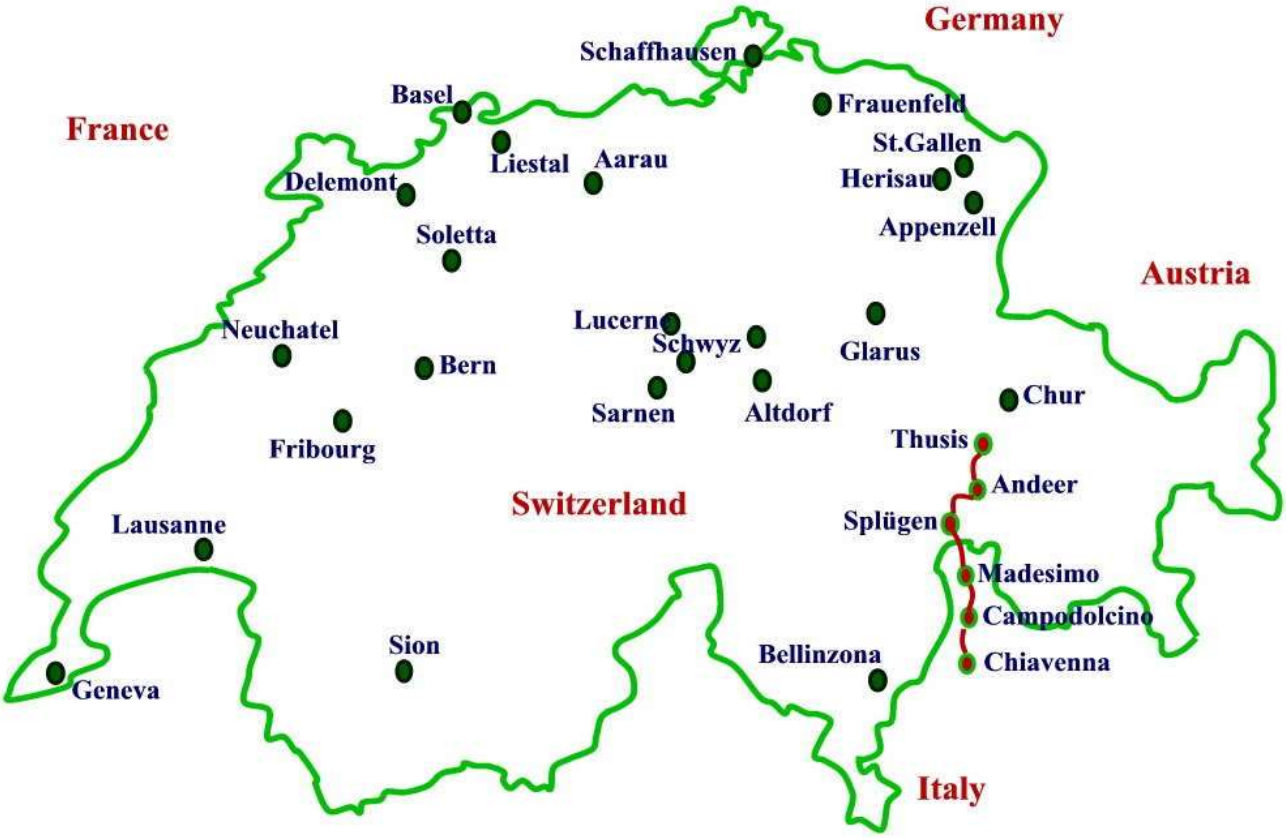
Walking along the Via Spluga (Splügen)
A 6- day self-guided walking tour

