



Rifugio Branca 2493 m - ORTLES-CEVEDALE GROUP

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

Cima delle Pale Rosse – Northern Cima 3419 – Southern Cima 3401

Simple and greatly satisfying itinerary in a charming environment on the slopes of the Gran Zebrù and its basal glacier. The final sections are very different and technical and are extremely interesting from a mountaineering point of view. The descent from the Vedretta della Miniera offers great views of the solitary corners of the higher Val Zebrù.

Alpine difficulty: Medium skier – Good skier for the descent from the Vedretta della Miniera

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

Starting Altitude: 2493 m Rifugio Branca -2180 Ponticello Cedec

Arrival altitude: 3419 m northern Cima delle Pale Rosse – 3401 m southern Cima delle Pale Rosse

Vertical Height gain: 1239 m northern Cima – 1221 southern Cima – descent from the Vedretta della Miniera and ascent to the northern Passo Zebrù + 351 m – 1590 m – to the southern Passo Zebrù + 362 m – 1601 m.

Orientation: northern Cima Pale Rosse: S-SE-N / southern Cima Pale Rosse: S-SE-NE

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 half hour/3 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.

Northern Cima delle Pale Rosse – 3419 m: Classic itinerary.

From the Rifugio Branca follow the easy road and descend to the plateau below in the proximity of the Lago di Rosole. Continue on the usually well-trodden road on the plain at an altitude of 2300 m. Descend on 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.

Continue towards the north with no obligatory itinerary, towards the evident rocky band which can be found at the base of the southern face of the Gran Zebrù. Go around it on the left to enter the Gran Zebrù hanging glacier. At the base of the impressive south face of the Gran Zebrù turn left following the logical line of the Colle delle Pale Rosse at an altitude of 3363 m. At the col head towards left in a south-westerly direction, ascend a steep slope to reach the edge on the left (it is better to remove the skis below this section). Then follow the ridge for a short section to easily reach the northern Cima delle Pale Rosse at an altitude of 3419 m.

Northern Cima delle Pale Rosse – 3446 m: 1e. It is possible to continue to the higher point of the Cima delle Pale Rosse following the northern ridge with mixed and friable sections.

1f. Alternatively, close to the Colle delle Pale Rosse, it is possible to ascend from the north-east face following the steep snow-covered slope which leads directly to the summit at an altitude of 3446 m.

Southern Cima delle Pale Rosse: 1g.

Just before the Colle delle Pale Rosse, turn left towards the evident southern Colle at an altitude of 3360 m. Once you are close to the southern Colle continue towards the south till you get to a ridge. Remove your skis and ascend along the steep final edge till the summit.

Descent

Follow the ascents itineraries.

Alternative descents

From the Vedretta della Miniera: d1.

From the Colle delle Pale Rosse slightly descend in a westerly direction for about 200 meters. Once here descend on the glacier tongue towards the higher Val Zebrù (beware of the seracs) keeping on the left, in the centre or on the right (depending on the condition of the seracs and on the amount of snow). After the steepest and most demanding section, continue to descend keeping at the centre of the small valley and once you reach the lower part turn slightly to the right. Once you get close to the typical valley - created by the pressure of the now noticeably withdrawn glacier - turn left to the evident plateau at an altitude of 2650 m.

Ascent to the Passo Zebrù

At the northern Passo Zebrù: 1b From the plateau ascend on the steep section in an easterly direction and following a logical line turn to the right to get to the northern Passo Zebrù. From here you can easily join the ascent itineraries.

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

At the southern Passo Zebrù: 1d. 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 you can easily join the ascent itineraries.

CIME DELLE PALE ROSSE Northern Cima 3419 m – Southern Cima 3401 m

