



Cortina Summer Guide 2025

Tre Cime di Lavaredo

Website: <https://www.drei-zinnen.bz/en/ticket>

Highlights: Iconic alpine circuit offering stunning views of the Three Peaks (Tre Cime), alpine meadows, and rugged Dolomite landscapes.

- **Starting Point:** Rifugio Auronzo (2,320 m).
- **Difficulty:** Moderate – non-technical but includes some elevation gain and uneven terrain.
- **Distance & Duration:** Approximately **10 km**, taking **3–4 hours** depending on pace and stops.

Access Options (Summer 2025)

By Shuttle Bus

1. **DOLOMITI BUS n. 51** from Cortina to Misurina Genzianella
+ **DOLOMITI BUS** from Misurina Genzianella to Auronzo Tre Cime
2. **Bus 445 Cortina – Dobbiaco + + Bus 444 Dobbiaco – Tre Cime**
 - **Route:** From **Toblach/Dobbiaco** via Lake Misurina to **Rifugio Auronzo**
by Bus 444 requires mandatory booking and prepayment
 - **Website:** <https://www.drei-zinnen.bz/en/ticket>

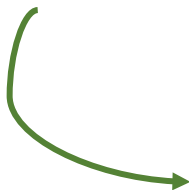
By Car

- **From Cortina d'Ampezzo:** Take the **SS51 north** toward Dobbiaco, then **turn right at Passo Tre Croci** onto **SS48bis** toward **Lago di Misurina**. After the lake, follow signs for **Tre Cime / Rifugio Auronzo** and continue on the **toll road**.
 - From **Toblach/Dobbiaco**, take the **SS51** → turn at **Schludersbach/Carbonin** onto **SS48bis** → continue on the **toll road** to **Rifugio Auronzo**.
 - **Parking & Toll Road Access:** €40. Limited spaces — arrive early.
 - **More Info:** auronzo.info
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Loop Itinerary

1. **Start** at **Rifugio Auronzo**.
 2. Follow **trail #101** eastward to **Forcella Lavaredo** (2,454 m) – breathtaking view of the north faces.
 3. Continue to **Rifugio Locatelli/Dreizinnenhütte** – ideal photo and rest stop.
 4. Return via **trail #105**, circling around the base of the peaks for a full panoramic loop.
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Scan the QR code to get more info



Lake Braies (Pragserwildsee)

Website: <https://www.praggs.bz/en>

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Highlights: Often called the “**Pearl of the Dolomites**,” this stunning emerald-green lake (1,496 m) lies beneath the towering **Croda del Becco (Seekofel)**. A picture-perfect destination for relaxation, photos, and gentle outdoor activity.

Activities:

- 🌲 **Lake Loop Hike:** Easy **3.6 km trail** encircling the lake – takes about **1 hour** on mostly flat, well-maintained paths.
 - 🚣 **Boat Rental:** Traditional wooden rowboats available at the historic **boathouse**, offering a serene experience on the water (weather permitting, seasonal).
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Access Information (Summer 2025)

By Public Transport

- **Take two buses:** bus 445 from Cortina to Dobbiaco and then bus 442 from Dobbiaco to Lake Braies.
- **Bus Line 442** connects Toblach/Dobbiaco and Niederdorf/Villabassa directly to Lake Braies.
- **Tickets:** Regular South Tyrol public transport fares apply.
- **Recommended:** Public transport is the easiest option during peak season due to traffic restrictions.

By Car

Approx. **50 km / 1 hour** from **Cortina d’Ampezzo**, via **Toblach/Dobbiaco**.

- **Route:** Cortina → **SS51 north** → Dobbiaco/Toblach → SS49 east → turn at the junction for Val di Braies → follow signs to Lago di Braies.
- **Important Note:** Strict **summer access restrictions** apply (see below).

