

March 3rd, 2007

A circumnavigation around Il Pizzaccio (m 2588)



March 3rd, 2007. Il Pizzaccio (mt 2588) stands strongly out the Forcola bivouac (mt 1838). The rifugio, always opened and unattended, was inaugurated on June 24th, 2001.

Starting point	Gordona, at the beginning of the road to Val Bodengo (mt 400). It's better to leave another car in S. Giacomo-Filippo to avoid the long crossing from Giacomo to Gordona at the end of the route.
Synthetic route	Gordona (m 400) – Orlo (m 1165) - Cermine (m 1346) - Scima (m 1785) – Bivacco Forcola (m 1838) – Passo Forcola (m 2227) - passo di Lendine (m 2324) – lago Caprara (m 2288) – Alpe Valcapra (m 2164) - alpe Lendine (1710) – Corseca – Zecca (m 1162) – Olmo (m 1056) – S. Giacomo-Filippo (m 522) Gordona (mt 400) – Orlo (mt 1165) - Cermine (mt 1346) - Scima (mt 1785) – rifugio Forcola (mt 1838) – passo Forcola (mt 2227) - passo di Lendine (mt 2324) –Caprara lake (mt 2288) – alpe Valcapra (mt 2164) - alpe Lendine (mt 1710) – Corseca – Zecca (mt 1162) – Olmo (mt 1056) – S. Giacomo-Filippo (mt 522)
Route time	15 hours. Suggestion: break the itinerary in 2 days by sleeping in rifugio Forcola.
Required equipment	Boots and snow shoes suggested until spring time.
Difficulties / altitude gain	2/3 of 6, 1976 mt of up altitude gain.
Weather conditions found on March 3rd, 2007	Snow over mt 1500 in valle della Forcola, until mt 1200 in valle del Drogo (N exposure).
Details	E: for the tracks Gordona – Scima, rifugio Forcola - Passo Forcola, Lendine – Olmo - S. Giacomo. EE: for the tracks Scima –rifugio Forcola, Passo Forcola – Passo di Lendine- Caprara lake – Lendine. EE tracks have to be only done with snow well fixed or absent: very steep sides.
Summary	



Il Pizzaccio and Punta della Forcola seen by the Lendine pass. At the center, beyond the crest, the Forcola pass.

Car route: from Colico take SS 36 towards N up to S. Cassiano (km 22). Therefore turn left, cross the railway and keep on SP 40 (km 1.5), than go on SP 9 toward Gordona (km 2.5). At the crossing with the signal that indicates the gymnasium and Val Bodengo turn left. Pass via degli Emigranti and via Cimavilla, therefore, always on the main street, arrive to the small car park which precedes no thoroughfare on the road to Val Bodengo.



The white Scima's bell tower. On the bell is written in relief the date 1760.

Itinerary

A circumnavigation around the sharp peak of Il Pizzaccio, the highest point of the ridge that divides valle del Drogo (means Drogo Valley), is the opportunity to follow the ancient trails of the smugglers and to visit splendid jewels of alpine architecture such as Orlo, Cermine, Scima, Forcola, Lendine and Zecca.



The alpe Orlo chapel.



Alpe Cermine.

The starting point is Gordona, specifically Cimavilla, at the car parking that precedes the no thoroughfare on the road to Val Bodengo.

The way goes along the asphalt until it crosses and follows the old muletrack that goes up on the mountain.

After a steep slope, you get to the panoramic hill of the chapel Donadio (mt 759, h 0:50). Crossed the road, you gain altitude on the cobblestones, or the car way only where these are overlapped. Passed alpe Orlo (mt 1165, h 1:15), lookout-post over Valchiavenna, you shortly arrive to alpe Cermine (mt 1346, h 0:30). One small chapel, restructured in 1930 after the building of the muletrack, is the door to the graceful small village of Cermine, endpoint of the cobblestones track. Great is the landscape above lake of Novate and Pizzo di Prata.

After the village, walking along the ridge, or leaning on the left side of this (weak track); you will reach Dosso Mottone (mt 1909).

Beyond it you will find Scima and its beautiful white bell tower (mt 1785, h 1:30).

Leaded by the signs painted on plants, the way goes into the woods of valle della Forcola. After a waded track, you can see the first white and red pylon of electricity line, approximatively located at the half slope of the valley's left side. The trace goes slightly higher than this pylon and decidedly lower than the next one, where avoids a rocky strip by getting

down, then arrives to rifugio Forcola (mt 1838, h 1:15).

The way gets lower heading toward N, then it climbs (W) the steep valley that ends to passo della Forcola (mt 2227, h 1).

The path goes down in Swiss, therefore, at the end of the first shelf, it crosses in direction of the obvious Campanile di Val Marina (transl- bell tower of Val Marina - dir. ENE) and it raises the couloir on the left that culminates on the ridge without any cliff (Lendine pass, mt 2324, h 1).

