

## II. Via Ferrata Mario Zandonella (2.936m)



*from the back side to the Croda Rossa*

Technical difficulty of the ferrata	● ● ● ○ ○
Total rating of the tour	● ● ○
Via ferrata in detail	75% steel ropes, some ladders 25% path and walking terrain
Total duration	ca. 9 hours
Difference of altitude	1.340 meters
Duration ascent:	ca. 3 ¼ hours (incl. Ferrata Croda Rossa)
Climbing time	ca. 3 hours – 320 meters
Duration descent	ca. 2 ¼ hours (from the peak of Croda Rossa)
Orientation	southeast

**Arrival and starting point:** cable car Croda Rossa, drive-up to the mountain station

**Difficulty and general information:** Here is described the access to the begin of the ferrata on the peak of the Croda Rossa. Descent by the same way back. Therefore, you will climb 3 via ferratas, because the Ferrata Mario Zandonella consists of two single trails. It is a medium tour, but because of the length and the descent across the Ferrata Croda Rossa, it's a challenging and serious adventure. A good sense of orientation (attention in case of fog) and alpine experience as well as good stamina and physical condition is a presupposition for this ferrata.

**Access:** From the mountain station Croda Rossa you take the path number 100 across the meadows of Croda Rossa until you reach the Costoni Croda Rossa. Follow the mark "Ferrata di Croda Rossa" until you reach to access on 2.300m. Begin of the ferrata is a ca. 40-meter-long ladder. The ascent to the summit of Croda Rossa is relatively easy and varied.

**Rout-Information:** from the peak (2.960m) you follow the traces and the mark „Zandonella“ (green and red) in the direction south-east (called south-east variant). Across compact rock and a cable roped descent about 120 meters. Across a field of crushed rock lightly descending until 2.743m and then following the ferrata steeply upwards until you reach a good visible rock belt. The well-fixed rock belt leads to a rubble channel, from where you descent in a big grotto (different relicts of the war and a sign). The descent is, because of the not avoidable rock fall in case of numerous mountaineers, very tricky. From the grotto following the traces on the right side to the access of the Ferrata Zandonella southern route, which begins directly at shelter of the war (large cave and sign "ferrata"). A cable road leads through the party very steep wall upwards. In addition, a ladder makes the ascent easier. Across a short traverse, passing old ruins, you arrive at a slim passage and shortly then the peak of the Croda Rossa.

**Characteristic and technical details:** An awesome, long and challenging tour which leads on old traces of World War I. The panorama and the insights are impressive. The Via Ferrata Zandonella is mostly assured with new steel ropes. The rest is easy walking terrain.

**Descent:** The same as the ascent to the Croda Rossa. Otherwise downward from the rubbish kettle underneath the cima del Wurzbach (shortly before the ladder). There you have the possibility to ascent to the Costoni di Croda Rossa or alternatively, on the right side (indications) through a slim crevice to the Castelliere (path number 15B) and back to the starting point.

Alternative: from the parking place at the [Rifugio Lunelli](#) hut or Passo Monte Croce – [Rifugio Berti](#) hut – ferrata Zandonella – peak of Croda Rossa – Castelliere – back to the starting point.  
 Description: the first 200 meters of the ferrata with two ladders and steel rope is very strenuous and exposed. Descent by some exposed passages to the east part is easier. Fantastic rock scenery!  
 Duration: total 7 ¾ hours (ascent 4 ¾ hours, descent 3 hours)  
 Difference of altitude: ca. 1400m  
 Indications: red-white-red with the nr. 101, via ferrata red-green triangles

