhibitions, a visitor information centre and a souvenir shop.

Fortezza Rohan Fortress (Susch)

The French commander Henri Duc de Rohan, who had recaptured the Valtellina together with Jörg Jenatsch, wanted to prepare for a counterattack by the Habsburgs in the Engadin. To this end, he had Jenatsch build a fortress in Susch in May 1635. You can reach the fortress by turning right onto the dirt track at the path in front of the fortress, or by taking the path up to the right at a sharp angle in front of the church. The climb takes about 30 minutes.

The village of Susch

With its many 'old' houses, Susch presents itself as a magnificent Engadine village. Susch is the only village in the Lower Engadine through which the River Inn flows, and together with the Flüela Pass and the Vereina Tunnel, it forms the sole transport hub for the north-west. In the age of the muleteers and later the stagecoaches, when traders from the south and north crossed the Flüela Pass (2,383 m above sea level), Susch flourished as a place of lodging.

Foura Baldirun (between Susch and Lavin)

This was probably still a cave a good 350 years ago, as the rocks on the upper edges of the gorge suggest. This cave served as a place of refuge for the locals of Susch and Lavin when, in 1621/22, the Habsburg colonel Baldirun plundered the Engadine villages and had them set alight. The path to the Foura is marked by a signpost. Just 150 metres from the path, you reach the unique moss landscape via a ridge. Take care when stepping onto the moss, as it conceals crevices in the rock.

Mountaineering village Lavin

Lavin lies at the southern entrance to the Vereina Tunnel and is situated on the valley floor between Susch and Guarda. The Protestant church of San Güerg is particularly worth seeing. It was built around 1480. The choir walls, the choir vault and the choir arch end wall were probably painted in their entirety by a master from northern Italy. The result is a cycle of paintings that ranks among the most valuable works of art in Graubünden. The church is open all year round from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm.



Guarda, the village of Schellen-Ursli

Guarda is regarded as one of the best-preserved villages in the Engadin and was awarded the Wakker Prize in 1975 for its careful preservation of the village's character. Thanks to its magnificent Engadin houses adorned with sgraffito, it has been designated a site of national importance by Swiss Heritage. Guarda also became famous through the world-renowned children's book story of Schellen-Ursli, written by Selina Chönz and illustrated by Alois Carigiet. The Schellen-Ursli House (Chasa 51) is still well preserved and can be viewed from the outside. Information on Schellen-Ursli experiences can be found online at: engadin.com/schellen-ursli

Mountaineering village Ardez

Ardez was probably founded between 500 and 400 BC by the Illyrian Raeti and was first mentioned in historical records in the 9th century. This Engadine village, too, was destroyed by Austrian troops during the two wars, the Swabian War and the Thirty Years' War. Since its reconstruction after 1622, the village's appearance has hardly changed to this day. Places of interest include the Protestant church, the only Renaissance church in the Engadin, the Plantaturm tower and the publicly accessible Steinsberg castle ruins. Guided tours of the village take place every Thursday: engadin.com

Did you know that ...?

... Lavin, Guarda and Ardez are mountaineering villages? Mountaineering villages are renowned for their unspoilt character and the high quality of their natural and cultural landscapes. These typical Engadin villages are committed to sustainable tourism. Find out more: engadin.com/bergsteigerdorf.



Day 2 of the hike: Stage Ardez – Prui, Scuol

From the well-preserved Engadin village of Ardez across the high plateau to Ftan.

From Ardez railway station, you climb above the village towards Plan Chamuera and enter the Val Tasna. Passing the Alp Tasna, which lies picturesquely on the hillside, the trail continues through the unspoilt and varied landscape of this secluded valley.

At Alp Valmala – a small goat farm – you reach the turning point in Val Tasna. During the summer months, you can buy fresh goat's cheese and drinks here. You then cross the stream and climb a slightly steeper slope on the opposite side of the valley until you are hiking out of the valley again above the tree line. At the valley exit, on a hilltop with splendid views, lies Alp Laret. The cosy mountain restaurant invites you to take a well-deserved break whilst enjoying the magnificent views. After a final, moderate climb, the trail largely follows the contour line to your destination for the day: the top station of the Ftan–Pruï chairlift.

