

AREA

Dolomites – Lagazuoi - Fanes

FACE

Northeast

DIFFICULTY

Difficult

TIME

3 hours

BEAUTY

5

NOTES

Snowpack must be well bonded and stable. Take care on icy sections.

ASCENT

200 m

DESCENT

200 m

POPULARITY

Low

GEAR

Normal equipment for winter walking, snowshoes and poles. Also take an ice axe, crampons and a harness, helmet and via ferrata kit. A torch is indispensable.

INTRODUCTION

During the First World War the Piccolo Lagazuoi was the scene of an incredible, unique battle known as the “war of the mines”. The Italian and Austrian troops created a network of tunnels from which they could not only overlook and defend the front line, but also blow up the enemy from below. 5 enormous mines exploded within this mountain, leaving their indelible marks for all to see. The tunnels have recently undergone major reconstruction and walking through them, especially in winter, is an experience not to be missed out on.

GETTING THERE

From Cortina take the SS 48 to Passo Falzarego.

ACCESS

Take the Funivia del Lagazuoi cable car to Rifugio Lagazuoi (2752m).

DESCRIPTION

From Rifugio Lagazuoi cross the piste eastwards and reach the rocky wall. Walk beneath this for about 250m to reach the NW passing point that leads onto the crest and then to the start of the tunnel.

Turn headtorches on and enter, making sure to close the door. The shaft is low at first, forcing you to crouch, but thankfully it soon opens up. A cable has been fixed along the entire length and this, at times, may be iced over. Descend into this intriguing labyrinth, every now and then illuminated by tiny windows that look out onto the harsh winter landscape that contrasts with the temperature inside which never drops much below zero.

The tunnel continues all the way down to the base of the mountain but the slopes below are highly avalanche prone in winter and we therefore strongly recommend you do not continue all the way down. Instead, we recommend you explore the top network of tunnels and then return to Rifugio Lagazuoi.

RETURN

Return up through the tunnel to Rif. Lagazuoi.

LINKS

<http://cortina.dolomiti.org>

<http://www.planetmountain.com>

<http://www.guidecortina.com>