Summer Access Restrictions (10 July – 10 September 2025)

- **Daily from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM, the Pragser Tal/Val di Braies valley is closed to private vehicles.**
- During this time, access is **only allowed via**:
 -  **Public transportation** (bus line 442),
 -  **Bicycle** or  **on foot**,
 -  **Private vehicle** *only* with:
 - A **valid transit permit** *or*
 - A **confirmed online reservation** (e.g., parking space, restaurant or accommodation booking).
- **Reservation Portal & Info:** www.prags.bz/en

Sorapis Lake (1.925m)

Highlights: Renowned for its surreal **turquoise waters**, **Lake Sorapis (Lago di Sorapis)** is set in a natural amphitheater of **sheer rock walls** and **jagged alpine peaks**.

- **Starting Point: Passo Tre Croci (Three Crosses Pass)** – Elevation **1,805 m**, located about **10 km** east of **Cortina d'Ampezzo**.



How to Get to Passo Tre Croci from Cortina:

- **By Car:**

Take the **SS48** east from **Cortina** toward **Misurina/Auronzo**. After about **10 km** of mountain driving, you'll reach **Passo Tre Croci**.



Parking: Roadside parking available near the trailhead—**arrive early**, especially in July–August.

- **By Bus (Line S38):**

From **Cortina Bus Station (Autostazione)**, take **DolomitiBus Line S38** directly to **Passo Tre Croci**. Runs approximately **every hour** from **6:00 to 21:00** during summer season (June–October).

- **Schedule at www.dolomitibus.it**



Tickets available on board or via mobile app.



Ask the driver to stop at the **Lake Sorapis trailhead**.

Itinerary

- Follow **Trail #215** from **Passo Tre Croci** through forested sections and alpine meadows.
- Navigate **rocky and narrow passages** with support cables.
- Reach **Rifugio Vandelli** near the lake – a great spot to rest or grab refreshments.

- From the refuge, it's a short walk to the lake's edge.

Access Options



By Foot

- Hike begins at **Passo Tre Croci**, directly accessible by trail.



By Car

- Drive from Cortina d'Ampezzo (20 minutes).
- **Parking available** at **Passo Tre Croci** – spaces are limited, especially in peak season; arrive early.



By Public Transport

- **Dolomiti Bus** runs from **Cortina** to **Passo Tre Croci** during the summer season.
- **Schedule at** www.dolomitibus.it

Cinque Torri

Highlights: A stunning cluster of jagged limestone towers set against panoramic Dolomite backdrops. Home to well-preserved **WWI open-air trenches and a museum**, with **360-degree mountain views**. Ideal for history enthusiasts, photographers, and hikers alike.

Starting Point:

- **Bai de Dones** (1,889 m) where you can find a **PARKING LOT** – located on the **Falzarego Pass road**, about **16 km from Cortina d'Ampezzo**.

Difficulty & Duration

- **Difficulty:** *Easy/Moderate* - about **300 m of elevation gain** if hiking.
- **Duration:**
 - **Hiking:** **1 hour** from Bai de Dones via **Trail #425**.
 - **Chairlift:** **5 mins** to reach **Rifugio Scoiattoli**, open from **9AM to 5PM** during summer season.
 - Additional **exploration time** for the trenches, museum, and optional hikes.

Itinerary Options

1. Ascend by Foot:

- From **Bai de Dones**, take **Trail #425** to **Rifugio Scoiattoli**.
- Pass through forests and alpine meadows, reaching the base of the Cinque Torri formations.

2. Ascend by Chairlift:

- Take the **Cinque Torri chairlift** from Bai de Dones to the top station near the Scoiattoli hut.
- Ideal for families or those with limited time.

3. Explore the Open-Air Museum:

- Visit **WWI trenches**, restored barracks, and informative panels detailing the war front between Italian and Austro-Hungarian forces.

4. Optional Extension:

- Continue **20–30 minutes** to **Rifugio Nuvolau**, one of the oldest mountain huts in the Dolomites, for spectacular panoramic views.

