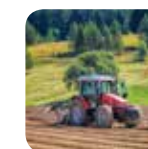




2014
3rd-10th
July

Family farming in the Alps

From: Domodossola
To: Innsbruck



The "We are Alps" tour is an initiative of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention to promote specific alpine topic while using sustainable means of transport. The 2014 edition of the tour will focus on Family Farming, in order to mark the United Nations Year of Family Farming and to raise awareness of one of the oldest economical activities in the Alps with important social, cultural and environmental dimension.

Family farms play a significant role in maintaining the Alps as we know them, though the type of farming may differ – not just in the products but also in the style of farming and its role for the families. The "We are Alps" tour aims to present as many different activities as possible to bring the Alps and their people to a wider public attention.

Markus Reiterer
Secretary General of the Alpine Convention



Family farming in the Alps

2014

We would like to sincerely thank all our partners in this project:



Thursday,
3rd July

Domodossola

Farming for Social Services

The "We are Alps" journey will start by a visit to the Info point of the Alpine Convention in Domodossola and continue with the visit of the Social Cooperative "La Prateria". It is a perfect example how farming can be combined with social services. After a presentation of their activities and the presentation of the Project "We are Alps" we will have the opportunity to taste the typical Ossola Valley food together with the products grown at the Cooperative in its own restaurant "La Prateria ".

Until 16.00	Individual arrivals in Domodossola
16.30	Meeting at the Info Point (Piazza Rovereto)
17.30	Visit to small Social Cooperation "La Prateria"
18.30	Presentation of the project "We are Alps"
19.30	Dinner at the farm

Hotel Piemonte Da Sciolla di Patrone Giorgio

Friday,
4th July

Domodossola > Morbegno

Traditional production methods
a recipe for the future ?

Preserving and developing cultural heritage and traditional knowledge is an important objective of the Alpine Convention (Declaration on Population and Culture). We will discover ancient crafts and traditional methods to see how we can still benefit from this knowledge today. Cycling through the valley we will visit the organic farm "La Fiorida". On our way to the evening demonstration of the production of the typical Bitto cheese, we will also visit the picturesque mountain Municipality of Albaredo per San Marco.

08.30	Team breakfast and presentation of the programme
10.17-11.35	Train Domodossola - Milano
12.20-13.45	Train Milano - Colico
14.00-16.15	Bike ride to Morbegno. On the way visit of organic farm "La Fiorida"
17.00	Visit of Albaredo per San Marco and meeting with local people
18.00-21.00	Minibus and walk to mountain pasture Piazza Mungitura and presentation of the Bitto cheese production
21.00	Dinner and return to Morbegno

Hotels in Morbegno

Saturday,
5th July

Morbegno > Sondrio

In vino Veritas

This day is dedicated to wine production in the Valtelina Valley. Still in Morbegno, we will enjoy visiting a historical store selling typical local products. After taking the train to Sondrio, the visit of the research Centre on Mountain Agriculture, "Fondazione Fojanini", will give us the theoretical background to better understand the practical examples seen during the tour. We will walk through the vineyards then inspect the local wine cellar and conclude the day by a presentation of activities of Valtelina/Valposchiavo at the EXPO 2015 in Milano.

07.00	Breakfast
8.00-10.30	Visit of the city center and the Info point
11.09-11.45	Train Morbegno - Sondrio
12.00-14.00	Visit of a Research center of Mountain farming "Fondazione Fojanini"
14.00-15.00	Walk in the vineyards
15.00-17.00	Visit to a wine cellar
18.00-20.00	Presentation Expo initiative Valtellina-Valposchiavo

Hotel in Sondrio

Sunday,
6th July

Sondrio > Poschiavo

Towards 100% organic

The farmers in the Swiss Valley of Poschiavo have set themselves an ambitious goal - 100% organic production. They already achieved 98% and we can taste all organic products at the "Stramangiata", in a gourmet walk around the Lake Poschiavo. In the evening the farmer Reto Rasselli will talk about his experience in the project 100% organic production. The opportunities of herb production will be presented on the next day, when we will visit the Herbal farm in Le Presse.

