

**VIA FERRATAS OF
THE ITALIAN DOLOMITES
VOLUME 1**



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VIA FERRATAS OF THE ITALIAN DOLOMITES VOLUME 1

by James Rushforth

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Updates to this guide

While every effort is made by our authors to ensure the accuracy of guidebooks as they go to print, changes can occur during the lifetime of an edition. Any updates that we know of for this guide will be on the Cicerone website (www.cicerone.co.uk/846/updates), so please check before planning your trip. We also advise that you check information about such things as transport, accommodation and shops locally. Even rights of way can be altered over time.

The route maps in this guide are derived from publicly-available data, databases and crowd-sourced data. As such they have not been through the detailed checking procedures that would generally be applied to a published map from an official mapping agency, although naturally we have reviewed them closely in the light of local knowledge as part of the preparation of this guide.

We are always grateful for information about any discrepancies between a guidebook and the facts on the ground, sent by email to updates@cicerone.co.uk or by post to Cicerone, Juniper House, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal, LA9 7RL.

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Front cover: Negotiating the steep and crux traverse at the start of Via Ferrata Cesco Tomaselli (Route 37)

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My thanks to CAI, the Alpine guides and local populace who work tirelessly to construct and maintain the huge variety of routes we enjoy today; without their dedication and enthusiasm there would be precious little to write about!

During the last decade spent in the Dolomites, Collett's Mountain Holidays have very kindly supplied me with accommodation, support and drinking partners in-between many extended stints living out of a van. A huge thanks to all the resort and office staff who have always treated me as one of their own.

My thanks to everyone who has accompanied me on countless adventures in the Dolomites, whether on routes included in this guide or not. It has been a true privilege exploring the mountains with you.

As ever, my family provided excellent support, guidance and encouragement throughout the project. Thanks, as always, to Lynne Hempton for accompanying me on many of the routes, for assisting with all aspects of the book and for turning my inarticulate musings into something resembling intelligible text.

Finally, my thanks to all the staff at Cicerone who have assisted, steered and helped shape the evolution of this project, from the initial print run in 2002 to the book you now see before you.

Route closures

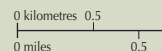
While the information given in this guidebook was accurate at the time of writing, via ferrata routes may subsequently close due to rockfall, maintenance or other such circumstances. As with any excursion in the mountains, it is recommended that you obtain up-to-date information with the local guides offices, CAI branches or tourist information offices to ensure the viability of the routes and check the mountain conditions. Except for any liability that cannot be excluded by law, neither Cicerone nor the author accept liability for damage of any nature (including damage to property, personal injury or death) arising directly or indirectly from the information in this book

Symbols used on route maps

-  route
-  alternative route
-  start point
-  finish point
-  start/finish point
-  glacier
-  woodland
-  urban area
-  regional border
-  international border
-  station/railway
-  peak
-  group of peaks
-  hotel/restaurant
-  manned/unmanned refuge
-  parking
-  campsite/bivouac
-  building
-  chapel
-  information
-  pass
-  bridge

