



**Rifugio Branca 2493 m - ORTLES-CEVEDALE GROUP**

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

**Southern descents from the Monte dei Forni, eastern Cima dei Forni, central Cima dei Forni, western Cima dei Forni, Cima Manzina, Monte Confinale.**

Beautiful descents in one of the most unspoilt and peaceful corners of the Stelvio National Park. The return from the Vedretta dei Castelli to the southern Passo Zebrù or to the northern Passo Zebrù, completes the outing and make it a unique and unforgettable itinerary.

**Alpine difficulty:** Monte dei Forni **from the eastern Vedretta dei Castelli - d4.** Top skier  
Eastern Cima dei Forni SW: **from the central Vedretta dei Castelli - d5.** good skier  
Western Cima dei Forni: **from the western Vedretta dei Castelli - d6.** top skier  
Cima Manzina: **from the Vedretta Montagna Vecchia - d7.** Top skier  
Monte Confinale: **from the Vedretta del Forà - d8.** good skier.

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

**Starting Altitude:** 2150 m Forni

**Arrival altitude:** Monte dei Forni 3243 - eastern SW Cima dei Forni 3223 m - Central Cima dei Forni 3240 m - western Cima dei Forni 3232 m - Cima Manzina 3318 m - Monte Confinale 3370 m

**Vertical height gain:** **at the southern Passo Zebrù 3012 m** from an altitude of 2650 m: 362 m  
**at the northern Passo Zebrù 3001 m** from an altitude of 2650 m: 351 m  
**at the southern Passo Zebrù 3012 m** from an altitude of 2550 m: 462 m  
**at the northern Passo Zebrù 3001 m** from an altitude of 2550 m: 451 m  
**at the southern Passo Zebrù 3012 m** from an altitude of 2400 m: 612 m  
**at the northern Passo Zebrù 3001 m** from an altitude of 2400 m: 601 m  
**at the southern Passo Zebrù 3012 m** from an altitude of 2150 m: 862 m  
**at the northern Passo Zebrù 3001 m** from an altitude of 2150 m: 851 m

**Orientation of the descents:** N-NE **Orientation of the ascent:** Vedretta Castelli and ascent from the northern Passo Zebrù: NW-W

**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:** 1 hour/2 and a 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.

**Northern descents from the Monte dei Forni to the Monte Confinale**

Reach the summits following the itineraries suggested in other tables - All the descent itineraries are also suitable ascents.

**Monte dei Forni - from the Vedretta of the eastern Castelli: d4.**

From the summit ski down in a westerly direction to reach the col below. Beware of the sharp ridge and the short crag. (This point can also be reached from the eastern Cima dei Forni in an easterly direction following the ridge up to an altitude of 3247 m descending at the col.) From here descend the steep and narrow couloir amongst the rocks that leads to the eastern Vedretta dei Castelli.

**Eastern Cima dei Forni SW - from the central Vedretta dei Castelli: d5.**

From the summit in a westerly direction descend along the steep ridge to the evident col. From here ski down the wide valley in a northerly direction till the valley floor in proximity of the Zebrù stream at an altitude of about 2550 m. The starting point of this descent can also be reached moving up to the central Cima dei Forni till the eastern col just before the summit.

**Western Cima dei Forni - from the western Vedretta dei Castelli: d6.**

From the summit in an easterly direction reach the col below. From here descend along the first very steep section following the wide valley to the valley floor in a north-easterly direction. As for itinerary d5.

**Cima Manzina - from the Vedretta Montagna Vecchia: d7.**

From the Cima della Manzina descend the last steep section towards the south, then moving towards east to ascend the slope that leads to the ridge for just a few meters of vertical height gain. From here descend the initially very steep wide valley in a northerly direction to reach the proximity of the Malga dei Castelli at an altitude of around 2400 m.



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**Monte Confinale – from the Vedretta del Forà: d8.**

From the summit of the Monte Confinale move to the saddle near the Bivacco del Piero. From here descend along the Vedretta del Forà in a northerly direction. Around halfway down the descent turn towards the north-east and continue on the steep final section to the valley floor at an altitude of 2150 m.

**Ascent to the Passo Zebrù**

**Ascent to the northern Passo Zebrù: 1c.** From the plateau ascend the steep section in an easterly direction and with logical itinerary turn right to reach the northern Passo di Zebrù. From here you can easily join the itineraries of ascent.

**1d.** Following the valley floor in an easterly direction head up to the small plateau at an altitude of 2650 m. Continue in a southerly direction moving towards the eastern Vedretta dei Castelli. Once you reach an altitude of 2900 m turn east and go by a couple of steep sections to arrive to the northern Passo di Zebrù. From here you can easily join the itineraries of ascent.

**Ascent to the southern Passo Zebrù: 1e.** From an altitude of 2900 m of the itinerary **1d.** continue towards a south-easterly direction on regular slopes. From here you can easily join the itineraries of ascent.

**Descent from the Vedretta del Forà: d8.** The return is also possible continuing the descent along the entire Val Zebrù (long plain sections) till Madonna dei Monti. Alternatively ascend towards the Passi di Zebrù (850 m of downhill vertical height gain) following the southern slope near the valley floor to an altitude of 2400 m, then follow the itineraries **1c. – 1d. – 1e.**

CIMA ZEBRU' 3119 m - MONTE DEI FORNI 3243 m  
CIMA DEI FORNI ORIENTALE SW 3223 m - CIMA DEI FORNI CENTRALE 3240 m  
CIMA DEI FORNI OCCIDENTALE 3232 m  
CIMA MANZINA 3318 m - MONTE CONFINALE 3370 m

