



SCI Switzerland

Volunteering for Peace

Service Civil International Swiss branch • Monbijoustrasse 32 • 3011 Bern

+41 (0)31 381 46 20 • info@scich.org • www.scich.org • IBAN: CH26 0900 0000 8003 3387 4

CH-SCI 10.3 Mountain Farm Loasa Cooperative (Bruzella TI)

July 23rd – July 29th 2023

[max. 15 volunteers]

Camp open to volunteers with children: 3 kids are accepted additionally to the max. number of volunteers

File Structure

General information for volunteers taking part in SCI Workcamps in Switzerland.....	1
Meeting point & Transport details	1
Camp description	5
Contacts	7

General information for volunteers taking part in SCI Workcamps in Switzerland

Please open the following link and take some time to read this general part of the information sheet carefully:

[General Information about your Workcamp with SCI Switzerland](#)

In this file you can find some important information on further questions you might have, such as:

- Arrival and departure policy
- Insurance and health
- Visa fees reimbursement
- Incoming/Additional fee
- Entering & Travelling around Switzerland
- What kind of clothing you should bring, other items you might need
- Useful information about Switzerland (sleeping list, shopping, electricity plugs, roaming etc.)

Meeting point & Transport details

Meeting point: bus station Bruzella, Paese

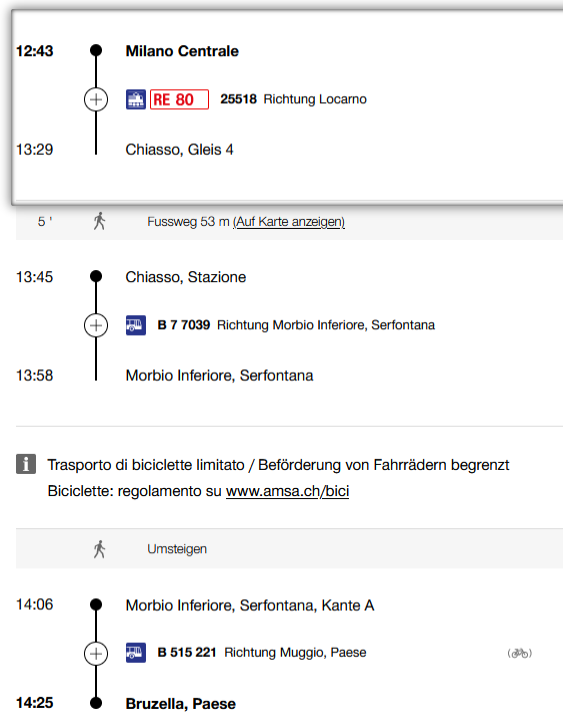
Date and Time of meeting: 23-rd July at 14:25h, Bruzella Paese bus station

How to get there: You can reach Bruzella by bus from Mendrisio and Chiasso. Closest biggest international airport: Milano (Italy) - check if your visa is valid also in Italy (probably yes as it is also in the Schengen area). Nearby bigger city: Lugano (Switzerland). Travel to Mendrisio by the suburban train TILO from Lugano (train S10, 13:36) or from Milano if you come from Italy. In Mendrisio you will find the bus station right beside the railway station. From there Bus Nr. 513 (direction: Chiasso, Via Volta) leaves at 14:02. Change to bus Nr. 515 (direction: Muggio Paese) at Morbio Superiore Posta. You'll have to wait some 2 minutes in Morbio Superiore.