Hike Prui – Scuol (various alternatives available)

From Prui, you can continue hiking to the Motta Naluns mountain station (approx. 30 mins) and take the gondola down into the valley to Scuol. Another option is to head from the Prui mountain station via Ftan to Scuol. Either on foot (approx. 1 hr) or, for a gentler option on the knees, by chairlift to Ftan. From Ftan, continue either on foot (approx. 1 hour 20 mins)

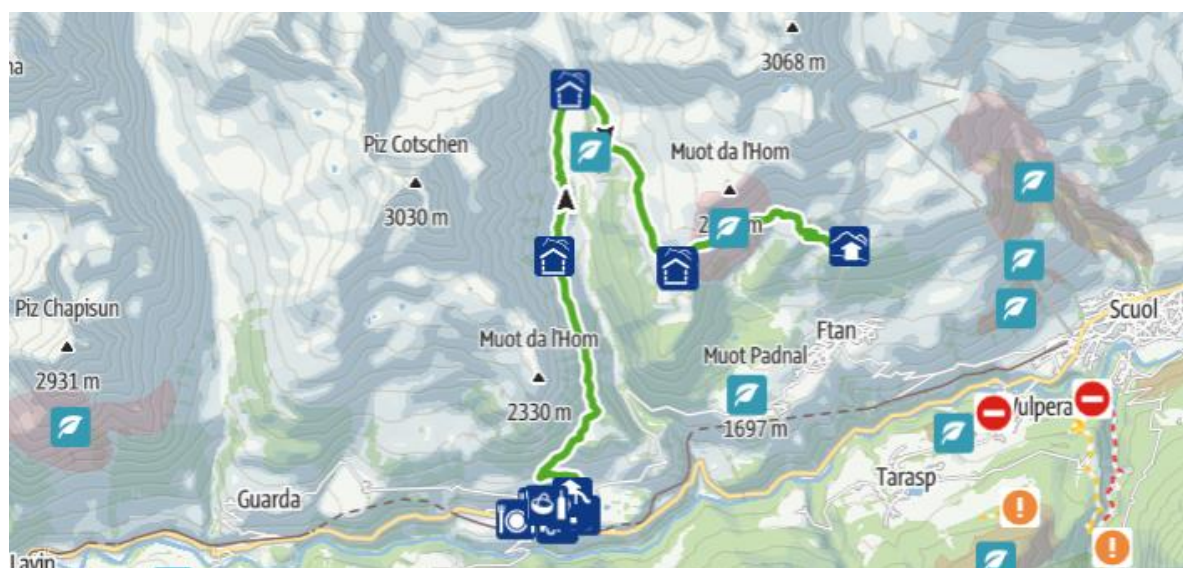
Note regarding mountain railways: The Engadin Scuol ZerneZ guest card includes travel on the gondola lift and the Scuol chairlift during the summer. Find out more about the mountain railway opening times: bergbahnen-scuol.ch

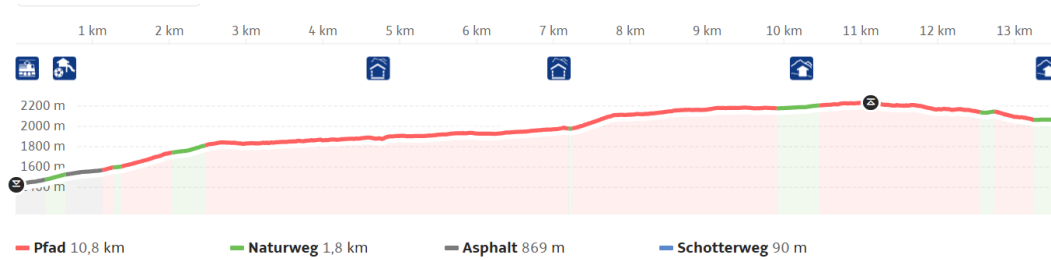
A more challenging hike: Ardez – Alp Valmala – Alp Laret – Prui

