

# Wonderful walks!

## Hikingtrails through the Viamala gorge



### A | Thusis–Veia Traversina–Visitor centre

Complete route signposted as «viaSpluga»  
Route Schweiz Mobil No. 50

7.0 km | +640/-470 m difference in altitude | 3 hrs 10 min

**Route:** Thusis station–Sils–Ehrenfels Castle–Hohen Rätien Fortifications–St. Albin–Traversina suspension bridge–Viamala visitor centre.

**Description of the route:** From Thusis station via station underpass, Compognastrasse and Silserweg to the Rheinau sports ground. Over the suspension bridge to Sils. In the centre of Sils, turn uphill to the right after the church. Go past Ehrenfels Castle and on to the «Brünneli» fork. Follow the narrow woodland path uphill to the left to the «Hohen Rätien» turn. Continue left up to the forest road. After 500 m, turn off to the right on the narrow footpath to Traversina. After going over the Traversina suspension bridge, go along the road on the right-hand bank of the Rhine to Nesslaboda and walk on the narrow path along the ridge (immediately opposite the Trögli galleried section of the A13) to the Viamala visitor centre.

### B | Thusis–Verlorenes Loch (Lost Hole)–Visitor centre

Complete route signposted as «viaSpluga»

5.0 km | +500/-330 m difference in altitude | 2 hrs 20 min

**Route:** Thusis station–South roundabout–Verlorenes Loch (Lost Hole)–Rongellen–Visitor centre.

**Description of the route:** From Thusis station via Thusis South roundabout to the Beverin restaurant. Follow signs for «viaSpluga» & «transviamala» to the left along the old Kommerzialstrasse (NB not along the main road) to the Verlorenes Loch (Lost Hole). After passing Rongellen, turn off left (follow signs for «viaSpluga» & «transviamala»!). Take the road down to the bridge over the Rhine. After the bridge, turn right to Nesslaboda and walk on the narrow path along the ridge (immediately opposite the Trögli galleried section of the A13) to the Viamala visitor centre.

### C | Thusis–Bofel–Visitor centre

6.3 km | +560/-400 m difference in altitude | 2 hrs 30 min

**Route:** Thusis station–South roundabout–Übernolla–Bofel–Oberrongellen–Colra–Nesslaboda–Visitor centre.

**Description of the route:** From Thusis station via Thusis South roundabout to the Beverin restaurant. Turn right towards Übernolla. After approx. 250 m, turn left (opposite forestry yard). At the highest point, follow the road to Oberrongellen. At the hairpin bend, go straight on along the track through Aclatobel via Colra to the main road. The most direct way to the Viamala visitor centre is to the right through the Trögli tunnel. Alternatively, go left approx. 200 m north and turn right (follow signs for «viaSpluga» & «transviamala»!). Take the road down to the bridge over the Rhine. After the bridge, turn right to Nesslaboda and walk on the narrow path along the ridge (immediately opposite the Trögli galleried section of the A13) to the Viamala visitor centre.

### Footpath signs

#### Footpath



Paths suitable for everyone.  
Can be walked in normal shoes with no particular hazards.