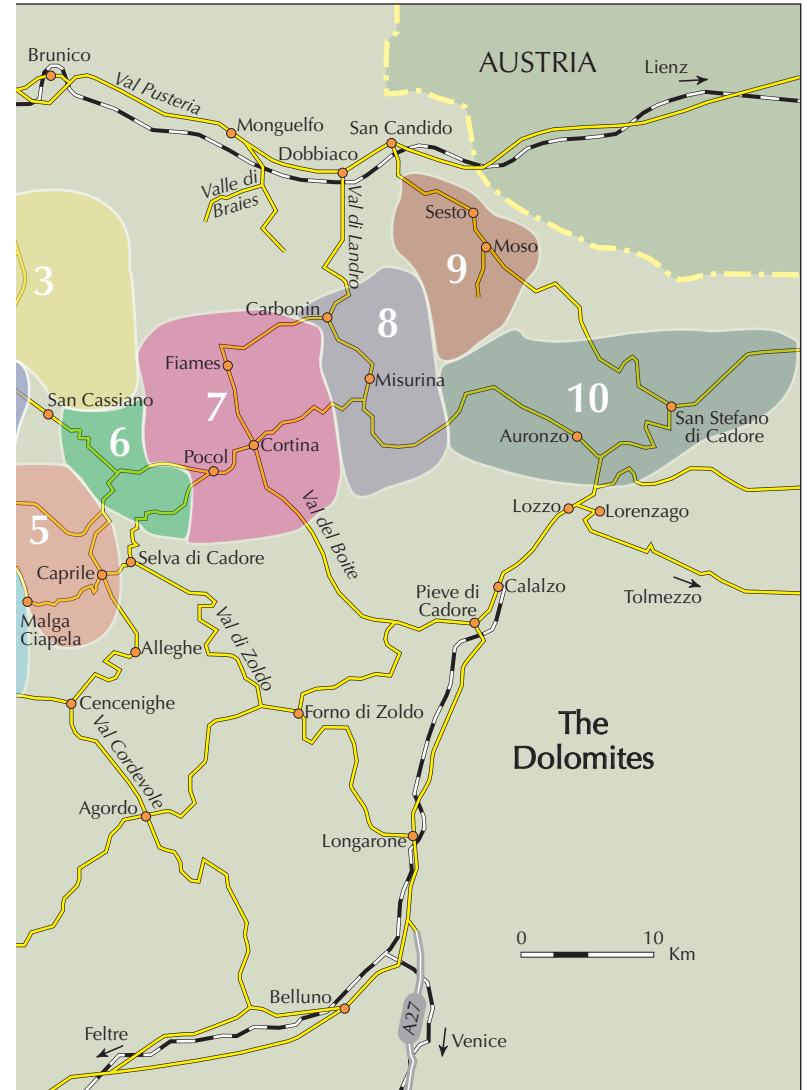


SCALE: 1:50,000



Contour lines are drawn at 25m intervals and highlighted at 100m intervals.

All maps are at 1:50,000 except for Routes 26-27, 73, 74-75 which are at 1:40,000.



ROUTE SUMMARY TABLE

No	Route name	Mountain group	Start	Distance	Time	Grade	Wire length	Page
Val di Fassa/Canazei								
1	Sentiero Massimiliano	Massiccio dello Sciliar	Campitello di Fassa	24km	6–10hr	2B	200m	45
2	Via Ferrata Laurenzi	Catinaccio	Campitello di Fassa	29km	9–12hr	4C	850m	49
3	Via Ferrata Passo Santher	Catinaccio	Top of Laurin chairlift	8km	6hr	2A	300m	53
4	Via Ferrata Roda di Vaèl	Catinaccio	Top of Paolina chairlift	6.5km	4–5hr	1B	350m	56
5	Via Ferrata Masare	Catinaccio	Top of Paolina chairlift	7km	4hr	2B	400m	58
6	Via Ferrata Catinaccio d'Antermoia	Catinaccio	Rifugio Gardeccia	10km	6–8hr	2B	600m	61
7	Via Ferrata Franco Gadotti	Marmolada	Malga Crocifisso chapel	12.5km	7–8hr	2C	400m	66
8	Via Ferrata I Magnifici Quattro	Marmolada	Malga Crocifisso chapel	8km	4–5hr	6B	400m	69
9	Via Ferrata Kaiserjäger	Marmolada	Val San Nicolò car park	14km	6–7hr	4C	260m	73
10	Sentiero Attrezzato Bepi Zac	Marmolada	Top of Costabella chairlift	13km	9–10hr	2C	300m	76
11	Via Ferrata Paolin-Piccolin	Marmolada	Colmean	10.5km	7–8hr	3B	300m	80
12	Via Ferrata dei Finanzieri	Marmolada	Top of Ciampac cable car	5.5km	4–5hr	3C	300m	83
13	Via Ferrata Hans Seyffert	Marmolada	Top of Pian del Fiacconi lift	6.5km	4–5hr	4C	400m	86
14	Via Ferrata Eterna Brigata Cadore	Marmolada	Rifugio Fedàia	8km	6–7hr	4C	1000m	91
Selva								
15	Via Ferrata Sass Rigais Est/Sud	Odle-Puezz	Top of Col Raiser gondola	11km	7–8hr	1B/2B	800m	97
16	Sentiero Attrezzato Piz Duledes	Odle-Puezz	Top of Col Raiser gondola	11km	7–8hr	1A	150m	101