07.00	Breakfast
08.02-8.40	Train Sondrio - Tirano
8.50/9.40	Train Tirano - Poschiavo
10.05-16.00	Participation at Stramangiata
17.00/18.00	Visit of an Eco-farm

Hotels Croce Bianca and Albrici, Via da Mez 178

Monday,
7th July

Poschiavo > Prato allo Stelvio
/ Prad am Stilfserjoch

Agriculture and environmental
protection

From Valposchiavo the bus will take us to high altitudes (2757 m), to Passo Stelvio/Stilfserjoch and further to the village of Prato/Prad. Attention will be given to ecosystem services of agriculture, for maintaining the landscapes and its particular importance in protected areas. Meeting a beekeeper will give us the insight in the importance of bees for environment and agriculture. In the evening the director of the National Park will share his experience on agriculture in protected areas.

07.30	Breakfast
08.29-8.37	Train to Le Prese
09.00	Visit Herbal farm
12.29-15.15	Bus Le Prese - Stelvio/Stilfserjoch
17.02-18.18	Bus to Prato Stelvio/ Prad am Stilfserjoch
18.30	Visit of beekeeper
20.30	Evening: Presentation on farming in protected areas

Hotel Prad

Tuesday,
8th July

Prato allo Stelvio/ Prad am Stilfserjoch
> Bolzano/Bozen

Alpine Agricultural goes global

The autonomous Province of South Tyrol is a good example where farming is vibrant economic sector. Apple production from this part of the Alps covers a large percentage of the entire EU production. Ways of how to be competitive, efficient and produce high quality will be presented at the cooperative GEOS in Silandro/Schlanders, member of the VI.P Cooperative. Additional information on agriculture, research activities and related projects in South Tyrol will be given by the University of Bolzano/Bozen with participation of the European Academy of Bolzano/Bozen (EURAC) and the Agricultural Chamber of South Tyrol. The day will be concluded with a presentation of Bolzano/Bozen as Alpine Town of the Year 2009.

08.00	Breakfast
09.01-9.58	Bus and train Prato allo Stelvio/Prad am Stilfserjoch -Silandro/Schlanders
10.00-11.30	Visit VI.P Apple cooperation - intensive production visit and presentation
11.48-11.53	Train Silandro/Schlanders - Coldrano/ Goldrain
13.30-14.45	Guided tour VI.P Apple cooperation - quality and production
18.00	Lectures on farming
20.30	Presentation of the Alpine town of the year (2009) and dinner

Hotel Città, Piazza Walther/Walterplatz 21

Wednesday,
9th July

Bolzano/Bozen > Padaun

Local supply
a new paradigm for Agriculture

From intensive agricultural production we will shift to farming in areas with natural constraints. Maintaining this type of small family farms requires innovative approaches in marketing and the value-chain. The project "Eggen-taler Kistl" supports farmers in establishing common marketing approaches by connecting farmers with local retailers and customers. Moving to Austria, good examples of linking farming and tourism will be shown in Padaun, where we will visit a local family farm and have a presentation of the "Bergseigerdörfer" initiative.

07.30	Breakfast
08.35	Bus to Nova Ponente/Deutschnofen
09.30	Welcome reception at the town hall by the mayor
10.00	Visit of a small Eggen-taler-Kistl-product store
10.30	Walk to the farmer dairy (about 25 min)
11.00	Visit of the dairy farmer Hofkäserei Learner
13.17-14.25	Bus to Bolzano/Bozen
14.34-16.00	Train Bolzano/Bozen - Brenner/Brennero
16.00-19.00	Walk to Padaun. On the way visit of Mountain farm Bacher Hof.
20.00	Presentation of "Bergseigerdörfer" initiative

Bergsteigerdoerf Valsertal

Thursday,
10th July

Padaun > Innsbruck

Family farming in the future

We will say farewell to the Alps and its agriculture by visiting our last way point, "Helgas Alm", situated in a Natura 2000 area in Valsertal. On the Alm the "Sennerin" breeds the race of "Tauernschecke" goats, produces goat cheese and brings the alpine culture closer to the visitors. In Innsbruck the final expert discussion will give the possibility to reflect on the Impressions collected during the journey and discuss with experts from the University of Innsbruck, the Tyrolean chamber of Agriculture and the future chair of Mountain Agriculture Platform of the Alpine Convention, the prospects for the mountain agriculture in the future.

07.30	Breakfast
08.30-10.00	Walk to a goat farm
10.00	Visit to Helga's goat farm and presentation of the Natura 2000 site
12.18-13.08	Bus and train Vals Touristenrast - Innsbruck
14.00-16.00	Expert discussion: Future of family farms in the Alps and farewell