



Rifugio Branca 2493 m - ORTLES-CEVEDALE GROUP

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

Monte Confinale 3370 m – Cima della Manzina 3318 m

The Monte Confinale and the Cima della Manzina are very interesting mountaineering routes since they are a bit different from the usual itineraries in the Forni area. Located in the middle of the Val Zebrù and the Val dei Forni, these peaks offer stunning views. Because of their southern orientation, these routes should be enjoyed when the initial part of the itineraries is still covered with a good amount of snow

Alpine difficulty: good skier – Monte Confinale /medium skier – Cima della Manzina

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

Starting Altitude: 2493 m Rifugio Branca – 2180 m Ponticello Cedec

Arrival altitude: Monte Confinale 3370 m – Cima della Manzina 3318 m

Vertical Height gain: Monte Confinale 1190 m – Cima della Manzina 1138 m

Orientation: Classic Route from the Canale dell'Isola Persa NW-N-NE/from the Forni glacier NW-N-NE

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: Monte Confinale 2 and a half hours/3 and a half hours – Cima della Manzina 2 and a half hours/3 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

Monte Confinale 3370 m

From the Rifugio Branca follow the easy road and descend to the plateau below in the proximity of the Lago di Rosole. Continue on this usually well-trodden road on the plateau at an altitude of 2300 m. Descend on the right of the stream "Frodolfo" up to the small bridge on the stream "Cedec"(2180 m). From here start climbing towards the north to the Forni hut. Continue on the well-trodden route and then descend for a short section to the Ponte della Girella. Now ascend on the opposite side towards the left to join up with the mule track that leads to the Rifugio Pizzini. Head west on the southern slope above till you reach a flatter area. Keep heading in a westerly direction and go round the southern slopes of the ridge of Monte dei Forni till you reach the beginning of the Val Pisella. Continue climbing up to the left, towards the Dosso delle Piatte to reach the small plateau above the Sasso di Prealda at an altitude of 2709 m. Continue in the same direction and descend slightly in the proximity of the small Prealda lake. After crossing a short steep section you reach the Lago della Manzina at an altitude of 2785 m. From the Sasso di Prealda, it is possible, climbing up along the overlying ridge and moving below the Sasso della Manzina along a steep section, to reach the Lago della Manzina. From the plain continue towards the west passing below the southern slopes of the Cima della Manzina, enter a narrow valley that leads you below the final slopes of the Monte Confinale. Climb up the evident slope moving to the left of the saddle to find the Bivacco Del Piero on the right. From here move towards one ridge on the left. Follow the ridge to reach the summit. The last section is rather steep and sometimes skis have to be removed.

Cima della Manzina 3318 m

Soon after the Lago della Manzina, climb up along the wide couloir till you reach a plainer area. Then move on a steep slope on the right, following a slight ridge below some small rocks. From here head diagonally to the left to reach the last section of the ridge that leads you to the summit.

Descent

Follow the ascents itineraries.

Alternative descents

d1. From the Lago della Manzina descend the wide valley below just above the tree line. Exit on the left to reach the Baite di Pradaccio di Sopra. Following the wide clearing descend to the Baite di Pradaccio di Sotto. From here on the left - at the bottom of the pastures - take a small road that leads to Campec a place located on the route that leads you up to the Rifugio Forni. This descent is recommended only with a good amount of snow in the lower section.

d7. – d8. See table : **Northern descents from the Monte dei Forni, Cima dei Forni orientale SW, Cima dei Forni centrale, Cima dei Forni occidentale, Cima Manzina, Monte Confinale.**

MONTE CONFINALE 3370 m - **CIMA MANZINA** 3318 m