Code tour: ITSWI01W



The **Via Spluga** is an ancient **cultural and hiking trail in the Central Alps** that for centuries has connected **Chur, Thusis, and Chiavenna**, linking the **Grison, Rhaeto-Romanic, Walser, and Lombard cultures**. The name "Spluga," common in various parts of the Alpine region, is believed to derive from the Latin *spelonca*, meaning **cave**, referring to natural caves once inhabited by wild animals, particularly **bears**. Located at **2,115 meters above sea level**, nearly at the center of the Alpine arc, the **Spluga Pass** has for centuries been a key **crossing between northern and southern Alps**, forming the most direct route between **southern Germany** and **northern Italy**. Human presence in the area dates back to **prehistoric times**: archaeological excavations at **Pian dei Cavalli** in Val San Giacomo show that more than **10,000 years ago**, nomadic hunters climbed above 2,000 meters in the summer in search of **deer, chamois, and marmots**. The pass is historically documented in **Roman times**. Between **16 and 7 BCE**, under Emperor **Augustus**, the conquest of **Rhaetia** made the Spluga Pass, along with the **San Bernardino** and **Septimer passes**, a **strategic route for trade and military movements toward Germany**. From **Como**, along the **Strada Regina**, travelers reached **Chiavenna**; from there, a road led up **Val San Giacomo** to the present-day **Campodolcino**, continuing along **mule tracks and high-altitude paths** to the pass. Beyond the pass, the trail descends into the **Posterior Rhine valley**, reaching **Chur** via the **famous and challenging Viamala gorge**. Today, the **Via Spluga** largely follows **ancient mule tracks**, many of which have been **preserved or restored**, offering a journey that combines **history, stunning alpine landscapes, and encounters with local communities**, whose lives have long been shaped by the traffic over the pass. The route is **65 km long**: it starts in **Thusis (720 m)**, crosses the **Viamala Gorge** to **Splügen (1,457 m)**, ascends to the **Spluga Pass (2,115 m) –** the **highest point –** and then descends through **Val San Giacomo** to **Chiavenna (333 m)**, providing a complete experience of **Alpine nature, centuries of history, and borderland culture**.



Departures: Daily from 13th June to 18th October 2026

Difficulty level: 3 medium-difficult for people with walking experience in mountain areas and good physical condition. You are walking in a mountainous landscape along trails with significant daily ascent and descent. Not suitable for children under 15 yrs. Daily distances between 14,5 km / 9 miles and 20 km / 12,4 miles. Total kilometres (miles): 65 km/40,4 mi

Participants: 2 or more people

Program in short:
Day 1 Arrival in Thusis
Day 2 Thusis - Andeer (17,5 km/10,9 mi)
Day 3 Andeer – Splügen (14,5 km / 9 mi)
Day 4 Splügen –Isola (17,5 km/10,9 mi)
Day 5 Isola – Chiavenna (19,5 km / 12,1 miles)
Day 6 Departure

What to see along the Via Spluga:

1. **Via Mala Gorge** – explore this dramatic Alpine canyon.
2. **Church of Zillis** – famous for its beautiful wooden ceiling.
3. **Andeer Thermal Baths** – relax in warm mineral waters.
4. **Splügen Village** – a charming alpine settlement with historic architecture.
5. **Splügen Pass** – the highest point of the route at **2,115 m**.
6. **Montespluga Lake** – enjoy the view and a glass of wine at **Enoteca della Posta**, one of Europe's highest wine bars.
7. **Cardinello Gorge** – a historic gorge with walkways, tunnels, and avalanche barriers.
8. **Palaz Historical Museum** in Campodolcino – discover local history.

9. **Val San Giacomo Chestnut Forests** – 25 km of unspoilt nature from the pass to Chiavenna.
10. **Mottaletta & Rasdeglia Hamlets** – admire traditional **"Carden"** wooden rural buildings.
11. **Chiavenna** – an Italian town of art, culture, gastronomy, and relaxed pace, historically a key Roman trade center.

