

Tour: Corticiasca (1018m) – Monte Bar (1816m) – Caval Drossa (1632m) – Motto della Croce (1381m) - Corticiasca

For a long time I planned to visit the summit of Monte Bar, unknown to me, and today I decided to do it by following in the footsteps of [Siso](#), as described in the [Siso report](#) (<http://www.hikr.org/tour/post21137.html>).

I invited my friend Chiara who was happy to accept even if recently she is not very fit because of some physical problem.

We were interested to see these areas unknown for us and so we got out of the car at 8:15 at Corticiasca and we properly dress ourselves knowing that the temperature would be -11°C at 7 and -4.3°C at 13). We walked to Albumo and there we crossed the path that leads to Monte Bar by Alpe Musgatina (1400m) and Rifugio Monte Bar (1632m). Along the way, while we were taking pictures, we saw a blanket of clouds reaching us from the south. A light in the hut revealed a human presence and we let ourselves be attracted by the idea of drinking a good hot coffee that cost us 6 CHF but also half an hour for the preparation and tasting. Then, in about ½ hour we reached the top of the Monte Bar and there Chiara decided not to continue for the bitter cold. We agreed to meet again at 14 at the car and I left the top starting to go down to the saddle leading to Caval Drossa. On the way down the visibility was reduced greatly and the crusty and windy snow induced me to wear the snowshoes. After a quick thought around the situation I became convinced to continue in the fog along a way never seen before (and even now!) entrusting the instructions of my GPS, which proved to be an excellent guide and make up for the lack of visibility and footprints. After Caval Drossa, happily achieved, the fog disappeared and I saw some signs even if, at around 1400m, the snow left the field to the ground. Reached the Motto della (huge) Croce I continued through some houses shortly after Ginestre but could not see the signal towards "Molino" named by [Siso](#) and so I lost a bit of time wandering here and there in search of enlightenment; after some time, fortunately, I saw down a small bell tower and I understood it was the village of Bidogno. Then I came down through the fields to the road that leads to Corticiasca which I reached after about 45 '. There I meet Chiara, who went to Tesserete and back to the car and we reached Varese happy for the successful tour.

Travel times:

Albumo di Corticiasca - Rifugio Monte Bar: **1h20'**

Rifugio Monte Bar - Monte Bar: **28'**

Monte Bar - Caval Drossa: **41'**

Caval Drossa - Motto della Croce : **30'**

Motto della Croce – Corticiasca: **1h35'**

Key data:

Real altitude difference **1040m**

Total length **13.43 km**

Average ascending slope **18%**

Total time **5h07'** (stops included); **4h35'** (net)

Extimated time:

SLE = (17.58 km @5km/h) + (16.65 km @7km/h) → **5h53'**