No	Route name	Mountain group	Start	Distance	Time	Grade	Wire length	Page
17	Via Ferrata Sandro Pertini (closed and wire removed)	Odle-Puezz	—	—	—	—	—	102
18	Via Ferrata Oskar Schuster	Sassolungo	Top of Sassolungo gondola	12km	5–6hr	3B	350m	103
19	Via Ferrata Col Rodella	Sassolungo	Hotel Passo Sella Dolomiti Resort	5km	2–3hr	3A	175m	108
20	Via Ferrata Mesules (Pössneckler)	Sella	Passo Sella	12km	6–7hr	4C	500m	111
Badia/La Villa								
21	Sentiero Attrezzato Günther Messner	Odle-Puezz	Croce Russis	15km	7–8hr	1B	200m	117
22	Sentiero Attrezzato Sass de Putia	Odle-Puezz	Passo delle Erbe	10km	5–6hr	1A	150m	121
23	Via Ferrata Sasso Santa Croce	Fanis	Top of Santa Croce chairlift	15km	7–8hr	1B	150m	123
24	Sentiero Attrezzato Piz de les Conturines	Fanis	Capanna Alpina	17km	7–8hr	1B	100m	126
25	Via Ferrata Furcia Rossa	Fanis	Capanna Alpina	19km	7–8hr	2C	300m	128
Convava								
26	Via Ferrata Piz da Cir V	Odle-Puezz	Passo Gardena	3km	3–4hr	2A	100m	135
27	Sentiero Attrezzato Gran Cir	Odle-Puezz	Passo Gardena	3.5km	2–3hr	1A	100m	140
28	Via Ferrata Brigata Tridentina	Sella	Tridentina car park	5km	5–7hr	3B	400m	141
29	Via Ferrata Vallon	Sella	Top of Vallon chairlift	8km	5–6hr	2B	200m	145
30	Via Ferrata Piz da Lech	Sella	Top of Vallon chairlift	4km	3–4hr	3B	200m	148
31	Sentiero Attrezzato Sassongher	Odle-Puezz	Top of Col Pradat gondola	7km	3–4hr	1A	100m	150

No	Route name	Mountain group	Start	Distance	Time	Grade	Wire length	Page
Arabba								
32	Via Ferrata Cesare Piazzetta	Sella	Passo Pordoi	9km	5-6hr	5C	500m	155
33	Via Ferrata delle Trincee	Marmolada	Top of Porto Vescovo cable car	7km	6-7hr	4B	300m	159
34	Via Ferrata Sass de Rocia	Marmolada	Ronch	1km	1-2hr	1A	30m	162
35	Sentiero Attrezzato Col di Lana	Fanis	Lasta	11km	4-5hr	1A	100m	163
Falzarego								
36	Sentiero Attrezzato Sass de Stria	Fanis	Passo Valparola	2.5km	1-2hr	1A	20m	170
37	Via Ferrata Cesco Tomaselli	Fanis	Top of Lagazuoi cable car	7.5km	6-7hr	5C	600m	172
38	Sentiero dei Kaiserjäger	Fanis	Top of Lagazuoi cable car	3km	2-3hr	1B	100m	175
39	Sentiero Attrezzato Galleria del Lagazuoi	Fanis	Passo Falzarego	3km	2-3hr	1A	200m	178
40	Via Ferrata degli Alpini al Col dei Bos	Tofane	Bar Strobel	5.5km	3-4hr	3B	350m	181
41	Via Ferrata Averau	Nuvolau	Top of Cinque Torri chairlift	4km	2-3hr	2A	75m	184
42	Via Ferrata Ra Cusela	Nuvolau	Top of Cinque Torri chairlift	7km	3-4hr	1A	125m	189
Cortina								
43	Via Ferrata Scala del Menighel	Tofane	Rifugio Dibona	11.5km	5-6hr	1C	70m	197
44	Via Ferrata Giovanni Lipella	Tofane	Rifugio Dibona	12km	7-8hr	4C	600m	200
45	Sentiero Attrezzato Grotta di Tofana	Tofane	Rifugio Dibona	3km	2-3hr	1A	100m	203
46	Sentiero Astaldi	Tofane	Rifugio Dibona	3km	2hr	1A	400m	205
47	Via Ferrata Punta Anna and Gianni Aglio	Tofane	Rifugio Pomedes	10km	7-8hr	5C	800m	208

