

Monte Pidaggia – East slope and SE ridge

So long, when I was hiking along Val Cavargna and neighborhoods I was impressed by the pyramid of Mount Pidaggia and it seemed very attractive. I wanted climb it along the NW canyon, in front of Cusino, by its buttness called Sasso of Cusino.



The idea seemed quite difficult and a survey by Google Earth and other tools showed only a short track dying into nothingness and after its end the slope was 55%. I was preparing to suffer and to climb all fours! I had prepared carefully other routes, less self-defeating.

Thus came the right time and got to the track path (46°04'20.11"N, 9°09'11.14"E) I asked a information to a local person which did not recommend this way, quite impracticable; he suggested instead the alternative path I prepared, starting from Salter (46°04'20.31"N, 9°09'51.55"E). A little disappointed I took my car driving along a narrow and steep road for about 2 km arriving in a beautiful valley and parking near a fountain. A little above I noticed a path without signals leading up the East side of Mount Pidaggia. Shortly after I reached a crossroads and I gave the wrong right arriving at a little valley where the path disappeared. Then I decided to climb the wood by the maximum slope "enjoying" the last 350 meters to the summit, on slippery carpets of leaves of chestnut. No signal gave me comfort, indeed, I sometimes fooled by faded red marks that really signaled trees to the woodcutters. Anyway, after a hour I reached the ridge and the summit, passing from the wooded East side to the West side without trees. There I saw a fascinating landscape: the Piano Lake, the Porlezza town, the Como Lake, the Tremezzo Mountains, the Grigne, etc.

I was curious to see my first planned path, so I went to NW, to its ending point and I noted it was much steeper than I had climbed; also it took place between pinnacles and rocks. Then I turned the

back to the canyon and I walked all the ridge towards SE, touching at least two summits of Mount Pidaggia till crossing another path, really comfortable and signaled by red marks (at last!). The new path turned smoothly on the left and shortly brought me to the beginning point. There I understood my mistake: when I arrived to the above crossroads I should have to follow the left side, next to the boundary wall; after a little I would have find the red marks.

But that's ok: I walked a beautiful tour not really tiring that requires just over two hours.

Thus, also Mount Pidaggia is in my backpack (why something says to me that this will be true only when I will climbed the NW canyon? Mumble! Maybe some day, who knows?)

Time to climb : 1h10'

Time on ridge: 30'

Time to descend: 1h

Starting altitude: 1121 m

Final altitude: 1536 m

Difference in level: 415 m

Medium slope: 20%

Maximum slope: 40% (for 240m drop)

Total distance: 4.9 km