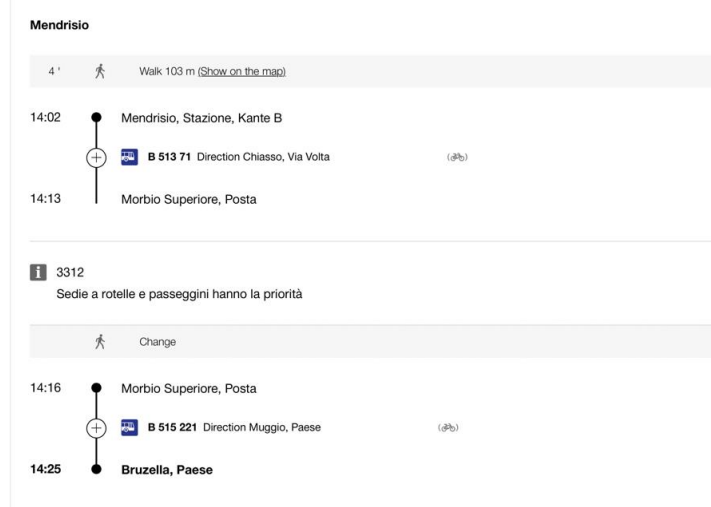


Exchange with quality

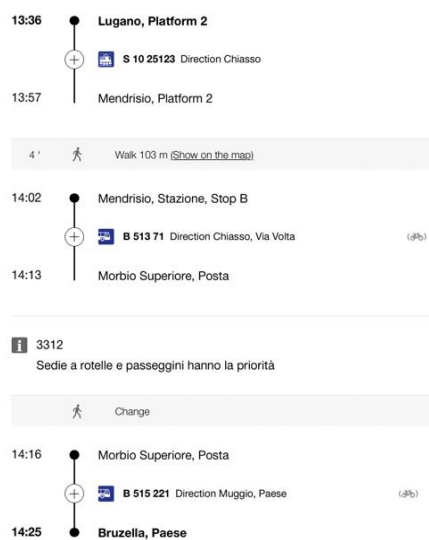
From Milano Centrale (it takes about 1h and 45 minutes to get to the meeting point)



From Mendrisio Stazione the Bus Linea B 513 71 (it takes about 25 minutes to get to the meeting point)

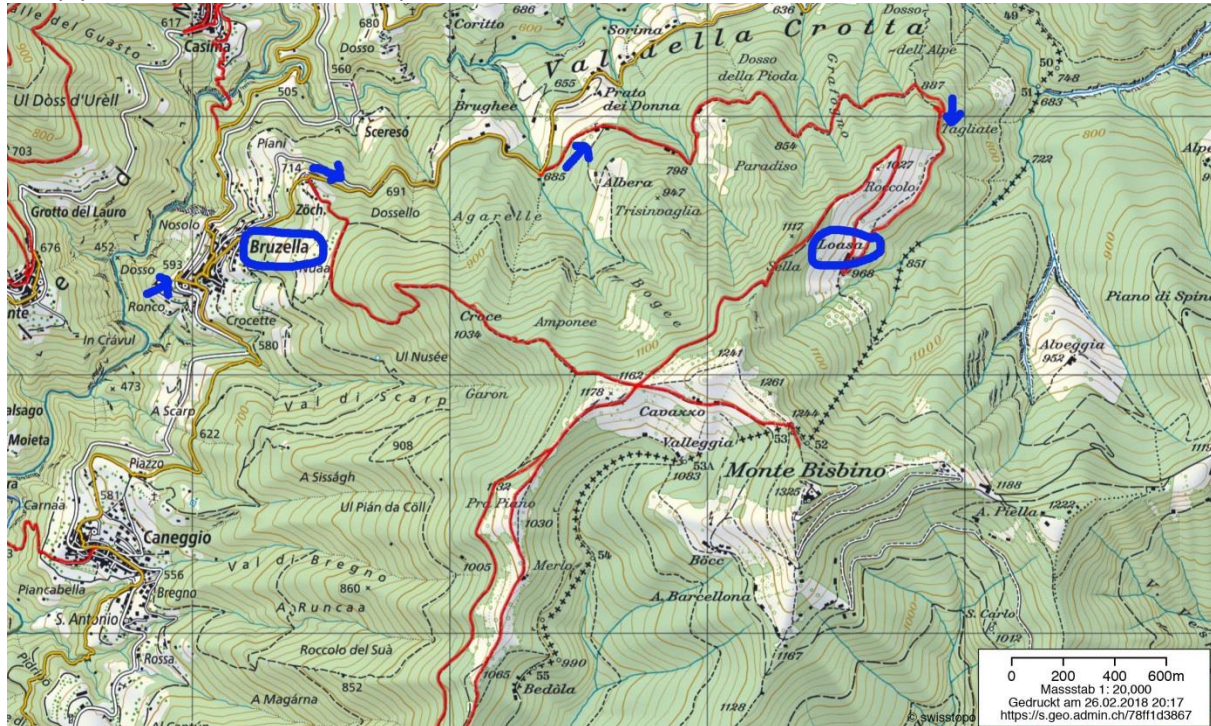


Timetable from Lugano (it takes about 45 minutes to get to the meeting point)



For more details about travel connections by train and bus from these and other cities in Switzerland, please check <http://www.sbb.ch/en/home.html>. Please note that it is possible to travel cheaper by booking a “supersaver” ticket. These tickets are only valid for the chosen connection; in case you miss the train the ticket will be lost (except in case of delays caused by SBB). It is only possible to buy the supersaver ticket in forehand (at least 1 day before your travel). Find more information in the [General Information](#).