No	Route name	Mountain group	Start	Distance	Time	Grade	Wire length	Page
48	Via Ferrata Lamont and Formenton	Tofane	Top of Freccia nel Cielo cable car	5.5km	3-4hr	2B	200m	212
49	Sentiero Giuseppe Olivieri	Tofane	Rifugio Pomedes	3km	2-3hr	1B	300m	216
50	Via Ferrata Maria e Andrea Ferrari	Tofane	Rifugio Duca d'Aosta	1km	1-2hr	3A	380m	217
51	Sentiero Attrezzato Giovanni Barbara/Lucio Dalaiti/Cengia de Mattia	Fanis	Ponte Felizon car park	12km	4-5hr	2B	100m	220
52	Via Ferrata Ettore Bovero	Tofane	International Camping Olympia	10.5km	5-6hr	3B	300m	224
53	Via Ferrata Michielli Strobel	Pomaganon	Hotel Fiames	8km	5-6hr	3B	600m	227
54	Sentiero Attrezzato Terza Cengia del Pomaganon	Pomaganon	Col Tondo	11km	5-6hr	2C	250m	230
55	Sentiero Attrezzato Renè de Pol	Cristallo	Cimabanche	11.5km	6-7hr	2B	500m	232
56	Via Ferrata Ivano Dibona	Cristallo	Rifugio Son Forca	13km	7-8hr	2B	500m	235
57	Via Ferrata Marino Bianchi	Cristallo	Rifugio Son Forca	6.5km	5-6hr	2B	200m	238
58	Via Ferrata Sci Club 18	Cristallo	Midstation of Faloria cable car	3km	3-4hr	5C	400m	240
59	Via Ferrata Giro del Sorapiss	Sorapiss	Passo Tre Croci	26km	12-16h	3C/1C/ 3C	700m	243
Misurina								
60	Sentiero Attrezzato Capitano Bilgeri/Monte Piana/Monte PIANO	Monte Piana	Rifugio Angelo Bosi	2km	2-3hr	1B	250m	251
61	Via Ferrata Merlone	Cadini di Misurina	Lago d'Antorno	9km	4-5hr	3B	300m	254
62	Sentiero Attrezzato Alberto Bonacossa	Cadini di Misurina	Top of Col de Varda chairlift	10km	5-6hr	1A	400m	260

No	Route name	Mountain group	Start	Distance	Time	Grade	Wire length	Page
63	Sentiero delle Forcelle	Paterno – Dolomiti di Sesto	Rifugio Auronzo	12.5km	5–6hr	1B	800m	262
64	Via Ferrata De Luca/Innerkofler	Paterno – Dolomiti di Sesto	Rifugio Auronzo	9km	5–6hr	2B	1000m	265
65	Via Ferrata delle Scalette/Curato Militare Hosp	Paterno – Dolomiti di Sesto	Rifugio Auronzo	10km	5–6hr	3B	150m	268
Sesto								
66	Via Ferrata Strada degli Alpini	Popera – Dolomiti di Sesto	Hotel Dolomitenhof	18km	8–9hr	2B	2000m	273
67	Via Ferrata Nord	Popera – Dolomiti di Sesto	Top of Cabinovia Croda Rossa gondola	8km	5–6hr	2B	100m	276
68	Via Ferrata Mario Zandonella	Popera – Dolomiti di Sesto	Rifugio Lunelli	10km	8–9hr	4C	1500m	279
69	Via Ferrata Aldo Roghnel/Cengia Gabriella	Popera – Dolomiti di Sesto	Rifugio Lunelli	20km	10–12hr	4C/3C	400/ 1500m	283
70	Via Ferrata Mazzetta	Popera – Dolomiti di Sesto	Acque Rosse, Padola	11km	7–8hr	2C	150m	288
Auronzo								
71	Sentiero Cengia del Doge	Marmarole	Somadida Forest Nature Reserve car park	17km	7–8hr	1C	150m	294
72	Sentiero degli Alpini	Marmarole	Ristorante alla Pineta, Val d'Oten	17km	8–9hr	2C	450m	297
73	Sentiero Attrezzato Amalio da Pra	Marmarole	Pian dei Buoi, Lozzo di Cadore	7km	4–5hr	2B	200m	299
74	Via Ferrata Sartor	Peralba	Near Rifugio Sorgenti	8.5km	4–5hr	2B	250m	301
75	Via Ferrata Via di Guerra/CAI Portogruaro	Peralba	Near Rifugio Sorgenti	8km	4–5hr	3B/2B	700m	304

FOREWORD

It's almost 20 years since we first went to the Dolomites and started our addiction with via ferrata climbing. Following our realisation in 1998 that the previous English-language guidebook (a translation from an old German guidebook, *Via Ferrata: Scrambles in the Dolomites*, Cicerone Press) was out of date, we initially made notes for our own use before deciding to take things a step further and write a new guidebook.