[Via Engiadina; SchweizMobil-Nr. 87]

Distance	13.6 km
Duration	4:45 h
Ascent	817 m
Relegation	184 m
Max. height	2239 m
Min. height	1432 m

View the hike online
engadin.com





An alternative, easier hike: Ardez – Ftan (direct hike)

Details:

View the hike online:
engadin.com



Distance	7.1 km	Duration	2:45 h
Ascent	322 m	Relegation	117 m
Max. height	1637 m	Min. height	1432 m

In Ftan, you can take the bus (PostAuto) or continue on foot to Scuol. Please note that this alternative route is also a winter walking trail. In the event of snowfall, this route should be preferred to the Via Engiadina.



Places of interest on the second day of the hike

Alp Laret

This alpine hut is an example of how, from 1939 onwards, alpine buildings were constructed exclusively to standard specifications. The dairy hut and stables are neatly arranged side by side. The stables on either side of the hut provide space for 132 cows. As early as 1939, a specially patented cheese-making installation was fitted in the dairy hut. The whey, a by-product of cheese production, flows through pipes directly into the pigsty. In the same year, a generator was installed, which has supplied the alp with electricity ever since. The alp is open to visitors in summer.

Village of Ftan

Ftan lies on a sun-drenched high plateau, away from the hustle and bustle, and is divided into the two districts of Ftan Pitschen and Ftan Grond (small and large). The reason for this is a massive avalanche in 1720, which split the village into two parts. Avalanche defences and a well-maintained protective forest now prevent such disasters.

For centuries, cereal cultivation formed the agricultural backbone of the Lower Engadine. The fields on the terraced slopes shaped the character of the cultural landscape. The cultivation of rye, wheat and barley ensured self-sufficiency for the local population and their livestock. The old mill in Ftan is the last remaining witness to this bygone era and bears witness to the once-thriving grain-growing tradition. The building houses two mills in their original condition. The millstones are driven by water blades and wooden shafts connected to the massive cogwheels. The older mill was built around 400 years ago. It was renovated in 1977 and still operates as it did when it was first built.



Tarasp Castle

As a landmark of the Lower Engadine, Tarasp Castle, built in 1040, commands a majestic view over the region. Tarasp belonged to Austria until the early 19th century. At the turn of the 20th century, the castle – then in a state of disrepair – was purchased by K.A. Lingner, a spa guest and the inventor of Odol mouthwash, and extensively renovated. Since 30 March 2016, the world-renowned Engadine artist Not Vital has been the new owner of Tarasp Castle. His vision is to develop Tarasp Castle into a cultural attraction of national and international significance, featuring contemporary art, a sculpture park and spaces that remain open to the public. Guided tours of the castle and art exhibitions are held regularly. Further information can be found at: notvital.ch.

The village of Scuol

As the largest municipality, Scuol is the main town of the Lower Engadine and one of the driest places in Switzerland. Scuol was first mentioned in 1078. Like all the other Engadine villages, Scuol was ravaged by fire in 1499 and 1622. The name Scuol derives from the Latin ‘scopulus’ (cliff or towering mountain peak) and presumably refers to the hill on which the Reformed church stands. Until 1943, the municipality was officially known as Schuls; since 1970, only the Romansh name Scuol has been used officially.



Did you know that ...?

... Scuol (formerly 'Bad Scuol') became famous for its more than 30 natural mineral springs, which rise over a distance of just 6 km in and around Scuol. Most of the hotels (spa hotels) were built during the 'Belle Époque', from 1864 to 1915. Scuol has remained a wellness and spa resort to this day. A visit to the authentic village squares with their mineral water fountains, as well as the Engadine houses influenced by Romanesque culture in the two old parts of the village, Scuol Sot (Lower Village) and Scuol Sura (Upper Village), is well worth it. After an eventful day in the mountains, a relaxing soak in the Bogn Engiadina mineral baths in Scuol is highly recommended. More about mineral water: engadin.com/mineralwasser.

