



Rifugio Branca 2493 m - ORTLES-CEVEDALE GROUP

CLASSIC ALPINE MOUNTAINEERING ROUTES – Val Rosole - Stelvio National Park - Valfurva (SO)

Monte Vioz 3645 m

This is a massive mountain covered with a large ice cap. It is one of the most important peaks of the Forni basin. Well-known for its views it is now very popular amongst excursionists coming from the Trentino side thanks to the lifts that take people up to the altitude of 3000 meters. On the Valtellina side, apart from a short steep section that leads to the top basin of the glacier, this route is quite gentle and tranquil and leads you to the summit gradually with no effort. Below the summit, towards the east, you find a big wooden cross and shortly below you find the Rifugio Vioz "Mantova" the highest refuge of the eastern Alps, located on the top of a rocky plateau at an altitude of 3535 meters.

Alpine difficulty: good skier.

Period: from the beginning of March until the middle of May

Starting Altitude: 2493 m rifugio Branca

Arrival altitude: 3645 m

Vertical Height gain: 1195 m – 1295 m passing through the Palon de la Mare/itinerary 1c.

Orientation: SW-W-NW classic route/ NW-SW-S-W from the Cime di Pejo/ SW-W from the Palon de la Mare

Where to stay: Rifugio Branca – near the Lago di Rosole – It can be reached in about one hour following the Forni mountaineering itinerary – Open from the beginning of March Phone / Fax +39 0342.935501 – info@rifugiobranca.it

Time of ascent: 3/4 and half hours depending on the weather conditions and the physical preparation.

Maps: Kompass 072 Parco Nazionale dello Stelvio 1:50 000 – Tabacco 08 Ortles-Cevedale 1:25.000

Important Note: Always carefully check the weather and snow forecast here: ARPA Lombardia – www.arpalombardia.it/meteo – www.aineva.it

Equipment: basic mountaineering equipment and Self Rescue Kit (ARTVA avalanche transceivers), shovel and probe

Beware: part of the itinerary goes through a glacier or through difficult terrains. For this reason, please make sure that you have the suitable equipment and a first-aid kit with you.

Classic route

From the Rifugio Branca, follow the easy narrow route till you reach the plateau below in the proximity of the Lago di Rosole. From here, move in a south-easterly direction, keeping above the ancient and evident lateral moraine follow it gradually uphill to its end. Now climb a steep slope towards the left to get to the base of two narrow and evident couloirs. Continue towards the right and move up through the right couloir or turning decisively right, moving under a rocky section, along the ridge that – towards the north – leads to a plateau. From here head right on a plain route at the base of a rocky section that descends from the Palon de la Mare. Following a steep diagonal slope towards the right, you reach a small saddle that leads you to the wide plateau above. Heading towards the Passo of the Vedretta Rossa, the lowest point between the Palon de la Mare and the Monte Vioz, gradually ascend along the entire glacial highland and – in the proximity of the hump – following a semicircular route, you reach the easy and long snowy hump that leads to the summit. The highest point is towards the east and with trigonometric point.

1a.

From the Lago di Rosole descend following the normally well-trodden road just above the first hairpin turn.

From here, halfway on the slope, cross the base of the lateral moraine horizontally till the evident couloir. After climbing the short final steep section, you get to a wide plateau with small carved valleys. Continue on the plateau and keep fifty meters to the right of the steep moraine side to enter the glacier, keeping on the left side of the evident central line of the medial moraine. After arriving to a new plateau turn left to climb the evident ridge that leads to the base of two narrow and evident couloirs to join up with the classic route.

From the Cime di Pejo 1b.

Following the route of the Cime di Pejo, once at the col at 3220 m, it is possible, moving in a north-westerly direction, to cross the entire plain on the top eastern basin of the Forni glacier to join up with the classic ascent route slightly before the Passo della Vedretta Rossa.

From the Palon de la Mare 1c. Following the classic route at the Palon de la Mare, once you are on the last plateau before the south-west ridge, head towards the south to an altitude of 3516 m. From here descend the evident steep south-east couloir (around 100 m of vertical height gain) that makes you join up – going to the left – with the classic route.

Note: the steep section that leads to the top basin of the Glacier in the classic route should be ascended without skis. The routes 1b. and 1c. are recommended to avoid – in the classic route – the steep section of the south-west ridge that descends from the Palon de la Mare.

Descent

Follow the classic ascent route.

Alternative descents

d1. From the base of the two parallel couloirs, it is possible to descend straight through the steep couloir that leads directly to the plateau of the Forni glacier below.

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