Our first guide was first published in 2002 as a two-book series covering the complete area of the Italian Dolomites, taking in some wonderful mountain groups with a wide range of via ferrata climbing routes from the very easy to the most difficult. One thing we had found unsatisfactory was the various grading systems in use at the time, which didn't seem to fully address the technicality and/or remoteness of each individual route. Many hours were spent debating how we could differentiate between a hard technical route with easy escape possibilities and easier routes in remote high-mountain situations which can present a potentially more serious undertaking. The system we evolved was a dual grading approach, taking into account both the seriousness and technical aspects of each route. This seems to have stood the test of time and continues to be accepted as a standard across the United Kingdom.

As the popularity of via ferratas grew and changes occurred (the creation of new routes, closure of some old ones and various modifications to existing routes), we released revised editions of Vol 1 in 2004, 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2014. Vol 2 (first published in 2003) covering the southern Dolomites, Brenta and Lake Garda was also revised in 2005, 2008, 2012, and 2015.

Over the years we have continued our love affair with via ferrata climbing, and Graham actually lived in the Dolomites for a while. At our initial meeting with Jonathan Williams at Cicerone Press, we were told that writing a guidebook was like having children – back then we were at the conception of the idea, and we have since had the pleasure of watching the books grow up to where they are now coming of age. A meeting with James Rushforth at a friend's wedding in Corvara in 2012 sowed the seeds for him taking on the task of bringing our guides into the 21st century, where we hope they will continue to flourish and inspire. A professional writer and photographer, James has worked with our guidebook content to produce this new exciting edition, which we are sure will inspire new generations to visit and enjoy the delights of the Dolomites.

John Smith and Graham Fletcher,
2017

First snow is encountered on a late-season ascent of Posnecker (Route 20)



INTRODUCTION

Superb views over to Sassolungo, the Sella and Lago di Fedaià (Route 14)



The Dolomites are often cited as the most unique, dramatic and beautiful mountains in the world. The splendour of the scenery is undeniable; the explosive shapes of the peaks and ridgelines, the ever-changing colours of the rock and the stunning contrast between the seasons are just some of the factors that make this mountain range stand out from its alpine counterparts and have led to the well-deserved award of UNESCO World Heritage status.

In addition to the natural wonder, one of the most intriguing and captivating aspects of this beautiful region is the culture; the Dolomites offer an insight into a truly fused society, with

Italian and Austrian influences found throughout the area. Furthermore, and most pertinent to this guide, the Dolomites are home to the greatest concentration of via ferratas in the world.

First constructed in the early 1900s, these cabled routes originally followed traditional climbing lines and were initially conceived as a form of recreation for visiting tourists. When the First World War broke out, the front line between the Italian and Austro-Hungarian troops ran through the middle of this mountainous region and the via ferratas took on a new role; existing routes were expanded and many new cables were installed

to aid the movement of alpine military troops through the mountains.

After the war many old routes were restored, expanded and rerouted, and as popularity grew new via ferratas were added, creating a vast network of cabled climbs which today is one of the Dolomites' major attractions for summer tourism. The sheer concentration of via ferratas ensures there is something for every ability, from family-friendly mountain days, to exposed ridge routes, to physically demanding climbing. The scenery is world-class and the landscape studded with idyllic mountain towns and villages, serving as excellent bases to explore this beautiful region and provide access to some of the most breathtaking via ferrata routes in the world.

WHAT IS A VIA FERRATA?