Day 3 of the hike: Stage Scuol – Ramosch

Route 1: Sent – Val Sinestra – Vnà – Ramosch

The three unspoilt Engadine villages of Sent, Vnà and Ramosch, together with Val Sinestra, are the natural and cultural highlights of this stage.

You can reach Sent by bus (PostAuto). From the village, a scenic country lane leads you towards Val Sinestra. The route winds gently up and down as you walk out of the valley to the former Val Sinestra spa – the turning point of this route. The narrow valley consists of steep, wooded slopes and a deep gorge. However, 'Sinestra' does not mean 'gloomy', but rather 'left' in Romansh, as the valley lies on the left-hand side when viewed in the direction of the Inn's flow. Many rare and endangered plants thrive in its unfertilised meadows. The earth pyramids at Prà San Peder, the splendour of the flowers and, in particular, the abundance of orchids are unique.

After crossing the stream, the path leads uphill through shady woodland to the road towards Vnà and Ramosch. On the way, it is worth stopping off at the Zuort farm: during opening hours, you can stop here, enjoy regional specialities and soak up the special tranquillity of this secluded spot.

From the village of Vnà, a wide, almost flat track leads you across the open southern slope through the expansive terraced landscape to Sur Savuogn. Along the way, you can enjoy an impressive panorama: from the Val d'Assa and the Val d'Uina to the striking mountain world of the Sesvenna Group south of Scuol.

Details

View the hike online:
engadin.com



Distance:	16.9 km	Duration	: 4:10 h
Ascent	558 Hm	Relegation	760 Hm
Max. Height:	1771 m	Min. height	1233 m



Route 2 (a more challenging hike): Motta Naluns – Sent – Val Sinestra – Ramosch

A relatively easy high-altitude hike on the sunny side down into the picture-postcard village of Sent.

From Scuol, take the gondola to the Motta Naluns mountain station, the starting point of this stage. From here, follow the Via Engiadina signposts eastwards. Above the tree line, you'll hike through stunning scenery down into the wide Jonvrai valley basin. At the valley stations of the Clünas, Mot da Ri and Salaniva chairlifts, you cross the Clozza mountain stream. The path then runs largely flat along the slopes of Piz Champatsch. Time and again, beautiful views open up over Scuol, the Clozza Gorge and the village of Sent, situated on a sunny terrace.

Gradually, the route winds its way down through sparse woodland towards Vastur. Crossing the streams of Val Gronda and Val Güstina, you continue your descent to the picturesque Engadine village of Sent. From Sent, follow farm tracks and natural paths into the quiet, wooded Val Sinestra, whose unspoilt landscape offers a striking contrast to the open, high-altitude hike.

Below the Val Sinestra spa hotel, you cross the Brancla torrent and move to the other side of the valley. Via a path carved into the rock and suspension bridges, the route leads out of the forest and uphill to Vnà. Around seventy people live in this small mountain village. The village museum uses tools and documents to illustrate what life and work in the valley used to be like.

From the village of Vnà, the route continues on level ground along a wide track across the open southern slope through the snow-covered terraced landscape to Sur Savuogn. Along the way, there is an impressive mountain panorama stretching from the Val d'Assa through the Val d'Uina to the Sesvenna Group south of Scuol.

Details

View the hike online:
engadin.com



Distance	22.3 km	Duration	6:40 h
Ascent	431 m	Relegation	1354 m
Max. height	2188 m	Min. height	1233 m



Places of interest on the third day of the hike

The village of Sent

Sent comprises the four hamlets of Crusch, Zuort, Sur En and Val Sinestra. Among the attractions here are the 'Grotta da cultura' community centre, with its varied cultural programme, and the mystical old spa house in Val Sinestra. Sent is recognisable from afar by its church tower, built in 1899 in the Neo-Gothic style. The stately houses with their curved Baroque Sent gables, which were brought to the village by South Tyrolean craftsmen at the end of the 18th century, are a typical feature of the village.