In any case we also give you the walk directions from Buss Station *Bruzella, Paese*, the next point to the camp place. From Bruzella the Alpe Loasa is accessible in a 90 min walk.



Remember that the first and last days of the workcamp are dedicated to travelling. Feel free to leave at the most convenient time for you.

For the **way back** after the camp you have the following options:
Timetable to Lugano (it takes 1h)

13:30 ● **Bruzella, Paese**
+ B 515 228 Direction Morbio Inferiore, Serfontana (3b)

13:42 | Morbio Superiore, Posta

i 3310
Sedie a rotelle e passeggeri hanno la priorità

Change

13:44 ● Morbio Superiore, Posta

+ B 513 72 Direction Mendrisio, Stazione (3b)

13:57 | Mendrisio, Stazione, Stop B

i 3312
Sedie a rotelle e passeggeri hanno la priorità














4' Walk 103 m (Show on the map)

14:04 ● Mendrisio, Platform 3








+ S 10 25124 Direction Biasca

14:24 ● Lugano, Platform 4

Timetable to Zurich Airport (it takes 3h and 15 minutes)

13:30	●	Bruzella, Paese		
	+	 B 515 228 Direction Morbio Inferiore, Serfontana	(info)	
13:42		Morbio Superiore, Posta		
<hr/>				
	3310	Sedie a rotelle e passeggerini hanno la priorità		
		Change		
13:44	●	Morbio Superiore, Posta		
	+	 B 513 72 Direction Mendrisio, Stazione	(info)	
13:57		Mendrisio, Stazione, Stop B		
<hr/>				
	3312	Sedie a rotelle e passeggerini hanno la priorità		
4'		Walk 103 m (Show on the map)		
14:04	●	Mendrisio, Platform 3		
	+	 S 10 25124 Direction Biasca		
14:24		Lugano, Platform 4		
		Change (Show on the map)		
14:30	●	Lugano, Platform 3		
	+	 EC 318 Direction Zürich HB	 FZ BZ FS RZ VS  R	
16:27		Zürich HB, Platform 7		
		Change (Show on the map)		
16:35	●	Zürich HB, Platform 5		
	+	 IR 75 2127 Direction Konstanz	FS	
16:44	●	Zürich Flughafen, Platform 2		

Timetable to Milano Malpensa Airport (it takes 2h and 15 minutes)

13:30	●	Bruzella, Paese		
	+	 B 515 228 Direction Morbio Inferiore, Serfontana	(info)	
13:42		Morbio Superiore, Posta		
<hr/>				
	3310	Sedie a rotelle e passeggerini hanno la priorità		
		Change		
13:44	●	Morbio Superiore, Posta		
	+	 B 513 72 Direction Mendrisio, Stazione	(info)	
13:57		Mendrisio, Stazione, Stop B		
<hr/>				
	3312	Sedie a rotelle e passeggerini hanno la priorità		
4'		Walk 103 m (Show on the map)		
14:33	●	Mendrisio, Platform 4AB		
	+	 S 50 25573 Direction Malpensa Aeroporto T2		
15:41	●	Malpensa Aeroporto T1		

Camp description

Volunteer age: International volunteers: 17 – 60, National volunteers: 17 – 60

How many minor volunteers can be accepted in total? two 17-year-old volunteers

Volunteers with kids and minimal age? 3 children are welcome in this workcamp. The minimum age for children is 12 years.

The legal guardian/parent must be aware that the Alpe Loasa is only accessible by foot. **The walk to the Alpe Loasa takes about 2 hours and all the luggage must be carried by the participants themselves.** The child must therefore be fit to hike on a rather demanding hike, which is uphill and on a narrow hiking trail. On the Alpe Loasa itself it is also a steep terrain.

Introduction: Alpe Loasa is a full-year organic mountain farm in southern Switzerland, at the Italian border. The farm is remote from cities or villages, accessible only by walking or horse riding, with frugal accommodation. The many works are usually done by the tenant and the cooperative by hand. Many helping people are therefore very valuable. In return of the work and the remoteness of the site, we offer an intense community experience. At Alpe Loasa above Bruzella in southern Ticino, the focus is on mountains, animals and fellowship with other people.

Type of Work [Agriculture/Construction/Restoration, renovation: Various works are planned: Construction of a brick wall in the house, renew drainage of the driveway, build stone walls for driveway protection. And of course some volunteers will also help in hay harvesting.

Work tasks can be rotated among volunteers and need to be planned spontaneously according to the weather conditions. Due to the heat work starts early and there is a long siesta after lunch.



