



Rifugio Branca 2493 m - ORTLES-CEVEDALE GROUP

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

Palon de la Mare 3703 m

The favourable orientation and the great views from the top, turn this mountaineering route into one of the most popular classic itineraries of this majestic mountain and a must-do in the Forni area. Normally the snowpack of this route bonds rapidly, so that the descent is sometimes a bit crusty but always in good skiing conditions. After a good snowfall it is more beautiful and highly recommended, for a run which will remain in your heart forever.

Alpine difficulty: good skier/ top skier for the slope from the Col de la Mare NW.

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

Starting Altitude: 2493 m rifugio Branca

Arrival altitude: 3703 m

Vertical Height gain: 1253 m

Orientation: SW-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: 3/4 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 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, keeping above the ancient and evident lateral moraine follow it gradually uphill to its end. Now climb a steep slope towards the left to get to the base of two narrow and evident couloirs. Usually you ascend from the left couloir till when you reach the wide glacial plateau. You continue in a northerly direction keeping in the middle of the basin. Then climb the slope on the right of the evident south-west ridge of the Palon de la Mare. Once you arrive to another plateau, beware of the crevasses and turn decisively to the right. Continue to ascend gradually till the proximity of the final ridge. Move along it with small hairpin turns since it is steep and narrow in some short parts. The final one hundred meters are plain and easily lead – in a northerly direction to the summit.

1a. From the Lago di Rosole descend following the normally well-trodden road, just above the first hairpin turn. From here, halfway up the slope, cross the base of the lateral moraine horizontally till the evident couloir. After ascending the short and steep final section you get to a wide plateau with small carved valleys. Continue on the plateau keeping fifty meters to the right of the steep moraine slope to enter the glacier to the left side of evident central line of the medial moraine. Once you arrive on a new plateau, turn left and climb the evident ridge that leads to the base of two narrow and evident couloirs to join up with the classic route.

Note: The last steep part of the ridge often lacks of snow and it is normally icy.

Descent

Follow the ascents itineraries.

Alternative descents

d1. From the base of the two parallel small couloirs, it is possible to descend straight through the steep couloir that leads directly to the Forni glacier below.

d2. Descending from the classic route, at an altitude of around 3050 m., head to the right, on the south- south-west ridge ascending for a few ten meters. Then descend directly along the wide western side. **From the Col de la Mare**

on the north-west side d3. From the summit follow the ridge towards the north. Move downwards just before the Colle de la Mare and then descend on the steep side till the Val Rosole. Keeping to the left of the medial moraine you reach the proximity of the Rifugio Branca.

PALON DE LA MARE 3703 m