Access



By Car

- From **Cortina d'Ampezzo**, drive 16 km along the **SR48 road** toward **Falzarego Pass**.
- Free and paid parking available at **Bai de Dones (chairlift base)**.
- **Cinque Torri chairlift** runs **daily from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM** (weather permitting) during the summer



By Public Transport

- During summer, **bus n. 52** from Cortina to **Bai de Dones**. Check timetables at <https://dolomitibus.it>

Passo Giau & Nuvolau>Averau Cinque Torri Loop

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Getting There from Cortina

- **By Car:** Drive southwest from Cortina on **SS48**, then turn onto **SP638** toward **Passo Giau** (2,236 m). It takes ~30 min (23 km)
Parking: Free at Passo Giau / SP638; fill early in summer
- **By Bus (Summer):** Take the **DolomitiBus** line **Cortina–Passo Giau–Selva di Cadore**. Buses align with hiking season and run frequently .



Passo Giau Overview

- Elevation: **2,236 m** at the heart of alpine pasture .
- Panoramic 360° vistas include **Marmolada, Tofane, Nuvolau–Averau, Cinque Torri, Sorapiss, Cristallo, Tre Cime**, and more
- Easy **30–45 min scenic walk** from parking to viewpoints, including the famed **Ra Gusela pond**



Nuvolau–Averau–Cinque Torri Loop

- **Trail Start:** Park at Passo Giau.
- **Length:** ~8.8 km, ~620 m ascent/descent
- **Time Needed:** ~3–3.75 hrs (clockwise loop) .
- **Route Highlights:**
 1. Ascent via **Trail 452** to **Rifugio Averau (2,647 m)**, then on to **Rifugio Nuvolau**
 2. Optional add-on: **Cinque Torri detour** via Chairlift to Rifugio Scoiattoli (+1.6 km)
- **Difficulty:** Moderate—rocky paths, some ladders/cables around Ra Gusela; sturdy shoes, steady footing required

Croda Da Lago & Lake Federa

Here's a **quick highlight excursion guide** for **Croda da Lago**, starting from **Cortina d'Ampezzo**, following the same structure:

Croda da Lago & Lake Federa Loop

- **Highlights:** A classic Dolomites hike to the peaceful **Lago Federa**, beneath the dramatic cliffs of **Croda da Lago**. Famous for **reflections of Mount Becco di Mezzodì**, golden larches in autumn, and **Rifugio Croda da Lago (Federa)**—a cozy alpine hut at 2,046 m.
 - **Starting Point:** **Ponte de Rucurto** (1,700 m), 20 min by car or bus from Cortina on the **SP638 road** to Passo Giau. Alternatively: **Pezié de Parù**, slightly lower and offering a different trail approach.
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How to Get There from Cortina (Summer 2025)

- **By Car:**
From Cortina, drive 13 km along **SP638** (Giau road) to **Ponte de Rucurto**. Small parking area near the trailhead. Arrive early in peak season.
 - **By Bus:**
Summer **DolomitiBus n.53 to Passo Giau** stops at **Ponte de Rucurto** on request. Confirm with the driver and check the 2025 timetable at www.dolomitibus.it
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Trail Info

- **Trail Numbers:** Begin on **Trail #437**, then join **#434** to complete the loop.
 - **Distance:** 11 km (loop)
 - **Elevation Gain:** 600 m
 - **Duration:** 4–5 hours (moderate pace with a break at the lake)
 - **Difficulty: Moderate** – well-marked, forested switchbacks, open meadows, and rocky alpine terrain. No technical gear required.
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Rifugio Croda da Lago (Federa)

- Altitude: **2,046 m**
- Open: **Mid-June to late September**
- Offers meals, drinks, and overnight stay (book early). Great place for lunch or coffee with a lake view.

Cascade Di Fanes

Highlights: Three spectacular waterfalls in a canyon near Cortina.

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- **Start:** Fiames - Pian de Loa (1,290 m, 4 km north).
- **Difficulty:** Easy-Moderate, 7km
- **Duration:** Loop from Ufficio informazioni del Parco - Località Pian de Loa
- **Route:** Trail along the Fanes stream to the lower cascade.
- **Access:** **Bus Line 1** from the city centre or Cortina station, running from **Autostazione → Majon → Fiames**, stopping at **Hotel Fiames**. **Timetable** at www.dolomitibus.it

Cadini Di Misurina

Highlights: A short but dramatic hike to one of the most iconic viewpoints in the Dolomites, overlooking the jagged Cadini peaks.

