



RIFUGIO BRANCA - VAL DEI FORNI - VALFURVA (SO)

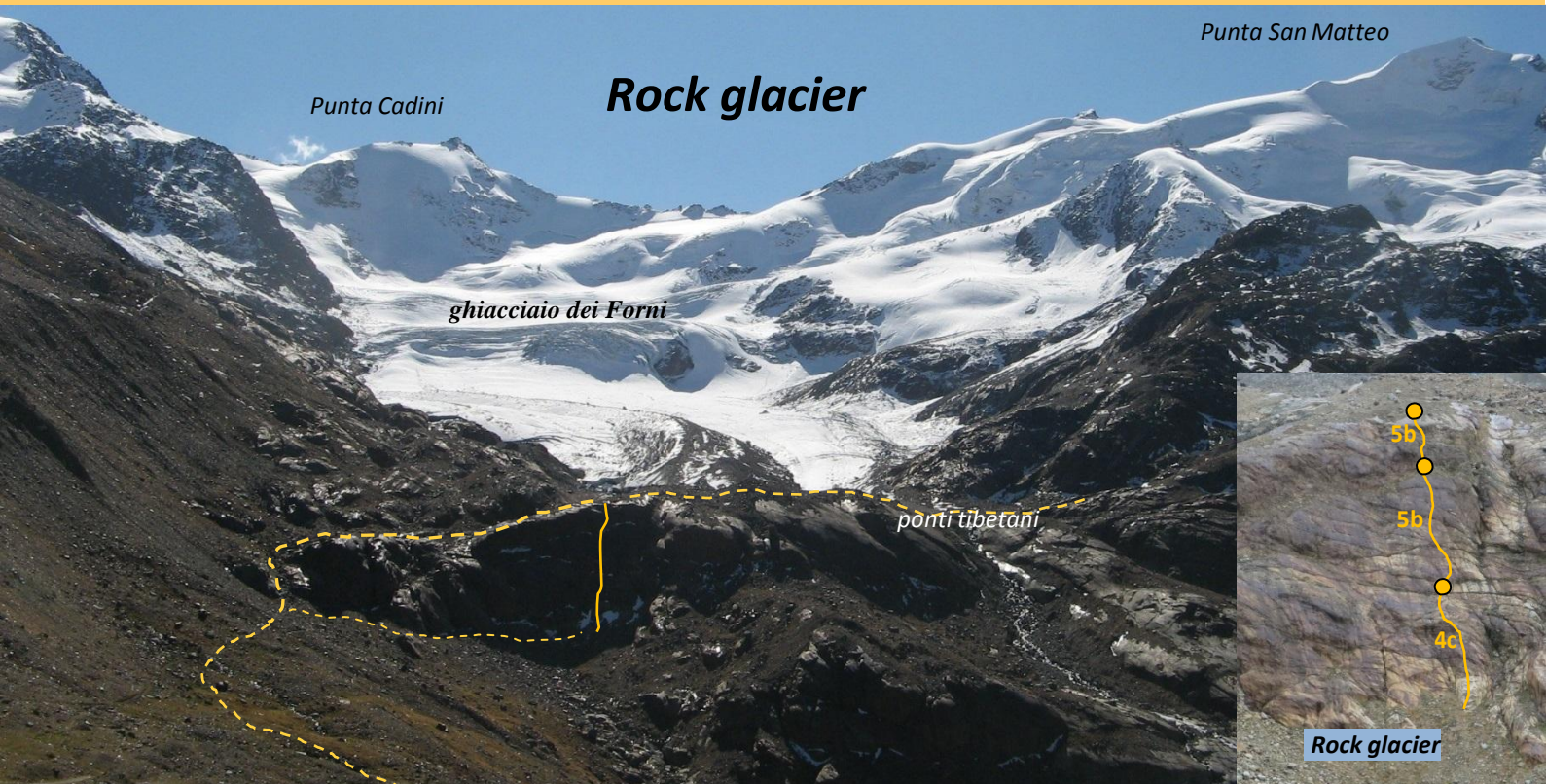
CLIMBING NEAR THE RIFUGIO BRANCA

BASTIONATA DEL GHIACCIAIO DEI FORNI THE PINNACLES 2500 m

Unbelievable!!! Now it is possible to climb where in 1980 the head of the Forni Glacier used to be, with a thickness of around 30 meters. As a result of glacier withdrawal, due to global warming, these smooth and polished rocks with incredible streaked colors have emerged.

The cliff is rather easy and the rock is incredibly beautiful.

The difficulty is low with small clear holds and some section of friction climbing.



Access: from Santa Caterina Valfurva follow the road that climbs up the Valley Forni (2178 meters). Park the car close to Rifugio/Hotel Ghiacciaio dei Forni, continue on the dirt road that leads to the Rifugio Branca at an altitude of 2487 meters (signs).

Continue past the rifugio on the trail that cross a small bridge near the waterfall, then descend to the meadow below near the lake (di Rosole). Continue following the trail that leads to the Tibetan bridges and to the Forni glacier traversing the lateral morain until you arrive at the base of the rock cliffs. Here turn right and follow a track marked by cairns that follows the base of the cliff until you arrive to the base of the evident rampart (a plaque with the name of the track can be found at the start).

From the Forni – one hour and ten minutes. From the Rifugio Branca – twenty minutes.

Length of the route: 80 m, 3 pitches. Difficulty: maximum **5b** (**5a** obligatory) 1. **4c** – 30 m – slab. 2. **5b** – 30 m – slab. 3. **5b** – small wall – 20 m

Route protection: 15 bolts 10 mm, + 7 for belay, equipped for eventual rappel. **Rack:** 8 quickdraws, 50 m rope, gear for belay.

Descent: follow the trail left to return to Rifugio Branca, or turn right, crossing the two Tibetans bridges on the glacier trail to return to the Forni parking area. You can also rappel with a single 60 m rope or two 50 m ropes.

The route was opened on the 27th of September 2000 by the Alpine Guides Eraldo Meraldi and Bruno Antonioli.

The equipment was kindly provided by the management at the Rifugio Branca.

Suggested period: from June to October. **Orientation:** north-north-west **Altitude:** 2500 m. **Rifugio Branca:** Phone: +39 0342.935501