Piane

Create: 2025-08-24 11:23:28	**Update:** 2025-10-11 22:44:12	**Print:** 2026-11-10 02:11:28
Country: Italia / Italy **Region:** Piemonte **Subregion:** Vercelli **Town:** Fobello		
Difficulty: a little difficult	**Grading:** v4 a4 III	**Total time:** 3h35
Approachtime: 30min	**Tourtime:** 3h	**Returntime:** 5min
Altitude entry: 1450m	**Altitude exit:** 1190m	**Delta Altitude:** 260m
Canyon length: 400m	**Highest rapell:** 30m	**Amount rapells:** 12
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:**	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 4 (11)	**Info:** ★ 1.4 (9)	**Belay:** ★ 1.8 (9)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 1x70m + 1×50m

Summary:
It is a “technical” route, with rope rubs to manage and several deviations, and fairly aquatic. In spring it is usually impassable due to excessive flow caused by snowmelt. The water is also cold because the canyon lies at about 1500 m a.s.l., and the second section is quite enclosed. For this reason, it is recommended to do it in the summer months. The lower section is the most interesting, both in terms of scenery and verticals.

Hydrology:

Access:
By car: from Varallo, take the Val Mastallone road and follow it to Fobello, then continue to the end of the road near Santa Maria, where you leave it at the last parking lot.

Approach:
On foot: There are two paths; follow the one on the left, which almost runs alongside the Mastallone stream, passing through a pretty village. Then, cross a bridge over the Mastallone and go up the Piane valley. After a 10-minute climb, you'll find a hut on the right. This is where the lower section begins, on the left of the first large waterfall. Continue past some huts, then the path passes alongside a ravine. When this ends and the valley opens up, descend along tracks in the meadow to the stream (near some huts on the other side). 30 minutes in total.

Tour:
Re-equipped (18/08/24) and modified some abseils. A single point was added for some difficult downclimbs. However, the abseil with the half-detached belay (the second of the last relay) was left as it was because the high flow rate made it unsafe to equip in such a narrow section. It can, however, be avoided with a C40 outside the gorge.
There are two other abseils higher up, but given the distance from the rest of the route, they are less interesting.

You enter and find the first C20 (right) (with a hanging pool to overcome),
then C18 (right), a little march and you find a small bridge with some large pipes,
just after C25 (left) (with rubbing),
then MC+C18 (right), here begins a long stretch of walking between large boulders (15 min.)
The stream narrows, you find C6 (right) (single point),
then C10 (perhaps toboggan, right), toboggan 4m, you arrive at the final, more ravine-like section,
MC (left, top, with 3 intermediate points)
leads to C30, which ends in a turbulent pool,
then C7 (left, single point),
C18 (right),
C10 (left),
MC from tree (right) with subsequent relay
C20 (right)+C15 (right),
then final C5 (left, single point) and you practically arrive at the starting point in the town near the car park.

Return:

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 45.9108 8.1119
Alternative Canyon Start 45.9090 8.1215
Canyon End 45.9117 8.1264

Reports:

2026-05-30 | Max H. | |🕮 |⚓ | | 👍 Completed
test 2 bla

2026-05-30 | Max H. | |🕮 |⚓ | | 👍 Completed
test bla

2025-09-26 | Matteo Delfitto | |🕮 |⚓ | | 👍 Completed
https://www.gulliver.it/itinerari/piane-rio-delle/ Coordinates Upper entrance: 45.9107500, 8.1119462 Lower input: 45.9089761, 8.1215475 Output: 45.9117195, 8.1263547 V4A4III Recommended strings: 1x70m + 1×50m (machine translated)

2025-09-18 | Matteo Delfitto | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | 〰 Low | 👍 Completed
Traversed only the lower part of the canyon, the most continuous, 8 rappels with max. 30 m vertical. Recommended because it skips the long walk between boulders and shortens the approach to 15 min. For this part the access is, climbing into the Piane valley, just after a small hut that is next to the trail, on the right. When the gully opens enter by an easy track into the flat bed. Replaced the last belay that was destroyed with a single point to the left, you can now enter the schooner without problems. (machine translated)

2025-09-02 | Herbert von Neumann | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | 〰 Low | 👍 Completed
Abseil outside the last 2 waterfalls to avoid the broken fix, 40/45 m (machine translated)

2025-08-21 | Alfredcanyon | ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
The description a bit intimidating, in fact the canyon is not that technical... Completed only the lower section cause It seems an obvious access, and in order to avoid the flat part. As other people have said, the last anchor is damaged. Anyway good acquatic start for our trip!

2025-08-09 | Giovanni Buti | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ |🕮 ★ |⚓ ★ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Came here looking for some peace from RIC and indeed in this area there is no one. Easy parking at the end of the road then a half hour/40 min. climb on the only trail in the valley (from the parking lot take the one below that passes between the Alpe Campo meadows and then with a bridge immediately crosses the Mastallone) Entrance going down into the meadow (on the opposite side a shepherd's hut), immediately 4 rappels and then a long walk between boulders to the final gorge with 8 more rappels (more beautiful this one than the upper). One of these is doable on the right also as a toboggan. Last belay put very bad we concatenated the last 2 rappels in a single 50 m inside the schooner because it is straight(very hard recovery) Anyway nice creek with lots of water(A4?) in a super wild environment. At the beginning of the second fording there is a big waterfall with a mancorrente in my opinion useless if the flow is not excessive, it would be to retool inside the stream with a relais on an obvious little terrace before the second jump (machine translated)

2024-09-02 | Marco Pasquera | ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
All ok, there was another group before us who warned us about the last limb to avoid. Top the final section the first one on the other hand is also avoidable since then you walk so much (machine translated)

2024-09-01 | Matteo Delfitto | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Re-equipped with the CAI group of Varallo, fixed some belays in the upper part and added single points for non-trivial unclimbs, it still remains to replace the last belay damaged because the range did not allow to safely enter the narrow section (machine translated)

2024-08-30 | Enrico Rispoli | ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ |🕮 ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Good flow also at the end of August, I would say even V4A4 as difficulty calculating the rappels under flow. The last rappel has a very damaged limb, we trusted but it is definitely in need of replacement. Only flaw is the walk between two forked sections, maybe it is more fun to walk only the lower part. (machine translated)

2024-08-14 | Lars Glover | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ |🕮 ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Acquatic and a bit technical canyon, especially the lower part, where there's a 3 points mancourrent to reach the R30 anchor... between two beautiful sections you have a long boulder walk. V4A4II/III, 3h + 45 min. approach the last abseil has damaged anchors

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2024-07-28 | Matteo Delfitto | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ |⚓ ★ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Watery stream and with a nice sequence of rappels with no walking parts, the most "critical" points are 2: -Highest