Literally meaning 'iron way', the term *via ferrata* refers to a mountain route or climb that is protected by a series of cables, stemples (metal rungs), pegs and ladders. Originally equipped with iron, today routes tend to use modern, more lightweight steel cable, which is bolted to the rock at intervals using robust resin pegs or rings. Often, less sheer routes which are more akin to exposed mountain traverses or protected walks are known as *sentieri attrezzati*, meaning 'equipped paths', although to a point the terms are used interchangeably as there are some *sentieri attrezzati* that are notably more difficult than easier routes given the term 'via ferrata'. However, as a rule, via ferratas tend to be more mountainous and challenging than *sentieri*.



Ascending the initial ladder from Rifugio Lorenzi on Route 56



Traversing one of the many ledges on Route 21

Routes are regularly checked, maintained and waymarked by the Italian Alpine Club, CAI (Club Alpino Italiano). CAI has hundreds of geographical sections, the largest of which is SAT (Società degli Alpinisti Tridentini), which alone has more than 20,000 members. CAI owns nearly 500 rifugios and shelters in the Dolomites and maintains many thousands of kilometres of paths and via ferratas.

USING THIS GUIDE

There are 10 chapters containing route descriptions for 75 via ferratas and protected paths, organised by geographical location and proximity to the nearest valley base or town. Route descriptions were accurate at

the time of writing and are accompanied by an information box giving the start and finish points, the route length and time (without stops), the grading of the route, the total ascent and descent, the length of the wire, and the GPS coordinates of the recommended parking location.

An additional section, 'Other possibilities', is included to highlight any possible alternatives and extensions that may be of interest. Place names on the maps that are significant for route navigation are shown in **bold** in the text.

Each route is complemented by a 1:50,000 overview map extract (except for routes 26–27, 73 and 74–75 which are at 1:40,000), which is intended for use in conjunction with a 1:25,000 Italian Tabacco map (the

mountains: Route 1 provides an exposed yet relatively low-grade itinerary while Route 2 is one of the more serious via ferratas found within the Dolomites. The routes may also be enjoyably combined with an overnight stay at the well-located Rifugio Alpe di Tires.

Passo Costalunga (also signed as Karerpass and Passo Carezza) marks the southern limit of the Catinaccio Group. In winter the pleasant skiing area is part of the Dolomiti Superski network and as such there are numerous accommodation options clustered around the top of the pass. Routes 3, 4 and 5 are best accessed from Passo Costalunga. While not especially hard, all three provide interesting outings and are fine mountain days in a spectacular setting.

A thriving little village in the centre of Val di Fassa, **Pozza** affords excellent access to Routes 6 to 9. Each of these routes has a very different character; Route 6 takes place in the heart of the Catinaccio and reaches the summit of Catinaccio d'Antermoia, the only 3000-metre peak in the group, while Routes 7, 8 and 9 explore the beautiful Val San Nicolo. There is something for most abilities and tastes, with Route 7 offering a technically easy but long day while the more modern Route 8 is the hardest via ferrata in the Dolomites.

Routes 10 and 11 are rather remote, located between the towns of **Moena** at the southern end of Val di Fassa and **Falcade** to the east. If approaching from the east, Passo San Pellegrino can also be accessed from Agordo or Belluno – there are several other routes in these areas which are covered in Volume 2 of this guide.

The two via ferratas described in this area are not particularly difficult but nonetheless offer excellent mountain days, while the fact that these mountains are not quite as popular as some of the better-known groups in the Dolomites means that they are often much quieter. Route 10 is also particularly interesting for its historical significance.

Just to the south-east of **Canazei** stands Marmolada, the highest mountain in the Dolomites. Route 13 reaches the summit at 3343m, while Route 14 tackles the broad slabs and ridgeline of its eastern side. Given the high altitude of these routes, not to mention the length and serious terrain, both routes on Marmolada should be attempted in good weather with good visibility. Although included in this section, Route 12 does not take place on Marmolada but on nearby Colac, as such affording excellent views into the group.

ROUTE 1

Sentiero Massimiliano

Start/Finish	Val Duron valley entrance, Campitello di Fassa
Distance	24km
Total ascent/descent	1300m
Grade	2B
Time	6–10hr (or 3hr round-trip from Rifugio Alpe di Tires)
Wire length	200m
Map	Tabacco 06
Parking	Val Duron valley entrance: 46.47807, 11.74087

Although not technically challenging, this route unfolds along the spectacular Terrarossa ridgeline and offers some sections of unprotected and rather exposed scrambling. The panorama over the Catinaccio group and the Alpe di Siusi is superb and the rock offers enjoyable yet straightforward progression. The route can be climbed in either direction, although the east to west direction described here is recommended.

