



Rifugio Branca 2493 m - ORTLES-CEVEDALE GROUP

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

Punta Taviela 3612 m

Beautiful mountain amongst the magnificent seracs of the top eastern basin of the Forni glacier. Great views from the summit both towards the mountains of Trentino and towards the mountains of the Valtellina. Apparently inaccessible with the skis it instead offers beautiful ascents in one of the most remote corners of the Forni area. Passing through the Cime di Pejo this mountaineering route is not particularly demanding, but for a short initial steep section. The ascent from the northern side is more technical and leads into an extraordinary and charming environment of rare beauty.

Alpine difficulty: top skier for the Colle del Vioz – good skier for the Cime di Pejo.

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

Starting Altitude: 2493 m rifugio Branca

Arrival altitude: 3612 m

Vertical Height gain: 1162 m from the Colle di Vioz – 1190 from the Cime di Pejo

Orientation: SW-NW-N passing through the Colle del Vioz/NW-SW-W from the Cime di Pejo

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 hours/4.45 and 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

Route from the Colle Del Vioz

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. Continue towards the right and move up through the right couloir or turning decisively right, moving under a rocky section, along the ridge that – towards the north – leads to a plateau. From here head right on a plain route at the base of a rocky section that descends from the Palon de la Mare. Following a steep diagonal slope towards the right, you reach a small saddle that leads you to the wide plateau above. Head in a west-southwesterly direction towards the Colle del Vioz till you get to the base of the steep northern slope of the Punta Taviela to climb it to the left (if necessary, remove the skis) to get to the final ridge. Following the now easier northern ridge you reach the summit.

1a. From the Lago di Rosole 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 to enter the glacier, keeping on the left side of the evident central line of the medial moraine. After arriving to a new plateau turn left to climb the evident ridge that leads to the base of two narrow and evident couloirs to join up with the classic route.

1b. Following the itinerary of the Cime di Pejo, after arriving at the col at an altitude of 3220 m, it is possible - going in a north-westerly direction and avoiding the evident rocks towards the right - to join up with the ascent route just before the Colle del Vioz.

From the Cime di Pejo

1c. Follow the classic itinerary of the Cime di Pejo that leads to the summit of the east Peak at 3576 m. From here descent towards the west on a short steep section to the left of the rocks to reach the proximity of the west ridge of the Punta Taviela. Keep on its left to reach the summit.

Descent

Follow the ascents itineraries.

Alternative descents

From the north-west seracs d1.

From the north ridge of the Punta Taviela descend just before the steep section of the north side. From here descend to the right of the seracs (beware of the crevasses)

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