

Lens letter from the Via

Date 20/07/17

Location	Great St Bernards Pass	KM's to Rome	1,107	Steps Today	38,291
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Today was our walk to ascend the pass. I decided to leave early as I reasoned it was going to be a difficult day. Leigh was going to go through his morning ritual of coffee breakfast, shower then packing. He left ninety minutes after my departure. The start did not bode well as it was raining before I left the village. Our task was to climb 1,750 meters over 28 kilometres, something I have never done before. We also had to give up some height at times which made the task more difficult. It will also be the highest, at 2,450 meters, that I have ever climbed.

The walk started with a steep traverse through a forest then levelled out along a forest track. Leigh caught me relatively quickly and we stopped for our first break.

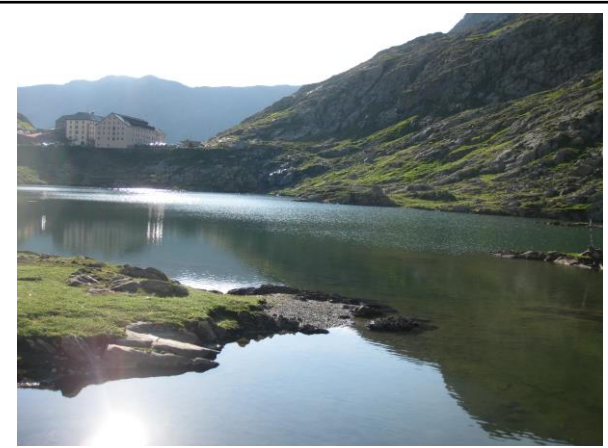
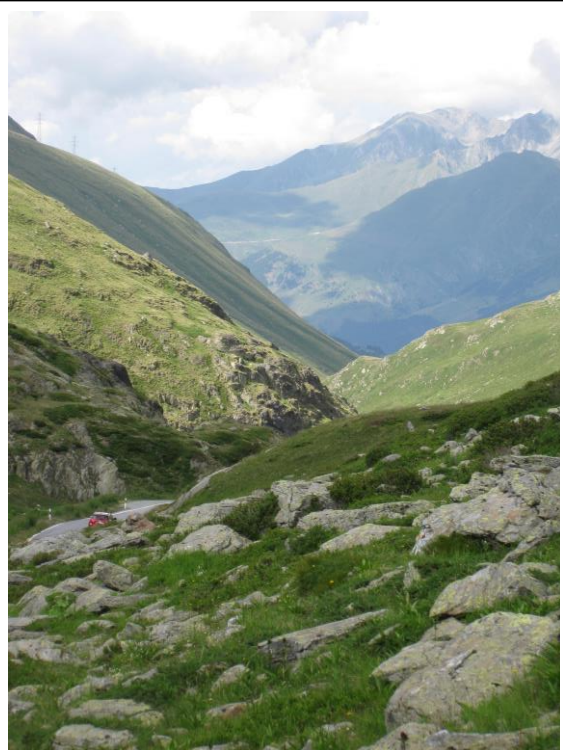


Sat on the doorstep of one of the old rustic buildings we have been encountering on the way up. The rains had cleared and the sun was out. As we are high up the clouds are constantly changing shape and along with the mist, rain and snow the raw beauty of the Alps is enhanced by the effect of the elements on the mountains. A mountain covered in rain quickly becomes a green or white monolith when the rain clears, none of the landscape stays the same for any

length of time. When you add in the range of alpine meadow flowers on display at this time it is truly a remarkable landscape.

I don't think the adjective has been invented to enable an adequate description of the landscapes so I hope the following photos will give some idea of the beauty we experienced.





And when we reach the top we are further delighted by the lake on top of the pass. It was a memorable walk enhanced by being able to do it with my son Leigh. This is him at the statute of St Bernard. Also, this is my feet after the days walk.

RIP Josef Siebel long live Merrell

