

Ferrata Passo Santner

AREA

Dolomites - Catinaccio

PEAK

Passo Santner

FACE

West

ALTITUDE

2741 m

DIFFICULTY

Medium

TIME

3 hours

BEAUTY

4



DESCRIPTION OF DIFFICULTY

Not particularly difficult, well-equipped ferrata. Take care when crossing the final gully before climbing up to Passo Santner, as this is often covered in hard-packed snow.

TOTAL ASCENT

400 m

FERRATA ASCENT

300 m

PERIOD

From July to September

POPULARITY

High

GEAR

Normal via ferrata kit.

INTRODUCTION

The Ferrata del Santner, situated on Catinaccio's impressive west face, seems to have been made specifically to extenuate the beauty and very particular nature of the entire Dolomites massif. It follows a natural line diagonally leftwards and, leading relatively easily into the heart of King Laurin's kingdom, is quite simply unforgettable. One of the most famous rock formations in the Dolomites meets

the eye at the gateway to the Gartl valley: the mythical Torri del Vajolet. The Ferrata Passo Santner is without a doubt one of the most beautiful and famous round-trips in the Dolomites.

GETTING THERE

From Pozza di Fassa drive to Passo Costalunga and continue on right at the fork for the Laurin chairlift at M.ga Frommer. Take this to Rif. Fronza alle Coronelle. From Carezza take the chairlift to Rif. Paolina and continue on path no. 552-549 to Rif. Fronza.

From Vigo di Fassa take the cable car Ciampediè to Rifugio Ciampediè and then continue on paths no. 549 and 552 to Rif. Fronza.

ACCESS

From Rif. Fronza take path no. 550 up polished rocks quickly to the fork. Turn off left onto path no. 542 to cross Catinaccio's SW face. The start of the ferrata proper is located on a scree terrace.

ASCENT

From the scree terrace follow the ferrata across ladders, pegs and cables up north through gullies and across minor saddles. The path twists and turns in search of the easiest line through this rock maze to reach the highest col at 2680m. Cross this and descend carefully into a gully which often remains covered in snow. Climb up the opposite flank on the gully's left-hand side to reach Passo Santner, 2760m, just a few minutes walk away from Rifugio Santner and the Via Normale climbing routes to the Catinaccio peaks. The panorama westwards onto the green Alto Adige deep below is stupendous.

DESCENT

From Passo Santner follow path no. 542 down into the Gartl and the monumental Tre Torri del Vajolet. Reach Rifugio Re Alberto (2700m) and the lake at the foot of these famous towers, to continue through the large basin on path no. 542 through this massif, polished by the thousands of footsteps to the famous refuges Vajolet and Preuss (2243m). Proceed towards the Gardeccia basin to then follow signs right (no. 541). This path traverses beneath the Catinaccio's east face to the fork and path no. 550, which leads steeply up to and over Passo delle Coronelle (2630m) to then return to Rif. Fronza. Alternatively, for those wishing to return to Rif. Ciampediè and Vigo di Fassa, follow path no. 546 from Rif.



Vajolet to Rifugio Gardeccia and then continue on path no. 540 to climb up to Rifugio Ciampediè.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Via Ferrata Scrambles in the Dolomites

by Höfler/Werner Translation Cecil Davies
Cicerone Press

LINKS

<http://cortina.dolomiti.org>

<http://www.planetmountain.com>

<http://www.guidecortina.com>