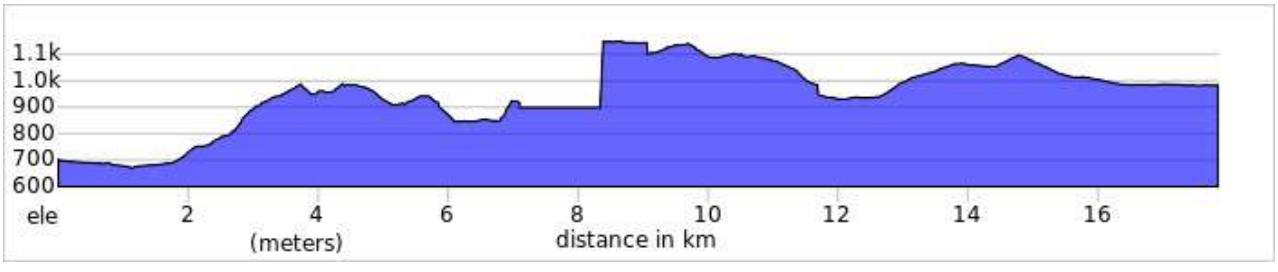
Daily program:

Day 1 Arrival in Thusis.
Welcome to your hotel in **Thusis.**
Upon check-in, you will be given an information pack (one per room) that will also contain vouchers for entrance to the points of interest that you will come across en-route and the parking pass.
Thusis is situated 720 m above sea level and is the main centre of the **Hinterrhein district**, in the **Canton of Graubünden**, at the northern exit of **the Gorge of Viamala**, at the confluence of Nolla with the River Hinterrhein. Just like **Chiavenna, Thusis** is the gateway to some of the most important Alpine passes of which the most important ones are **San Bernardino and Splügen**, but also **Albula, Julier and Septimer** (today the only one you can cross only on foot and that, since Roman Times, was used to cross the Alps). Its location has helped the development of the area over time: today Thusis with about 2700 inhabitants, is the biggest centre of the region.

Overnight with breakfast in Thusis

Day 2 Thusis - Andeer (CH).
The day includes visits to the **main points of interest**, including the spectacular **Viamala Gorge**, the **Church of San Martino** and the **Zillis Museum**, as well as the relaxing **Andeer Thermal Baths**.
The village of **Andeer (982 m)** developed from the **15th century** onwards thanks to the improvement of the **Viamala road**, becoming an important **stopover for Alpine trade**. Today, it is especially known for its **thermal waters**, renowned since the Middle Ages. In **1829**, the springs, rich in **iron, calcium, and sulfates**, were brought to Andeer with the construction of the **Hotel Fravi**, which remains at the heart of the thermal activity. Next to the hotel is the modern **thermal spa**, featuring **indoor and outdoor pools** heated to **34°C**, perfect for a moment of **relaxation and recovery** after a day of hiking.

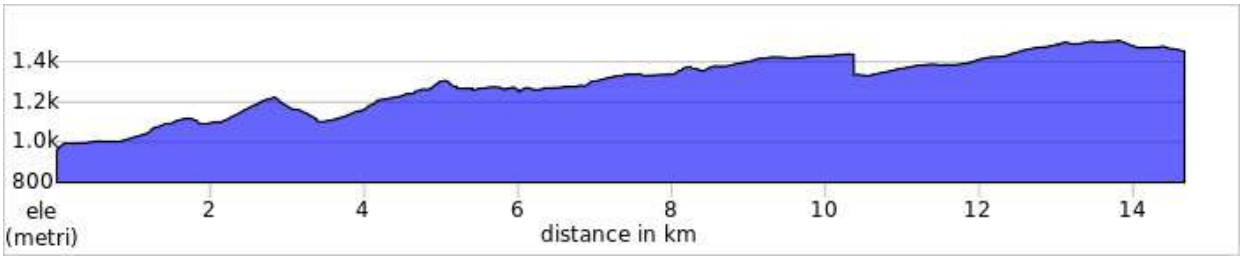
Overnight stay with breakfast in Andeer
Ascent-Descent: +889m –605m
Distance 17,5 km/10,9 miles
Walking time about 6-7 hrs



