

# Trip to Col de Soladier<sup>1</sup>

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2002,  
Tizziana, Cleo, Sloba, Nina and me

David Portabella,  
Artificial Intelligence Laboratory  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology  
1015 Lausanne, Switzerland  
<http://david.portabella.name>  
[david@portabella.name](mailto:david@portabella.name)

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So, great, we have the people, we have the car. Now we have to decide the place. I said several times to Tizziana to buy a guide of Swiss mountains. She always disagrees, she wants to be completely spontaneous, Italian style. Ok. She says that she has the Swiss guide of Aoife in her office, at epfl. So, the plan is, I go to take Tizziana, then to take Sloba and Nina, then we go at epfl, and we select the mountain. Now it is 11h30, so maybe we can start hiking at 13h30... yes, when the sun shines the most.

good. good, good. So, I pick Tizziana and Cleo. Now, we reach Malley, and Sloba and Nina arrive. Nina has no shoes to go hiking, so we decide to go to Athleticum after epfl. We arrive epfl. Tizziana goes to look for the guide... but, what a surprise... his card is blocked, she cannot enter the university. great. no problem, we just can pick some village from Jura, and sure there will be paths for hiking.

We arrive at Athleticum (yes, there is an 'h' inside the word, but where??). Sloba knows that we are going to take some time... so he takes an ice-cream from the entrance, without paying! Serbian style? ok, she finds two pair of sports shoes... which ones to select? ones are blues, the others are completely white... umm, white and mountain don't match... the blue ones.

Then, we find the supervisor of Sloba. cool guy. Tizziana asks him about where to go hiking. He and his friend show us some places. One is near Montreaux, excellent for start walking at 14h00 :) So, we can go? Well, Sloba and Nina didn't have breakfast! Well, that's fine, because we presented them our plan just today in the morning. We go to the closest Migros (viva Migros, viva Easyjet!). They buy some sandwiches. Tizziana didn't have anything to eat neither... aiaiaiii!!!



We have everything!!! greattt!!!!!!

Straight to Montreaux. We reach, and we find the park. Not exactly the right one we wanted to go, but very close. We go to the tourist office. We are lucky, it is not Sunday, so it is open. Switzerland is a wonderful place for working. People don't work on Sunday, so obviously tourist information are closed. Of course, it is perfectly logic. People don't work, so what they could do on Sunday? traveling for example? tourist offices closed. obvious.

ok, we have chosen the mountain, we have the map, we have food and drink. we are ready! it is 14h00. The goal is Col de Soladier.

Let me go out, let me go out!! She is Cleo. We begin walking.

Nice... "Cutting trees, Path forbidden". Great. the tourist office are up to date.

don't matter, we go on; there is also other people there...

five minutes and we are tired. should we rest?

we find a couple, they ask us if we lost a dog. sure, we make a collection of dogs, we have Cleo and nineteen more.

we go on... we find a nice house. some pictures. we rest, we go on.

we find a great place to rest. there is also the possibility to cook there. maybe we can come another time there and have a barbecue, with music. only one problem, how to reach there without hiking? maybe there is a path for cars? no, but wait! great! there is a motorbike, Sportsman, Polaris 6x6! I asked the owner, he is so kind and he lets us the motorbike whenever we want! he gives us his number. I ride it for some time. Nina in the back.



We go on. we disagree on which direction to take to reach our goal. I say straight, they say right. As I am the expert, they submit to my claim.

we go on, and we reach the place, Col de Soladier! great!!! I was right, they make me a wave...

the view is good, but it is foggy :( we don't see much.

we have lunch. some bread, cheese and ham, also sandwiches and something that it is not yogurt. :)

it is not sunny at all. it is cold.

Tizziana luckily didn't put the sun cream. Nina is going to die of cold. I let her my unused shirt.

A funny woman passes with her car, and greets us. we also. we continue the way back. before they listened the professor, now it's time to let them practice. they decide the way, we go. we are lost. we find a little house. there's someone, a man. he is working hard. he doesn't speak French. a woman comes. she finds out that we are majority Romanian. she starts explaining her



life to Tizziana, in Romanian. also the way back. Tizziana listens her attentively, and agrees everything. We go on. Tizziana understood all the

Romanian talk, so we don't have problems, we find the way easily. there is a little slope, great for Cleo, she enjoyed much running there. on the way there is a nice bridge.

We go on. we find the "childs" of Cleo. they, the cows, instantaneously find out Cleo is her mother. they smell her. they are in love with her.

We go on. Slobo and Nina reach their car, and wait for us three.

good. great. we did it! don't know how many meters high, but we did it. thanks to our strength, motivation, perseverance and the map Tizziana bought (by the way, I found it, I have it in my car).

we go back home. when we are in the autoroute, someone begs to stop at Luttry. Luttry... everybody knows this little village, what's magic in there? we all accept the petition. we go. yes, the lakeside is great. we go for a walk. the begger is happy. how easy is making him happy! we go back to home. à la prochaine!



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<sup>1</sup> if something does not adjust to reality, most sure it was a mistake. forgive me.