- **Start Point:** Rifugio Auronzo (2,320 m), accessible via toll road or shuttle from Misurina.
- **Trail Info:**
 - **Trail:** #117
 - **Distance:** 3.2 km round trip
 - **Elevation Gain:** 210 m
 - **Difficulty:** Easy to moderate (narrow/exposed sections)
 - **Time:** 1–2 hours
- **Itinerary:** From Rifugio Auronzo, follow trail #117 along a ridge to the viewpoint. Optional extension to a second viewpoint.
- **Access:**
 -  **By car:** €40 toll road to Auronzo (reservation required in peak season).
 -  **By shuttle:** Line 444 from Toblach/Dobbiaco (booking required, 31 May–12 Oct 2025).
- **Best Time:** Summer (June–Sept) in dry weather for safety and best views.

Summer Lifts In Cortina

Tofana Cable Car – Freccia nel Cielo

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- **Opening:** June 14-September 28, 2025.
- **Sections:**
 1. Cortina (1,224 m) → Col Drusciè (1,778 m).
 2. Col Drusciè → Ra Valles (2,475 m).
 3. Ra Valles → Cima Tofana di Mezzo peak (3,244 m).
- **Times:** First lift 9:00 a.m.; last descent from Cima Tofana 4:50 p.m.
- **Prices:** €22 A/R to Col Drusciè, €33 to Ra Valles, ~€40 to the summit.
- **Top Stations:**
 1. *Col Drusciè:* Astronomical observatory, restaurant, scenic trails.
 2. *Ra Valles:* Starting point for climbing (e.g. Via Ferrata Gianni Aglio).
 3. *Cima Tofana:* View of Marmolada, Sorapiss and beyond.

Col Drusciè (Tofana middle station)

- **Open:** Same hours as the Tofana cable car.
- **Attractions:** Helmut Ullrich Astronomical Observatory, Rifugio Col Drusciè 1778 (restaurant). Paths to Cortina Skyline and Piè Tofana.

Piè Tofana Chairlift - Duca d'Aosta

- **Open:** June 14-September 21, 2025 (8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.).
- **Prices:** ~€11 one way, €15 A/R.
- **Top Station:** Duca d'Aosta Refuge (2,098 m). Access to Rifugio Pomedes (20 mins), trails to Tofana di Rozes.

Lagazuoi Cable Car (Falzarego - Lagazuoi)

- **Opening:** May 31-October 19, 2025.
- **Timetable:** First planting ~09:00; last ascent ~16:40, descent ~17:00.
- **Prices:** ~€18 one way, €26 A/R.
- **Top Station:** Lagazuoi Refuge (2,752 m). Access to WWI tunnels, Alta Via 1 and Val Travenanzes.

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Cinque Torri Chairlift (Bàì de Dònes - Cinque Torri)

- **Opening:** June 7-October 5, 2025 (09:00-17:00).
- **Prices:** ~€19 ascent, €25 A/R.
- **Top Station:** Scoiattoli Refuge (2,255 m). Access to Cinque Torri, WWI museum, Averau and Nuvolau Refuge.

Chairlift Rio Gere - Son Forca (Cristallo)

- **Opening:** June 14-September 21, 2025.
- **Hours:** ~08:30am-4:30pm (5:30pm in August).
- **Prices:** ~€17 one way, €22 A/R.
- **Top Station:** Son Forca hut; view of Cristallo group and Monte Sorapiss. Access to alpine trails and Via Ferrata Ivano Dibona.

Other lifts: Fedare chairlift (Passo Giau-Rif. Averau), Col de Varda chairlift (Misurina).

Recommended: **Dolomiti Supersummer Pass**
or **Cortina Vertical Pass** to save money.

More Excursions From Cortina



Plätzwiese (Prato Piazza)

- **What:** A scenic alpine plateau at **2,000 m**, known for **lush wildflower meadows**, peaceful trails, and panoramic views of the surrounding Dolomites.
- **Activities:** Gentle walks, photography, and family-friendly picnicking.
- **Access:**
 - From **Ponticello**, take the **summer shuttle bus** (mandatory between late June–early October during peak hours).
 - Private vehicles allowed before 9:30 AM or after 4:00 PM (limited parking).

