



Rifugio Branca 2493 m - ORTLES-CEVEDALE GROUP

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

Cima Zebrù 3119 m - Southern Passo Zebrù 3012

Simple and tranquil itinerary offering great views of the Val Cedec and the Val Zebrù. The extra descent towards the higher Val Zebrù from the southern Passo di Zebrù along the Vedretta dei Castelli is one of the most beautiful and interesting amongst the descents of medium difficulty in the area. The outing ends climbing the northern Passo di Zebrù or at the southern Passo di Zebrù, also called Passo dei Castelli, which join with the initial ascent itineraries.

Alpine difficulty: Medium skier

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

Starting Altitude: 2493 m rifugio Branca-2180 Ponticello Cedec

Arrival altitude: 3119 m **Cima Zebrù** - 3012 m southern **Passo Zebrù**

Vertical Height gain Cima Zebrù: 939 m - descending from the Vedretta dei Castelli and ascending to the northern Passo Zebrù + 351 m - 1290 m to the southern Passo Zebrù + 362 m - 1301 m

Vertical height gain at the southern Passo Zebrù 3012 m: 832 m - descending to the Vedretta dei Castelli and ascending to the northern Passo Zebrù + 351 m - 1183 m - at the southern Passo Zebrù + 362 m - 1194 m

Orientation: S-SE-E **Orientation Vedretta Castelli and ascent to 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: 2 and a half hours/3 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

Cima Zebrù: classic itinerary.

From the Rifugio Branca follow the easy road and descend to the plateau below in proximity of the Lago di Rosole. Continue on the usually well-trodden road on the plain at an altitude of 2300 m. Continue descending to the right of the stream "Frodolfo" up to the small bridge on the stream "Cedec"(2180 m). From here start climbing in a northerly direction to the Forni hut (Itinerary **1a.**). Continue on the well-trodden slope and then descend for a short section to the Ponte della Girella. Now ascend on the opposite side to join up with the mule track that leads to the Rifugio Pizzini. Follow it to easily get to the Rifugio. Now head west following the gentle slopes to reach a wide plateau. Now head up on the steep slope on the left of the evident ridge that descends slightly on the right of the northern Passo di Zebrù and halfway up the slope turn on the left towards the pass. Follow the ridge towards the south that after a short steep section leads you to the summit.

1f. When you join up with the mule track towards the Rifugio Pizzini, slightly above the Ponte della Girella, continue climbing the steep slope above to reach plainer area. Continue in a northerly direction to reach the plateau below at the southern Passo di Zebrù first and then the northern Passo di Zebrù.

Southern Passo Zebrù: 1b. A few hundred meters before the plateau below the Cima Zebrù (itinerary **1f.**) ascend towards the left following the small valley of the Rio Grande till when you reach the southern Passo di Zebrù at an altitude of 3012 m.

Descent

Follow the ascents itineraries.

Alternative descents

d1. Just before the summit, it is possible to descend directly to the plateau below along the steep slope.

d2. From the Cima Zebrù towards the south-west along the steep ridge till the southern Passo Zebrù.

d3. From the southern passo di Zebrù: from the Pass descend to the Val Zebrù following the first part of the Vedretta dei Castelli and continue in the beautiful valley towards the north, till the final plateau at an altitude of 2650 m.

d4. From the northern Passo di Zebrù: from the Pass descend directly to the Val Zebrù following the evident wide valley below till the plateau at an altitude of 2650 meters.

Ascent to the Passo Zebrù from the Val Zebrù

To the northern Passo Zebrù: 1c. From the plateau ascend the steep section towards the east and then in logical direction turn right to get to the northern Passo di Zebrù. From here you can easily join the ascent itineraries.

At the northern Passo Zebrù: 1d. Start ascending in a southerly direction towards the eastern Vedretta dei Castelli. At an altitude of 2900 m turn east and after a couple of steep sections you arrive to the northern Passo di Zebrù above (3020 m). From here you can easily join the ascent itineraries.

At the southern Passo Zebrù: 1e. From an altitude of 2900 m (see itinerary 1d.) continue in a south-easterly direction on regular slopes to easily get to the southern Passo di Zebrù. From here return from the ascent itineraries.

CIMA ZEBRÙ 3119 m - **SOUTHERN PASSO ZEBRÙ** 3012 m