#### Mountain footpath



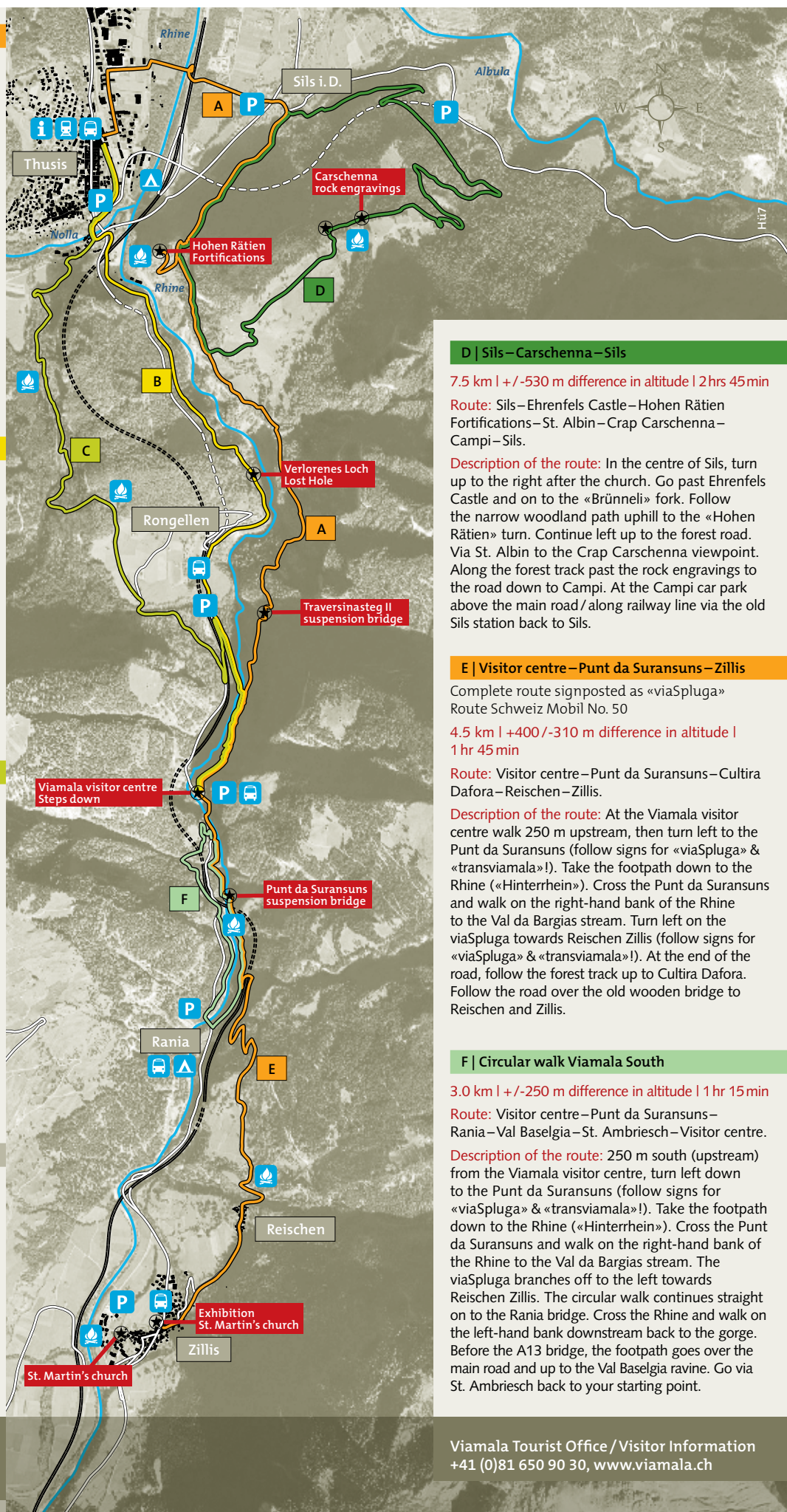
Paths for walkers with mountain experience. Equipment should include weatherproof clothing and suitable shoes with good grip.

#### Alpine route



Paths with alpine hazards. Sections requiring basic climbing skills or glaciers to be crossed. Mountaineering equipment.

Viamala visitor centre – descent into the gorge and info centre: April & Oct 09.00–18.00 hrs / May–Sept 08.00–19.00 hrs



### D | Sils–Carschenna–Sils

7.5 km | +/-530 m difference in altitude | 2 hrs 45 min

**Route:** Sils–Ehrenfels Castle–Hohen Rätien Fortifications–St. Albin–Crap Carschenna–Campi–Sils.

**Description of the route:** In the centre of Sils, turn up to the right after the church. Go past Ehrenfels Castle and on to the «Brünneli» fork. Follow the narrow woodland path uphill to the «Hohen Rätien» turn. Continue left up to the forest road. Via St. Albin to the Crap Carschenna viewpoint. Along the forest track past the rock engravings to the road down to Campi. At the Campi car park above the main road / along railway line via the old Sils station back to Sils.

### E | Visitor centre–Punt da Suransuns–Zillis

Complete route signposted as «viaSpluga»  
Route Schweiz Mobil No. 50

4.5 km | +400/-310 m difference in altitude | 1 hr 45 min

**Route:** Visitor centre–Punt da Suransuns–Cultira Dafora–Reischen–Zillis.

**Description of the route:** At the Viamala visitor centre walk 250 m upstream, then turn left to the Punt da Suransuns (follow signs for «viaSpluga» & «transviamala»!). Take the footpath down to the Rhine («Hinterrhein»). Cross the Punt da Suransuns and walk on the right-hand bank of the Rhine to the Val da Bargias stream. Turn left on the viaSpluga towards Reischen Zillis (follow signs for «viaSpluga» & «transviamala»!). At the end of the road, follow the forest track up to Cultira Dafora. Follow the road over the old wooden bridge to Reischen and Zillis.