Driving approach

Enter the village of Campitello and follow signs for Val Duron/Rifugio Micheluzzi to reach a parking area at around 1500m (the unsurfaced road beyond this point is closed to private vehicles). Begin the approach from here, or alternatively make use of an inexpensive taxi shuttle which connects the parking area to Rifugio Micheluzzi, taking around 10 minutes and saving about an hour's walking (Taxi Prinoto tel +39 339 2796383 or Taxi Volpe tel +39 336 352881).

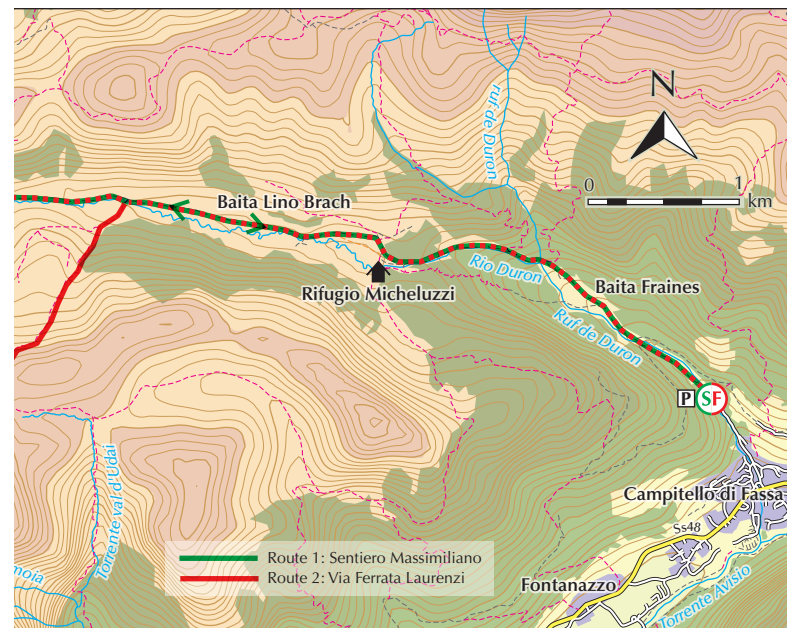
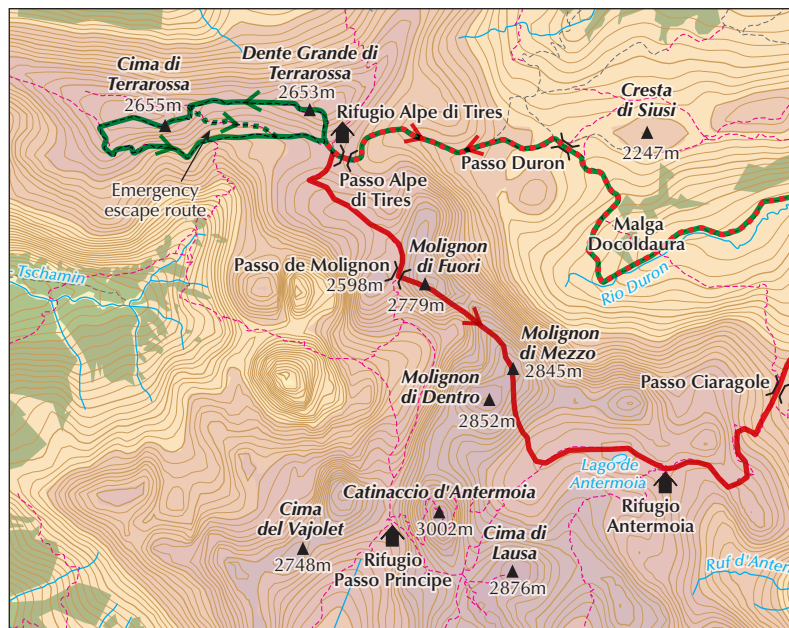
From the parking area, follow the unsurfaced road towards Val Duron, following signs and waymarks to Rifugio Micheluzzi. There are several parallel paths which avoid walking on the road, rejoining at various points. On reaching **Rifugio Micheluzzi** take the path to the right of the building, signed for Alpe di Suisi/Antermoia, passing **Baita Lino Brach** (a chalet/rifugio) in 15min.