After the close Caprara lake, you slightly lose altitude toward N and, not going too far from the rock wall on the left, you pass through the ruins of alpe Valcapra (mt 2164, h 0:20). You gain few meters of altitude until the head of a deep draining couloir. The marked path continues towards N-NE, in order to descend on the shoulder of the mountain that bends toward sunrise, but the shortest way comes down directly along the couloir until the place where it is located alpe Lendine (mt 1710, h1).

A wide muletrack through the pines starts from the village and goes down along the valley. Passed Corseca (mt 1379), it continues (E) until Zecca (mt 1162), then it goes down along the grasses to Olmo (NE, mt 1056, h 2).

Leaning to the trail: shorter than the car way, you lose fast altitude until you get to S. Giacomo - Filippo, term of itinerary (mt 522, h 1).

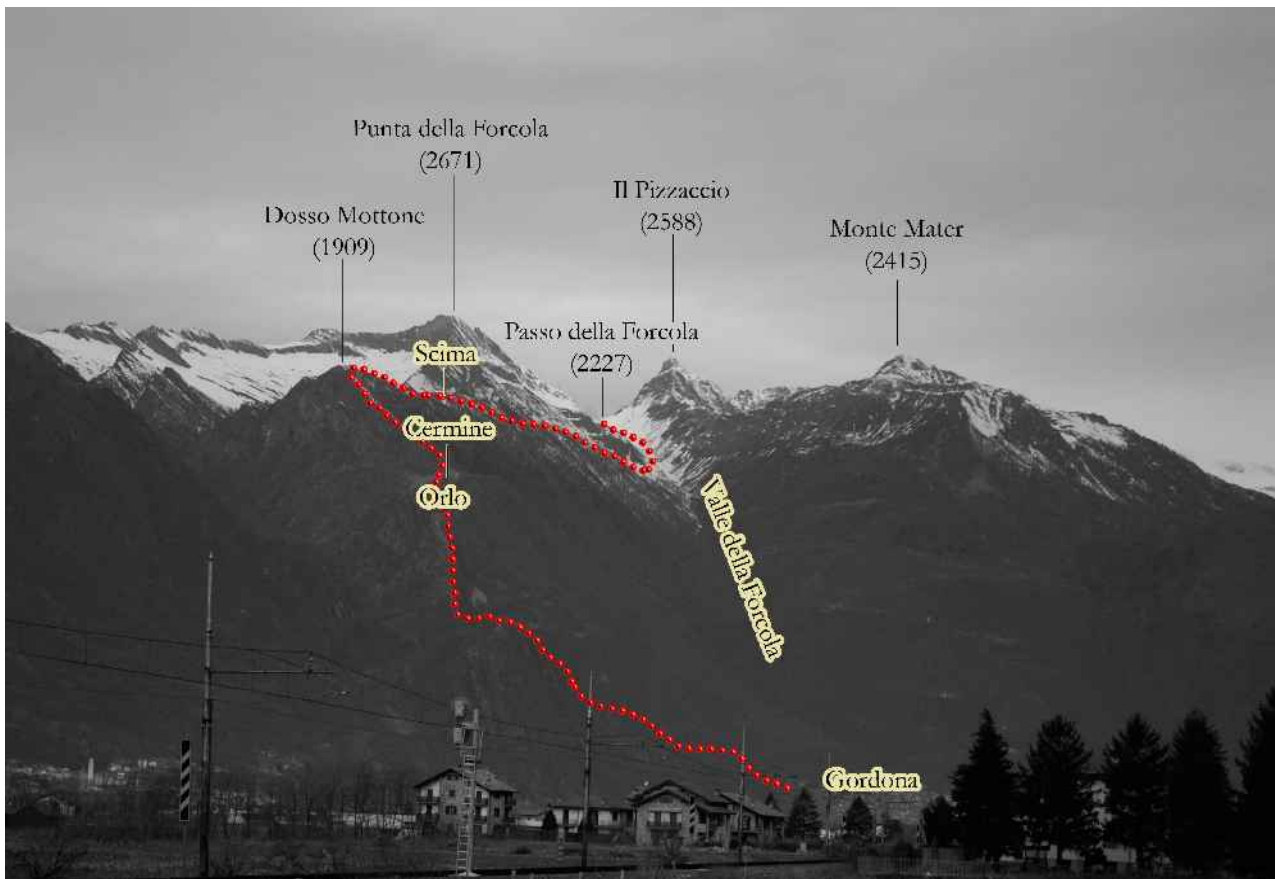
From here is opportune to beg for a passage for Gordona!



The section passo della Forcola - passo di Lendine. Passo di Lendine was the passage commonly used by the smugglers who were getting down in Switzerland from Drogo valley. The close depression of the ridge in SE direction, even if it is the shortest way from passo della Forcola to Caprara lake, is a bad choice in case of snow.



The landscape from alpe della Forcola is great, both in west direction towards the hard pizzzo della Forcola and Il Pizzaccio, both to east, where goes from the sour Pizzzo di Prata to the sweet and multicoloured valley bottom.



The way up seen from the San Cassiano village.