Spa House in Val Sinestra

In the former spa houses – the simple mountain lodge and the imposing Hotel Val Sinestra (built in 1912) – you can still sense a touch of times gone by. The castle-like spa hotel 'Val Sinestra' was built over 100 years ago. Guests travelled from far and wide to this remote valley, believing that the arsenic-rich mineral water, which bubbles up from the mountain right next to the building, would cure blood and metabolic disorders as well as skin allergies. In the 1970s, pharmaceutical treatments

replaced the baths, and the building stood empty for years until it was bought by the Dutchman Peter Kruit and converted into an affordable guesthouse. That was also the moment when the ghost made its presence felt, giving the new owner quite a fright at first. Since then, the ghost has proved harmless and has been accepted by the owners. It is said to make its presence felt from time to time. More often, however, ghost hunters from home and abroad, interested in the phenomenon, come calling. And finally, a mysterious Belgian woman has also turned up, claiming that the spirit is her father, Guillaume, who came here to recover from his illnesses after the First World War.



The village of Tschlin

Tschlin is situated on a terrace high above the valley. Worth visiting are the brewery, where the local Girun beer is produced, and the village cheese dairy. At the edge of the village stands the fountain of Duonna Lupa (Mrs Lupa, Swabian War), who, with a white lie, sent some 500 Tyrolean spies fleeing.



Altfinstermünz

The history of Altfinstermünz dates back to the 9th century AD. At that time, the historic site served as the court or assembly place for the Lower Engadine, Nauders and Pfunds regions. Over the centuries, the fortress repeatedly became the scene of important historical events and served as a toll and customs station. Since 1999, the bridge and the entire complex have once again been open to the public. Further information is available online: altfinstermuenz.com.



A revair

You have reached the end of your package tour. We hope you can look back on an eventful long-distance hike through the Lower Engadine and that you were able to enjoy the unique landscape and culture to the full.

For your return journey or onward travel, we recommend the Rhaetian Railway, which runs hourly services to Zernez or Landquart.

If you would like to extend your stay, you can book an extra night in advance or enquire on arrival in Scuol – for example, at the Hotel Altana, the Hotel Üja or the Hotel Curuna.

We wish you a pleasant journey home, or hope you continue to have a wonderful time in the Engadin.

Further hiking highlights in the National Park region

- Hikes through the Swiss National Park (e.g. with wildlife spotting in Val Mingèr)
- Hiking tour along the suspension bridge trail in Val Sinestra (also available as an alternative route for Stage 4)
- Further hiking suggestions can be found in our summer map or at engadin.com
- Current events and activities can be found at engadin.com or in our 'Holiday Tips – Summer 2026 Guest Programme' or online at engadin.com.

Hiking guides

Hiking guides for this region can also be booked for day walks. For further information, please contact the Guest Information Scuol or the BAW (Bündner Wanderwege)

- Guest Information Scuol, Tel: +41 81 861 88 00, info@engadin.com
- BAW Chur, Tel: +41 81 258 34 00, info@baw-gr.ch, baw-gr.ch
- Bezirkswanderleiterin BAW, Claudia Alini aus Scuol, +41 79 259 86 41, c.alini@engadin.com

Vallader for beginners

Allegra	=	«Grüezi», hello
A revair	=	Goodbye
Bun di	=	Good morning
Buna saira	=	Good evening
Bellas vacanzas	=	Have a nice holiday
Bun viadi	=	Have a safe journey
Duonna	=	Mrs
Sar	=	Mr
Grazcha fich	=	Thank you very much
S-chüsa	=	Excuse me
Lai	=	Lake
Val	=	Valley
Aua forta	=	Mineral water
Tuorta da nusich	=	Typical nut cake

Sources:

- Map and elevation profiles: *Tourismus Engadin Scuol Samnaun Val Müstair AG (outdooractive)*
- *Via Engiadina von Edwin A. und Esther Lehmann*
- *Erhard Meier, Senda Culturala Engiadina Bassa/Val Müstair, Terra Grischuna Verlag, 1995*



Pictures

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