Day 3 Andeer – Splügen (CH).
The day includes a visit to the **Roffla Gorge**, one of the most scenic gorges along the route.
The village of **Splügen (1,457 m)**, mentioned as *Cella in Speluca* as early as the 9th century, plays a central role along the **Via Spluga**, even giving its name to the pass and the entire itinerary. Originally inhabited by **Rhaeto-Romance populations**, it welcomed the **Walser people** at the end of the 13th

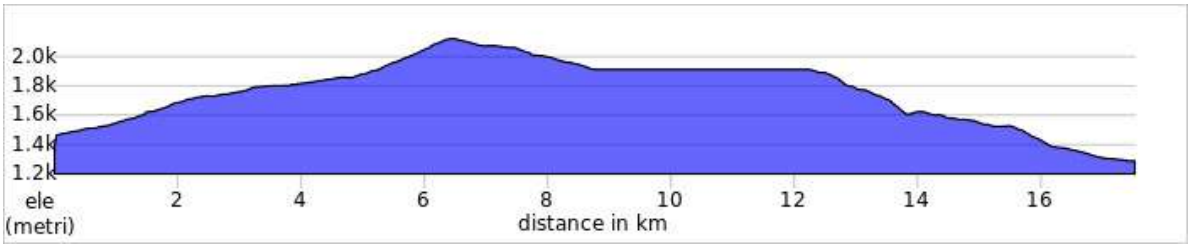
century, who left a lasting mark on the **typical Alpine architecture** still visible today. Nearby are the **ruins of a medieval castle**, while the **Baroque Protestant church**, built between 1687 and 1689, is one of the village's main historic buildings. Today, Splügen is a popular **tourist destination**, known for **winter sports** and the **Rheinwald Ethnographic Museum**, dedicated to the history of trade across the Spluga and San Bernardino passes. The visit continues in the **Roffla Gorge**, carved by the **Hinterrhein River** over millions of years between Sufers and Andeer. Less imposing than the Viamala but equally fascinating, the gorge can now be explored via a **rock walkway** built in the early 20th century, leading to the **waterfall at the heart of the gorge**, offering a **close and memorable encounter with nature**.

Overnight stay with breakfast in Splügen
Ascent - Descent: + 783m /- 305m
Distance: 14,5 km/9 miles
Walking time: about 5-6 hrs



Day 4 Splügen Way – Isola (IT).
Today's stage includes visits to **Isola** and **Montespluga**, two historic villages along the **Via Spluga**. **Isola (1,268 m)**, part of the **Madesimo municipality**, is located above the eponymous **artificial lake** and was a strategic point at the beginning of the **Cardinello Gorge**, essential for the route to the **Spluga Pass**. Highlights include the **parish church**, some traditional **Alpine huts (càrden)**, and the historic **Locanda del Cardinello**. **Montespluga (1,908 m)**, situated just below the **Spluga Pass**, overlooks the **artificial lake of the same name**, the largest in the valley, created in **1931** following the construction of the dam. The village preserves its original layout, with houses aligned along the main road leading to the pass, including the historic **Vittoria and Posta hotels** and the small **church dedicated to San Francesco**.

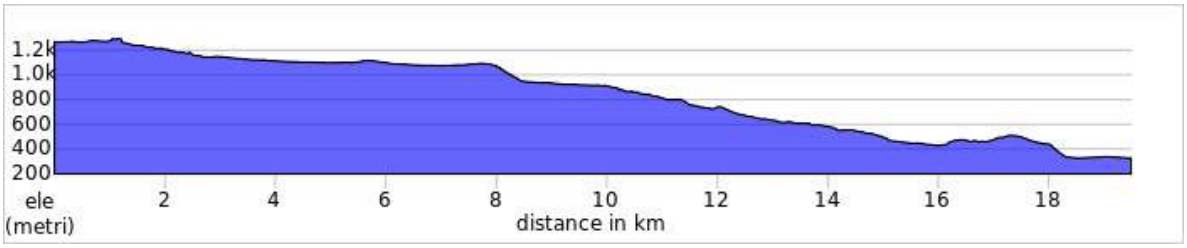
Overnight stay with breakfast in Isola
Ascent-Descent: + 688m/-829m
Distance: 17,5 km/10,9 miles
Walking time: about 6 hrs



