

## Museums

### **Torre Pellice (Pellice Valley)**

In the Waldensian Cultural Centre you can visit the heart of the Waldensian museums. One section is devoted to history (Waldensians from the middle ages to the 1900's) and another offers you an in-depth view on the traditional everyday life in the Waldensian Valleys. **Open Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m. On July and August from 4 to 7 p.m. In December and January closed. Entrance fees: Adults, 5 euros; children and school parties, 2,50 euros; older than 65, 3,50 euros.**

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### **Rorà (Pellice Valley)**

Inside this Waldensian Museum there is a true-to-life reconstruction of the traditional work in a stone quarry, the "Stone of Luserna". Locally, this renowned laminar gneiss has been mined for more than two hundred years. Information can be obtained from the museum when visiting the mines.

### **Odin-Bertot (Angrogna valley)**

An enchanting 18<sup>th</sup> Century village school class-room turned museum. Long wooden benches, the teacher's desk, a stove, and teaching material all help to preserve the image of what is but one of many Waldensian schools built throughout the Valleys thanks to donations from Dutch and English protestant communities.

### **Serre (Angrogna valley)**

A symbolic place, this museum is devoted to the history of Waldensian women. It was set up in 1989 at the initiative of women from the community of Angrogna. It contains informations on protestant women around the world, as well as reports on the everyday life and work of Waldensian women in the Valleys.

### **San Germano Chisone (Chisone Valley)**

The collection has a strong work theme to it, with

emphasis on the conditions of women. Visit the interesting section where the history of the Widemann cotton-mill (18-19<sup>th</sup> century) is mapped out.

### **Pramollo (Chisone Valley)**

This museum, housed in an ancient Beckwith school, addresses the first teachings performed in San Germano, Pramollo, and in general across the Waldensian Valleys. Accounts start from the early 1800's and conclude at the beginning of the 1900's.

### **Pomaretto (Germanasca Valley)**

The museum stores a collection of wooden models depicting ancient craftsmanship. They were sculpted by Carlo Ferrero, whose wife Enrichetta designed the costumes they wear. Surrounding the figures are panels portraying working methods and tools traditionally used. Of particular interest is the section on working down the mines, a job done by many around the Valleys.

### **Balsiglia (Germanasca Valley)**

The collection housed in the village school guides us through the years when Waldensians were exiled to Switzerland and Germany (1686) and the strong resistance shown at Balsiglia during the "Glorious Return" three years later (1689-90).

### **Rodoretto (Germanasca Valley)**

The museum, housed in an ancient Beckwith school, chronicles the life and work of local peasants and mountain dwellers. There is a reconstruction of a bedroom and a meizoun (a room once incorporating the kitchen, dining room and pantry) at the school.

### **Prali (Germanasca Valley)**

This museum is located inside one of the oldest Waldensian churches in the area. It was built in 1556 and now contains a detailed account of the history of the Germanasca Valley that mainly focuses on episodes of the Waldensian community.

## Historical sights

### **Gianavella (Luserna San Giovanni)**

A block of three, perfectly intact historical buildings. One is the house of Giosuè Gianavella, (cancellare "an artisan") who fought to defend the local Waldensian community against advancing Savoy troupes in 1655 and before exile in 1686.

### **Sibaud (Bobbio Pellice)**

A pillar erected in memory of the oath taken by Waldensian officers and soldiers at the end of the "Glorious Repatriation" (1689-90), who pledged to avoid indiscriminate pillaging and individual appropriation.

### **Chanforan (Angrogna Valley)**

Right in the centre of a wide meadow you will find a pillar that was built to commemorate the Synod that in 1532 sanctioned the Waldensians' adherence to the Reformation.

### **Pra del Torno (Angrogna Valley)**

Tiny dry-stone houses said to be the place where, in the Middle Ages, Waldensian Preachers studied the bible before setting off to spread the word. These Preachers are locally known as the "barba".

### **Guèiza 'd la Tana (Angrogna Valley)**

According to popular belief, this wide natural cave is where Waldensians gathered during times of persecution to secretly worship and seek shelter.

## Churches

The visit may include several Waldensian churches, from XVI to XX century: Torre Pellice, Luserna San Giovanni, Rorà, Angrogna, Bobbio Pellice, Pinerolo, Pomaretto, Rodoretto, Massello, Prali.

*For informations and reservations please contact the barbaoffice*

The troubled historical events of the Waldensians in the Piedmont area (Pellice, Germanasca and lower Chisone Valleys) left a rich cultural heritage there: museums, sites, buildings, churches. A visit to these Valleys can therefore be a very significant experience in the multicultural context of the world today.

### **The barba office:**

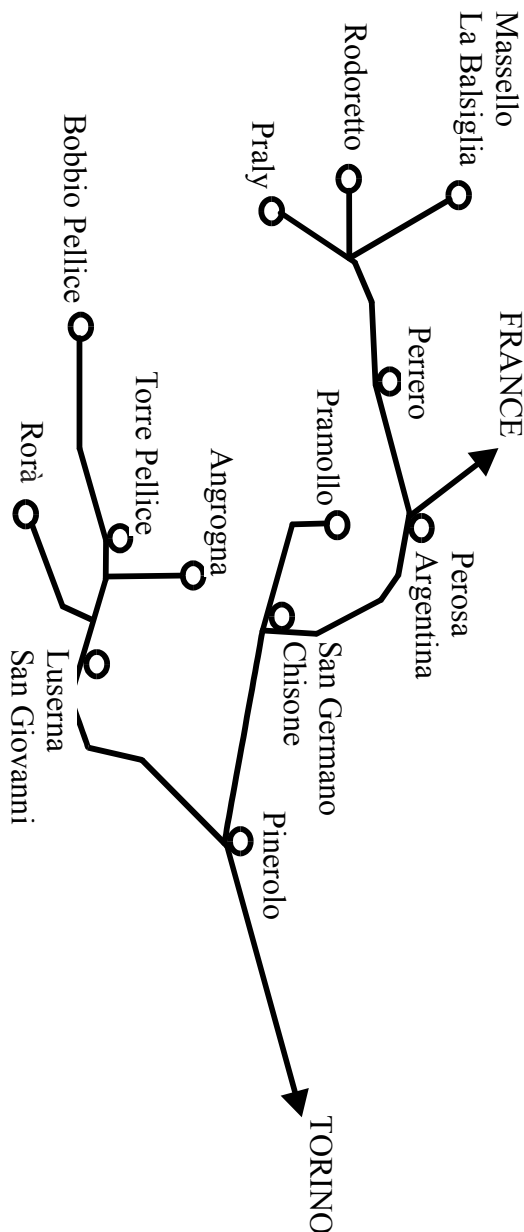
- Welcoming Italian and foreign visitors.
- Organising guided visits to the museums, churches and historical sites of the Waldensians Valleys.
- Supplying information on the cultural and religious realities of the Waldensians world.

Office services are available for:

- Italian: school (from nursery to high school) and adults (leisure time organisations, religious groups, tourists, etc.)
- International: religious (Protestant communities, interfaith study groups) and tourist parties.

Guided visits are in Italian, English, French, German and Spanish language.

**For informations and reservations call Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**



Coordinamento musei  
e luoghi storici valdesi



Museums  
of the  
Waldensians  
Valleys



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