



## Rifugio Branca 2493 m - ORTLES-CEVEDALE GROUP

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

### Monte Pasquale 3553 m

The Monte Pasquale is a very busy Alpine route because it offers two itineraries with opposite orientations. In the south and in the Val di Rosole the snowpack is usually well bonded and stable and in the north, along the Vedretta di Cedec, the snow is often powdery also later in the season. Magnificent views of the whole Forni area, in particular of the glacier flows that descend from the Monte Cevedale. It is very interesting to ascend from the south or from the north and then descend from the opposite side

**Alpine difficulty:** good skier

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

**Starting Altitude:** 2493 m Rifugio Branca-2180 m Ponticello Cedec

**Arrival altitude:** 3553 m

**Vertical Height gain:** 1060 m. from the Rifugio Branca-1373 m. from the Ponticello Cedec.

**Orientation:** S-E of the Val Rosole/S-SW southern ledge/S-W-NW-E- from the Vedretta Cedec

**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 hours-3 and a half hours from the Val Rosole-3/4 hours from the Val Cedec- 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 suitable equipment and a first-aid kit with you

#### Classic route from Val Rosole

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. Then proceed to the centre of the valley. Once you reach the base of the couloirs that descends from the Colle del Pasquale, follow it upwards almost to its end and then head to the left till you reach a plain ridge, one hundred meters away from the col. From here, follow the wide eastern ridge till when you reach the last thinner section of the northern ridge to get to the plain summit.

**Alternative routes 1b:** From just above the Rifugio Branca, keep on the left of the evident medial moraine line of the Val Rosole and move along its left side till you join up with the classic route.

**From the southern ridge 1a.** At the end of the end of the medial moraine gradually move to the left keeping on the right of the evident rocky spur that descends from the southern ridge of the Monte Pasquale. In this way, you enter a small amphitheatre. From here move upwards and keep mainly on the left to reach the southern ridge. Follow it to its very end and go through its middle steeper section, to reach the summit

#### Classic Route from the Val Cedec

From the Rifugio Branca, follow the easy narrow route till you reach the plateau below in the proximity of the Lago di Rosole. Keep following this usually well-trodden route till the plain at an altitude of 2300m. Move downhill on the right of the Frodolfo stream to the small bridge on the stream Cedec (2180m.) From here start ascending in a northerly direction till the Forni mountain hut (**itinerary 1c**). Follow the well-trodden route descending for a short section to the Ponte della Girella. Head upwards on the opposite side till you join up with a mule track that easily leads to Rifugio Pizzini. Continue in a north-easterly direction almost till the start of the cableway that leads to the Rifugio Casati. Just before that turn right towards the east moving below the evident rocky face that ascends to the Monte Cevedale. Keep on the very left side of the glacier till when you reach a wide plateau at around 3200 m. Move in a southerly direction to reach going through a final steep section the Colle del Pasquale. Avoid the terminal crevasse, keeping on its right or on its left, keep right of the eastern ridge to quickly reach the summit.

#### Descent

Follow the ascents itineraries.

#### Alternative descents

**From the southern side: d1** From the summit descend along the first section of the ridge to then join up with the steep southern side that leads directly to the Val Rosole. Alternatively move downhill along a section of the ridge till you join with the steep slope on the right.

# MONTE PASQUALE 3553 m

Gran Zebrù