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Monte Piana

- **What:** A dramatic flat-topped mountain overlooking **Misurina**, home to an **open-air WWI museum** with restored trenches and tunnels.
- **Activities:** Historical walk with 360° views of Tre Cime, Cadini di Misurina, and Cristallo Group.
- **Access:**
 - **Jeep shuttle** from **Misurina** (summer only, from Rifugio Auronzo or near Lago d'Antorno).
 - Challenging **hike** via trail from Lago d'Antorno or Misurina (~3–4 hours round trip, 600 m elevation gain).

Lake Ghedina

- **What:** A serene alpine lake surrounded by forest, perfect for a quiet walk or a scenic break at the lakeside restaurant.
- **Access:**
 -  10-minute drive from **Cortina d'Ampezzo**, with nearby parking.
 -  Short hike (about 30 min) from the **Ronco** area or via forest trails from the Tofana side.

Daial & Pienozes Meadows

- **What:** Peaceful alpine pastures near Cortina with open meadows, wooden huts, and Dolomite views—ideal for short hikes or relaxing afternoons.
- **Access:**
 -  Reachable by **foot or e-bike** from Cortina via the **Sentiero Pian de Ra Spines** or nearby forest roads.
 -  Rustic huts in the area may offer local food in summer (check seasonal openings).

Alpine Hut / Refuges In The Cortina Area

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Main Refuges

- **Rifugio Vandelli (Lake Sorapis area):** 1,928 m – Open mid-June to mid-September. Base for trail **#215** (to Lago di Sorapis).
- **Rifugio Croda da Lago (Fedèra Lake area):** 2,046 m – Open mid-June to end of September. Accessed from **Ponte di Rucurto** or **Pezié de Parù**.
- **Rifugio Scoiattoli (Cinque Torri area):** 2,255 m – Open early June to early October. Direct view of the **Cinque Torri**; connected by chairlift from **Bai de Dones**.
- **Rifugio Averau (Passo Giau / Cinque Torri area):** 2,413 m – Open late June to end of September. Known for gourmet cuisine; starting point for hike to **Rifugio Nuvolau**.
- **Rifugio Nuvolau (Monte Nuvolau summit):** 2,575 m – Open July to early September. Very rustic (no showers); offers unique 360° panoramic views.
- **Rifugio Lagazuoi (Lagazuoi summit / Falzarego Pass area):** 2,752 m – Open late May to mid-October. Features a panoramic terrace and sauna; accessible by **Lagazuoi cable car** from **Passo Falzarego**.
- **Rifugio Locatelli (Tre Cime di Lavaredo area):** 2,405 m – Open late June to end of September. Iconic views of the **Three Peaks**; rustic conditions (cash only).

Other Notable Refuges

- **Dibona Refuge:** 2,083 m. Base for Tofana di Rozes and Via Ferrata Lipella.
- **Duca d'Aosta Refuge:** 2,098 m. Accessible via chairlift; connected to Pomedes Refuge.
- **Son Forca (Cristallo) Refuge:** 2,215 m. Open by chairlift; sun terrace.
- **Malga Ra Stua (Fanes):** 1,668 m. Starting point for Rifugio Sennes/Fodara Vedla hut.
- **Auronzo Refuge (Three Peaks):** 2,320 m. Accessible by car; starting point for the Three Peaks tour.
- **Biella Refuge (Above Braies):** 2,327 m; base for Croda del Becco.
- **Prato Piazza & Vallandro Refuge:** On the plateau of the same name; ideal for families.
- **Rifugio Città di Carpi (Cadini):** 2,110 m; view of Sorapis.

General Notes on Refuges

- Check openings (may vary with snow).
- Reservation required for overnight stay in popular shelters (e.g., Locatelli, Lagazuoi).
- **Bring cash (many remote shelters do not accept cards).**

*Enjoy Your Summer
in Cortina!*