

# 31) Lake Sorapis - The turquoise-coloured Dolomite Lake



**Starting point:** Passo Tre Croci (Provinz Belluno - 1.760 m)

**Difference in altitude:** 556 m.

**Time of walking:** 5 hours

**Length of trail:** ca. 12,9 km

**Difficulty:** 3 shoe excursion

**Description of the way:** From the Berghotel we take the car to Passo Tre Croci, where we start our hike. We hike on trail no. 215 - a varied panoramic trail - through the forests of the "Orti di Marcoira". This trail leads us in a southerly direction without any significant difference in altitude until we reach the valley basin of the Rio (river) Sorapis. Now comes the more strenuous part: a short section with iron stairs and some exposed sections secured with a steel rope. Caution is advised here because there is an increased risk of slipping, as the path could be crowded or wet. We continue to follow path no. 215, thus reaching the turquoise lake. At the Vandelli hut you have the option of stopping for a bite to eat.

The descent to the starting point is via the same trail no. 215.

**Advices:** This hike is one of the most beautiful in the Dolomite Mountains. The lake is known for its intense turquoise colour. This colouring is due to the gossamer rock dust that comes from the glacier of the same name, which breathes life into the lake as a result of the snow melt in spring and summer.

The hike is very well known and a popular destination for tourists as well as locals. The car park at the Tre Croci Pass is quickly overcrowded. It is therefore advisable to use the shuttle service that starts at the bus station in Cortina (Dolomitibus).

**Summary:** It is a wonderful panoramic tour with the imposing Cristallo and Popena mountains in front of you.