



Rifugio Branca 2493 m - ORTLES-CEVEDALE GROUP

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

Cima Branca 3000 m

The Cima Branca is not really a true peak but rather a ledge on the long southern ridge that descends from the Monte Pasquale. The spectacular views of the overlying kettle basins and the low difficulty level of this route have turned this peak into a popular destination among many itineraries of the Forni area. This route is a must-do. It has not to be considered just as a fallback for bad weather days or as something too easy to be enjoyed. Right on the contrary: it is highly recommended for the beautiful descents on its southern slopes.

Alpine difficulty: Medium skier – good skier

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

Starting Altitude: 2493 m rifugio Branca

Arrival altitude: 3000 m

Vertical Height gain: 507 m

Orientation: S-E-N

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/1 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

Classic route

From the Rifugio Branca ascend in a north-easterly direction to enter the Val Rosole,gradually heading to right of the evident medial moraine line. Go around it till its end and then decisively turn left toward the west to entirely cross the plateau. Now head up to the centre of amphitheatre. Then turn left in the last section to reach the large round summit quickly.

1a. From just above the Rifugio Branca, keep on the left of the evident medial moraine line and then follow the previous itinerary just before the steepest section.

1b. After climbing the steepest section on the left of the evident medial moraine line,turn decisively to the left in proximity of the southern ridge of the Cima Branca. Follow it to the summit

3011: 1c. In the last uphill section of the classic route,turn right to reach an altitude of 3011m.,always along the southern ridge of the Monte Pasquale

Descent

Follow the ascents itineraries.

Alternative descents

From the south ridge: The southern ridge offers descents,depending on the snow conditions,both towards the Val Rosole and the plateau of the Valle dei Forni or from the south-western ridge or also towards the Val Cedec directly.These descents are particularly suitable with a stable snowpack.

From 3011 m (itinerary 1c.): Move north towards the small col and then move down into steep and narrow western couloir that descends towards the Val Cedec. About halfway down the slope, turn left towards the Rifugio Branca

CIMA BRANCA 3000 m

Monte Cevedale

