

Gastaldi Bivouac



Difficulties: EE - Expert Excursionists

Departure: Gressoney la Trinité - Ondrò Edelboden (1635 m)

Arrival: Gastaldi bivouac (4 sleeps - 2714 m)

Duration going there: 3h

Duration coming back: 2h15' approx.

Trail sign: no.3

Cellphone coverage: wind : 100% coverage – vodafone : 66% coverage – tim : 60% coverage

Climbs and excursions: Punta dell'Uomo Storto (3014m), Punta di Nétscio (3280m), Corno Bianco (3320m), Punta di Ciampono (3233m)

Description of the route:

This excursion departs from Gressoney La Trinité, follow the trail no. 3 and in about 3 hours you will reach the Gastaldi bivouac. The Bivouac Carlo Gastaldi is in the basin of the lakes of Netscho at 2630 m. The peculiar barrel-shaped iron plate building is dedicated to Colonel Carlo Gastaldi and it is quite visible because of its characteristic gray and red colouration. Inside there are bunk beds (4 sleeps), a stove and pots.

From the bivouac you can enjoy a beautiful scenic view of Testa Grigia (3314 m) and of the Netscho and Ciampono peaks.

Take the trail no. 3, after a few meters you will reach a restaurant: leave the paved road and, turning right, pass a steep path and continue on a large path that winds in a larch wood. Follow this trail which, after having passed a wrecked building, will reach some avalanche walls: at your left you will see the Gabiet dam while on the right now and then the Testa Grigia peeps out from the larches. After having passed the avalanche walls, this stretch of the trail is quite steep, the path turns right passing a rocky crag in the woods and will then turn to the left, going up the pastures till the Alpe Spilmannsberg (2098m, 1h). From here you can enjoy a breathtaking panorama of Testa Grigia and Mount Rosa.

The path now goes up the left side of the Netscho valley, exceeding a group of alders and a couple of brooklets; with wide turns first it proceeds towards the valley of Gressoney then again towards the bivouac approaching the pastures of Netsch Flue (2290 m, 1h40'). Crossed a brooklet, the trail goes up the slope to the foot of a rocky slab preceding the wide basin of Netscho, this is overcome by an easy ledge preceding a stretch equipped with steel ropes (2h20'). This stretch is not extremely difficult but it may get tricky with moisture, ice or snow.

Past the equipped stretch the fascinating Netscho basin opens up. At first overcome a slightly uphill stretch then go to the right, up a small moraine berm. Shortly you will reach the grey and red coloured bivouac Carlo Gastaldi (2630m, 2h40'). With a ten minutes walk from the bivouac you can reach a col where a rod is placed: from there the view on the Monte Rosa is stunning.

