



Rifugio Branca 2493 m - ORTLES-CEVEDALE GROUP

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

Monte Giumella 3594 m

Excellent alternative to the well-known mountaineering route to the Punta San Matteo. The ascent from the Colle degli Orsi leads you to one of the most remote and silent corners of the Forni glacier.

Alpine difficulty: good skier

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

Starting Altitude: 2493 m rifugio Branca-2450 Lago di Rosole

Arrival altitude: 3594 m

Vertical Height gain: 1144

Orientation: NW-N-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 a half hours/3 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.

Classic Route from the north face.

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 and 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 keeping fifty meters to the right of the steep moraine side enter the glacier. Head close to the edge of the medial moraine and go past it. Continue towards the south and on a rather plain section. Then start ascending towards the evident triangle-shaped rock formation, bypass it on the left avoiding the steepest parts to reach a plainer section.

Ascend towards the right, passing below some huge seracs till when they end slightly on the right, bypass a very steep section to reach the final plateau of this route. Ascend in a south-easterly direction on the last slight slope that leads to the base of the short north ridge of the Monte Giumella. Leave the skis at the base and follow the ridge bypassing some rocks on the left up to the top where a wooden summit cross has been recently erected.

From the Colle degli Orsi

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 and 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, keeping at around fifty meters to the right of the steep moraine side to enter the glacier. Head close to the edge of the medial moraine and follow it in a south-easterly direction almost up to its end. Descend on the glacier towards the right and continue till the base of the evident rocky side. After crossing a steep area with crevasses you arrive to a wide plateau. Continue in the same direction ascending another short steep section that leads to the base of the hidden south-east couloir that leads to the Cime di Pejo. Continue on an almost plain terrain in a southerly direction passing below the north-west face of the Punta Cadini to then head to the right to the Colle degli Orsi at an altitude of 3304 m (lowest point of the 13 Peaks route.) Move on the right of the north – east ridge, after passing a short steep section first and then a sharp section, you arrive to the base of the short and easy north ridge of the Monte Giumella. Leave the skis at the base and follow the ridge to the summit avoiding some small rocks.

Descent

Follow the ascents itineraries.

Alternative descents

Through the north - east hump

d1. Descend on the first part of the classic route, at the beginning of the wide northern seracs, head north on the small and evident spur at an altitude of 3260 m. Go around it from the left and descend the steep slope that leads directly to the wide plateau of the Forni glacier. Then, towards the right, join up with the ascent itinerary.

Through the north seracs: d.2

Descend in a northerly direction for around 200 meter, then turn to the right above the evident seracs and descend for around 300 meters. Move downwards on the steep slope for around one hundred meters and then go right. Continue to descend into the following depression up to the plateau below. Then, follow the ascent route on the north side or continue to descend towards the north around the basal bedrock of the Cime di Pejo to get to the left of the evident medial moraine. From here, continue on the final plateau of the Forni glacier.

MONTE GIUMELLA 3594 m

