



Rifugio Branca 2493 m - ORTLES-CEVEDALE GROUP

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

Cima San Giacomo 3281 m - Punta Cerena 3167 m

In front of the surrounding 13 Cime, this peak offers great itineraries with various and fun descends amongst the most beautiful of the area. The snow remains powdery for a long time.

Alpine difficulty: good skier - Cima San Giacomo/medium skier - Classic Route and Punta Cerena.

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

Starting Altitude: 2493 m Rifugio Branca - 2450 Lago di Rosole -2300 m Piana dei Forni Orientali -2200 base of the San Giacomo couloir

Arrival altitude: Cima San Giacomo 3281 m from the Rifugio Branca - Punta Cerena 3167 m

Vertical height gain: Cima San Giacomo 831 m from the Rifugio Branca -981 m from the Canalino dell'Isola Persa -1181 m from the north/Punta Cerena 968 m from the north

Orientation: Cima San Giacomo NW-N-E-S- Long route - N-E-S - From the Canalino dell'Isola Persa - NW-N-NE from the Forni - from the North/Punta Cerena NW-N.NE-SE

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-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.

Cima San Giacomo. Long route from the Forni glacier.

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 by it. Continue in a southerly direction on a rather plain section. Start climbing in a south-westerly direction on a steeper section bypassing - at due distance - the Isola Persa. Continue towards the west to arrive to the western plateau of the Forni glacier at the base of the steep northern sides of the Cima Dosegù and of the Punta Pedranzini. Ascend towards the west till you get to the proximity of the lowest point of the north-east ridge that descends from the Pizzo Tresero. Head in a north-easterly direction climbing along the short ridge of San Giacomo up to where it starts to become steeper. Then move diagonally to the right (steep section) to reach the top of the south-east ridge the high to easily reach the summit.

From the south-east ridge: 1e. Once you arrive to the western plateau of the Forni glacier, continue in a westerly direction for a short section. Then ascend towards the right on the steep slopes to reach the thin and exposed south-east ridge. Follow it entirely up to the small plateau before the summit.

Classic route from the Canalino dell'Isola Persa

From the Rifugio Branca follow the easy road and descend to the plateau below in proximity of the Lago di Rosole. From here, keep following the usually well-trodden road up to the plateau at an altitude of 2300 m. Cross a small bridge or - slightly on the left - with a good amount of snow - you can easily cross the stream. From here, towards the right, start climbing following some small humps and valleys in a southerly direction and continue along the narrow couloir of the Isola Persa. At its end, turn slightly to the right and climb a steeper section that leads to the western plateau of the Forni glacier. From here, as for the previous itinerary. **1a.** Following the itinerary from the Canalino dell'Isola Persa up to its end turn left to join up with the long route to reach the higher plateau of the Forni glacier.

Itineraries from the north side of the Cima San Giacomo.

From the Rifugio Branca follow the easy road and descend to the plateau below at an altitude of 2300 m. Cross a small bridge and continue descending to the left of the stream towards the Forni heading to the right of an evident bedrock (2200 m) From here climb towards the right to reach a plateau at the base of the small S. Giacomo couloir. Then head left and bypass the wide rocky section into the medial amphitheatre of the northern side of S. Giacomo (this area is also called "of the rain gauge")

1b. From here keep slightly on the left and climb directly in a southerly direction to the col at an altitude of 3056 m. Cross more or less horizontally on a short final exposed section below some rocks and above a bedrock. Bypass the ridge and then climb the south-east ridge or diagonally connect with the classic route just before the south-west col.



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1c. Briefly descend into the basin and continue slightly to the right climbing the wide east side that leads to the western part of the Vedretta of S. Giacomo. Climb up to the evident plateau just above 3100 m at the base of a very steep section. Climb up till you reach a dip. Head towards the north-east ridge. Remove the skis for the last steep section to reach the small summit plateau.

1f. it is also possible to climb directly from the steep Canalino del S. Giacomo and follow the Vallone delle 100 curve.

Descent

Follow the ascents itineraries.

Alternative descents

Vallone delle cento curve: d1. Just below the northern plateau at around 3100 m, descend the evident wide valley that in its final part folds to the right to then continue along the long and steep S. Giacomo couloir.

Canalino del Forno: d2. Descending from the "Vallone delle cento curve" where it folds towards the right, climb straight to the evident col. Descend the first section and then take the narrow couloir on the right to enter the small dam.

Canalino di Saletina: d3. Just below the small plateau under the summit of the Cima S. Giacomo descend in the evident wide valley also called "delle cento curve". Descend for around fifty meters of vertical height gain downhill and then turn decisively towards the left to reach the ridge that faces the Vallone di Cerena. Head to its flat end and then descend on the left for around thirty meters and enter the beginning of the steep couloir. Move down to its end keeping at its centre. When it becomes gentler turn right to arrive in proximity of the Saletina Hut. From here, descend slightly, cross the bridge to reach the car park below the Rifugio dei Forni.

Vallone di Cerena: d4.

From the South-West Col del S. Giacomo or from the northern plateau before the summit head in a north-westerly direction into the wide and steep Vallone di Cerena. Descend to the base of the north face of the Pizzo Tresero. Keep on the right and follow the large couloir that descends to the valley floor at an altitude of 1886 m. Just below the Baite di Cerena, move to the left to arrive to the bridge that connects you shortly to the Miravalle area on the access road to the Rifugio dei Forni. With powdery snow, you can enjoy 1700 metres of wonderful slope.

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