Continue on the track (waymarked 532), passing the junction for path 578 (the return from Route 2) in a further 10min. The track continues to ascend the pretty Val Duron, dominated by the walls of Molignon rising vertically at the head

of the valley. Pass the beautifully situated **Malga Docoldaura** (a farmhouse that sells home-made produce) to reach **Passo Duron** (2204m) and then continue along the track (waymarked path 4) to reach **Rifugio Alpe di Tires** (2441m) about 2hr after passing the junction for path 578.

Sentiero Massimiliano is signed from the back of the rifugio; follow the sporadic waymarks up a loose gully to reach the first short section of cable, then continue alternating on and off the wire to reach a col, affording a dramatic view down to Alpe di Siusi. From the col, follow the cables up to the left to gain the unprotected airy crest leading to the summit of **Dente Grande di Terrarossa** (2653m), again offering superb views.

From the summit, take the switchbacks down to the west to pass through a characteristic rock archway, then downclimb a steep protected section for 25 metres to continue along the exposed and unprotected ridge. Descend a short but steep chimney on good rock protected by a single metal ring, then continue to the end of the ridge to pass a sign marked 'Notausteig/Rientro d'Emergenza' – this is an unpleasant escape route down to Rifugio Alpe di Tires and should only be





On the final section of Sentiero Massimiliano with Rifugio Alpe di Tires visible in the bottom of the valley.

descended in an emergency. From here a mixture of unprotected scrambling and wire protection ascends to the summit of **Cima di Terrarossa** (2655m), reached just over 1½hr after Rifugio Alpe di Tires.

The descent from the summit is unprotected and reaches the junction with path 3/4 in around 5min. To return to Rifugio Alpe di Tires, follow this south-east, descending a further 100 metres and traversing back to the **rifugio** in around 30min. Here it is possible to either stay the night and complete Via Ferrata Laurenzi (Route 2) the next day, or return directly to Val Duron by retracing the ascent route down paths 4 and 532. The descent from Rifugio Alpe di Tires to the **car park** takes around 2½hr.

Other possibilities

There are a number of alternative approaches to Rifugio Alpe di Tires:

- from the west, via Tires/Lavina Bianca and Val Ciamin/Tschamintal (3½–4hr, 9km, 1310m ascent);
- from the north, using the Panorama chairlift (June to September, 9am to 5pm) from Compaccio in the Alpe di Siusi (parking fee) (2½hr, 5km, 500m ascent);
- from the south, from Rifugio Vajolet in the Catinaccio group (2½hr, 5.5km, 750m ascent).

ROUTE 2

Via Ferrata Laurenzi

Start/Finish	Val Duron valley entrance, Campitello di Fassa
Distance	29km
Total ascent/descent	1350m
Grade	4C
Time	9–12hr
Wire length	850m
Map	Tabacco 06
Parking	Val Duron valley entrance: 46.47807, 11.74087
Note	For route map see Route 1

A long and very remote mountain day, Via Ferrata Laurenzi traces the dramatic and airy Molignon ridge, offering stunning situations and challenging climbing – not least because of the amount of downclimbing involved. The protection is intermittent and some of the climbing quite difficult at the grade; as such, cautious or inexperienced groups may benefit from taking a safety rope. The route can be climbed in either direction, although a traverse from north to south is recommended. Although reasonably well marked, the route can be difficult to navigate in poor weather.

Driving approach

Enter the village of Campitello and follow signs for Val Duron/Rifugio Micheluzzi to reach a parking area at around 1500m (the unsurfaced road beyond this point is closed to private vehicles). Begin the approach from here, or alternatively make use of an inexpensive taxi shuttle which connects the parking area to Rifugio Micheluzzi, taking around 10 minutes and saving about an hour's walking (Taxi Prinoth tel +39 339 2796383 or Taxi Volpe tel +39 336 352881).

From the parking area, follow the unsurfaced road towards Val Duron, following signs and waymarks to Rifugio Micheluzzi. There are a number of parallel paths which avoid walking on the road, rejoining at various points. On reaching **Rifugio Micheluzzi** take the path to the right of the building, signed for Alpe di Suisi/Antermoia, passing **Baita Lino Brach** in 15min.