### F | Circular walk Viamala South

3.0 km | +/-250 m difference in altitude | 1 hr 15 min

**Route:** Visitor centre–Punt da Suransuns–Rania–Val Baselgia–St. Ambriesch–Visitor centre.

**Description of the route:** 250 m south (upstream) from the Viamala visitor centre, turn left down to the Punt da Suransuns (follow signs for «viaSpluga» & «transviamala»!). Take the footpath down to the Rhine («Hinterrhein»). Cross the Punt da Suransuns and walk on the right-hand bank of the Rhine to the Val da Bargias stream. The viaSpluga branches off to the left towards Reischen Zillis. The circular walk continues straight on to the Rania bridge. Cross the Rhine and walk on the left-hand bank downstream back to the gorge. Before the A13 bridge, the footpath goes over the main road and up to the Val Baselgia ravine. Go via St. Ambriesch back to your starting point.

Viamala Tourist Office / Visitor Information  
+41 (0)81 650 90 30, [www.viamala.ch](http://www.viamala.ch)

# Highlights of the Viamala Wonderland!



**Hohen Rätien Fortification** Hohen Rätien is one of the oldest fortresses in the whole of Switzerland. It is built on a rock plateau, high above the Hinterrhein at the north entry to the Viamala gorge. Apart from the priest's tower, corner tower and farmhouse buildings, St. Johann church dominates Hohen Rätien today. Until 1500 this served as parish church for the villages on the Heinzenberg. Traces of a late Graeco-Roman aula church were likewise found on a rock outcrop already populated in the Bronze age, together with a baptistery and total-immersion font from the transition phase between the fifth and sixth centuries. [www.hohenraetien.ch](http://www.hohenraetien.ch)



**Carschenna rock engravings** Immediately in the neighbourhood of Hohen Rätien there are the mystical Carschenna rock engravings, regarded today as the most ancient cultural highlight of the Viamala. These numerous figures and ornaments engraved in the rock slabs were fortuitously discovered in 1965 by a forestry engineer. It is assumed today that these complex images, comprising concentric circles as well as animal figures, were engraved by our ancestors more than 3500 years ago. Hohen Rätien and Carschenna are open to the public free of charge. [www.viamala.ch](http://www.viamala.ch)



**Viamala gorge** The Viamala gorge is grandiose, historical and legendary all at the same time – an impressive natural monument with cliffs up to 300 m high, only a few metres apart at the narrowest points. In the past famous people such as Goethe, Nietzsche and C.F. Meyer recorded their impressions of trips through the Viamala for posterity, but now the gorge is easy to explore intimately thanks to the steps that have been built in the meantime. Via the Veia Traversina, a spectacular section of the viaSpluga, the Viamala gorge can also be explored over its entire length between Thusis and Zillis. [www.viamala-schlucht.ch](http://www.viamala-schlucht.ch)



**St. Martin's church, Zillis** Due to the Romanesque ceiling with its 153 painted wooden panels, this church is known as the «Sixtine of the Alps». And indeed, this twelfth century masterpiece is unique worldwide. The individual pictures tell biblical stories. You can learn the history of Zillis church ceiling at a permanent museum exhibition with contemporary items on show. The church and museum are open every day during the summer season. [www.zillis-st-martin.ch](http://www.zillis-st-martin.ch)



**viaSpluga: 2000 years of alpine transit** The viaSpluga, which passes through our region, is a star among the European cultural pilgrimage routes. Covering 65 kilometres of the former Roman roads still visible today, from Thusis via Splügen to Chiavenna in Italy, and is lined by innumerable cultural witnesses of national and international importance. This route brings alive 2000 years of transit history through diverse lingual and national cultures. Many tourists make use every year of the all-inclusive arrangements offered here, ensuring optimal hiking enjoyment by covering everything from hotel accommodation and tickets for the gorges, museums and thermal bath to baggage transport. The viaSpluga is open during the summer months from mid June until mid October. [www.viamala.ch](http://www.viamala.ch)



**Beverin Nature Park – Home of the ibexes!** Four valleys, two cultures, one park – deep gorges as the Viamala and the Roffla, intact villages, clear mountain lakes and ibexes. These imposing capricorns (Romansh for the ibex) live majestically in the rock faces around Piz Beverin (2998 metres) and watch over the Beverin Nature Park, where the wild and natural landscape invokes eternity. The objective of the Beverin Nature Park is to care for the valuable nature and to sustainably benefit from it, as well as to develop, promote and communicate the regional culture. Since 2013, the Beverin Nature Park has officially commenced its operations as a regional nature park of national importance. [www.naturpark-beverin.ch](http://www.naturpark-beverin.ch)