Study Theme: We will talk about subsistence farming and traditional construction methods under mountainous conditions (the duration of the talk depends on the interest of the participants).

Accommodation: Simple accommodation in a dormitory - bring your own sleeping bag. Narrow mattresses, woollen blankets and pillows are available. Compost toilet (outside of the house), running cold (not hot!) water in the house, outdoor shower in the nearby forest with cold water only ~10 C°. Hand washing clothes with hot water from the wood stove is possible. No internet & cell phone coverage at the accommodation (5 min. away, there is a place, where you can access internet if you have your own mobile data). Landline phone is available for emergencies. Cooking is done with a wood stove in the small kitchen. Food will be vegetarian. Vegan is certainly possible. Special menus and allergies can unfortunately not all be accommodated (e.g. gluten-free would not be possible).

Required spoken language: Required camp language is English. Work instructions in basic English will be provided and the campcoordinator will help translating further details to the volunteers.

Camp spoken languages: English. People on the farm speak mainly German, so knowing this language will help you communicate with them better (not obligatory!). The local language is Italian.

Requirements: You should be able to appreciate a simple, frugal life in a community. A good physical condition is necessary. You'll also need to bring robust boots, working clothes & gloves, sun and rain protection.

Additional Camp notes: Keep in mind that often the work on a farm can be monotonous and physically demanding causing even muscle ache. But it is also astonishingly satisfying.

Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden. Please check high prices of public transportation within Switzerland before you apply for the camp to avoid cancellations.

People who do not want to give picture rights, please inform the campcoordinator.

INCOMING/ADDITIONAL FEE for volunteers applying via Partner organisations & Contacts of SCI:
<https://scich.org/en/incoming-fee/>

Free time ideas:

(the ideas were proposed by the workcamp hosting partner in the beginning of the year, when the projects were organized; if you are interested in them, please ask when you arrive if these suggestions are still relevant/possible)

One afternoon is free of work. There are various hikes around Alpe Loasa. For example to a restaurant in Italy with a view of Milano or Lago di Como, or to a bathing place in the river in the valley.

Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.

Wheelchair accessible? Unfortunately not.

What to bring?

- ROBUST MOUNTAIN SHOES are a must; the area is very steep so it is also a security question!
- Working clothes, clothes for hot and cold weather
- Sun protection (hat, sun glasses, sun protection cream)
- Rain coat (heavy rainfall in Ticino)
- Working gloves
- Silppers
- Sleeping bag
- Bathing suits (also for showering outside)
- water bottle
- Personal medications (if you need any)
- (European Health) Insurance Card**Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.**
- Games (some ideas for group games), musical instruments, etc.
- Cooking recipes;
- If you like you can take a typical food/drink from your country to share with the other volunteers.
- As there is not much electricity (just solar power depending on the weather for the light) it's important to bring a separate flashlight and watch, so you don't need your cellphone for that. To charge your cellphone bring an already charged power bank.

Important: Everything must fit into a backpack, as you will hike the last approx. 1.5h – 2h up to the hut.



If you haven't found the answer to your question, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Contacts

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For special needs (not announced in your application form) and specific questions about the workcamp Inability to arrive on the first day of the workcamp, need to leave before the end of the workcamp (<u>NOT</u> recommended, last option) visa and entrance in Switzerland questions/issues 	<p><u>SCI Switzerland:</u> placement@scich.org Landline: +41 (0)31 381 46 20 (usually Monday - Thursday ~ 10 - 17 h Swiss time)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are only able to arrive later than the meeting time on the first day of the camp (please send an e-mail in advance) If you can't find the meeting point on the first day of the camp and need more travel directions 	<p><u>Workcamp Hosting Partner:</u> Organisation: Genossenschaft Alpe Loasa / Alpe Loasa Cooperative Responsible Person: Pius Baumgartner Address: ala Crota 11, CH-6837 Bruzella Mobile: +41 (0)79 883 96 74 (try first this number) Telephone on the Alp: +41 (0)91 684 11 35 (emergency number while on the Alpe Loasa for family members of the volunteers) E-Mail: gaiamariafortunato@gmail.com Website: www.loasa.ch</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a backup contact if you can't reach the project partner on the day of arrival for an urgent issue. Find your campcoordinator's contact on this spreadsheet. If the name is not available yet, it means we still haven't found a coordinator for your camp – keep an eye on the list! Please, remember to write down your campcoordinator's name and phone number, in order to have it offline as well. 	<p><u>Backup: Volunteer Campcoordinator:</u> http://bit.ly/2QxyH25</p>

Best regards,
Your SCI Switzerland team