Day 5 Isola Way – Chiavenna (IT).
The day includes a visit to the **MUVIS**, the **Via Spluga Museum** in **Campodolcino**, and the exploration of **Chiavenna**, located at the heart of **Valchiavenna**. Chiavenna, called **Clavenna** by the Romans, has been an important **transit point toward Northern Europe** since the time of Emperor

Augustus. Its name may derive from the Latin *clavis*, meaning **key to the Alpine passes** (Spluga, Septimer, Maloja, and Julier), or from a **pre-Roman term** meaning "river delta" or a settlement on a landslide. In the **historic center**, notable sights include the **Church of San Bartolomeo** and **Santa Maria**, as well as the beautiful **Rodolfo Pestalozzi Square**, the old Cantón, and the city's "living room." At the center of the square stands a **soapstone fountain** with an octagonal basin dating back to the 16th century, and a **19th-century obelisk** commemorating the **Liberty Tree** erected in 1797 during the arrival of Napoleon's troops.

Overnight stay with breakfast in Chiavenna
Ascent-Descent: + 142m/-1080m
Distance: 19,5 km / 12,1 miles
Walking time: about 6 hrs 30 min.



Day 6 Breakfast in hotel and departure.

It is possible to have one more night to spend in Chiavenna & surroundings.

Some suggestions of places to visit in the surroundings:
Visit the Bottonera mill (in the historic centre)
Palazzo Vertemate Franchi (in Prosto di Piuro, 1.5 Km from Chiavenna)

This palace you can also reach on foot walking along the cycle / pedestrian path from Chiavenna to the Borgonuovo falls (about 20 minutes walking). It is a beautiful walk, easy for everyone
From this Palazzo, you can continue along the cycle path and visit Acquafraggia waterfalls (15 minutes walking)
From here, a beautiful trail leads to the village Savogno (an hour walking from the falls).
We can suggest a visit, because it is an enchanting place, full of charm.

Another walk we can suggest is through the national park: Parco Marmitte dei Giganti.
This is a circular route, which starts from zone 'crotti of Chiavenna' and brings you to Piuro. You return along the cycle/pedestrian path we mentioned before.

Hotels: ** or *** hotels.

Price per person 2026:

Double standard rooms with private bathroom € 930,00
Single room € 230,00

Supplements:
Half board included: 1.140,00 € (beverage not included)
Dogs: on request

Extra nights: on request

Groups discount:
On request

The tour includes:

- 5 overnight stays in hotels
- Breakfast
- Luggage transportation from hotel to hotel (**1 bag maximum 15 kg**)
- 1 trekking map
- Gps tracks of the route
- Route notes
- 1 entry to the Rofla Gorge
- 1 entry to the Via Mala Gorge
- 1 entry to the St. Martino Church and the regional museum in Zillis
- 1 entry to thermal bath of Andeer (max. 2 hours),
- 1 entry to Museo of the Via Spluga in Campodolcino
- 1 entry to Mill of Bottonera in Chiavenna
- 1 entry to Palazzo Vertemate Franchi in Piuro
- Card service (including bus travel to return to Thusis, or if necessary along the trail, for example due to rain or fatigue)

The tour excludes:

- Travelling to and from Zwitserland / Italy
- Parking costs in Thusis about CHF 5,- per day.
- Tourist taxes at Montespluga/Stuetta, Isola and Madesimo
- All what isn't mentioned under 'The tour includes'

Cancellation policy

- 30 days before arrival, management fees euro 25,00 per person
- 29 – 15 days before arrival date, 50% of the total amount to pay
- 14 – 8 days before arrival date, 70% of the total amount to pay
- 7 days or less before arrival date, 100% of the total amount to pay

Start/End: Thusis /Chiavenna

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