

CONTENTS

| | | | |
|---|-----------|--|------------|
| • Preface | 5 | 12 Aiguille Blanche de Peuterey | 101 |
| • Introduction | 6 | • 12 North Face Right | 102 |
| • Geographic location | 14 | 13 Gran Pilier d'Angle | 108 |
| • Technical notes | 16 | • 13 South Face and Peuterey Ridge | 109 |
| • Bibliography | 22 | 14 Mont Blanc de Courmayeur | 114 |
| • Acknowledgements | 22 | • 14 Eccles Couloir and Peuterey Ridge | 115 |
| ONE • MASSIF DES ÉCRINS | 23 | 15-19 Aiguilles du Diable | 117 |
| 1 Barre des Écrins | 26 | 15 L'Isolée | 117 |
| • 1a Normal Route | 27 | 16 Pointe Carmen | 117 |
| • 1b Coolidge Couloir | 30 | 17 Pointe Médiane | 117 |
| 2 Dôme de Neige des Écrins | 32 | 18 Pointe Chabert | 117 |
| • 2 Normal Route | 32 | 19 Corne du Diable | 117 |
| | | • 15-19 Aiguilles du Diable Traverse | 118 |
| TWO • GRAN PARADISO MASSIF | 35 | 20 Dent du Géant | 124 |
| 3 Gran Paradiso | 38 | • 20 Normal Route | 125 |
| • 3a Normal Route via the Gran Paradiso glacier | 39 | 21 Aiguille de Rochefort | 128 |
| • 3b North-West Face | 43 | 22 Dôme de Rochefort | 128 |
| | | • 21-22 Rochefort Ridge | 129 |
| THREE • MONT BLANC MASSIF | 47 | 23-27 Les Grandes Jorasses | 132 |
| 4 Aiguille de Bionnassay | 55 | 23 Pointe Marguérite | 132 |
| • 4a South Ridge | 56 | 24 Pointe Hélène | 132 |
| • 4b North-East Ridge | 59 | 25 Pointe Croz | 132 |
| 5 Dôme du Goûter | 62 | 26 Pointe Whymper | 132 |
| • 5a Normal Route via the Aig. du Goûter | 63 | 27 Pointe Walker | 132 |
| • 5b Italian Normal Route (Papa/Aiguilles Grises Route) | 65 | • 23-27 Jorasses Traverse - West Ridge | 134 |
| • 5c North Ridge (Ski-Mountaineering R.) | 67 | • 26-27 Normal Route | 138 |
| 6 Mont Blanc | 70 | 28 Aiguille Verte | 141 |
| • 6a Bosses Ridge | 71 | • 28 Normal Route via the Whymper Couloir | 142 |
| • 6b Trois Monts Route | 76 | 29 Aiguille du Jardin | 146 |
| 7 Mont Blanc du Tacul | 79 | 30 Grande Rocheuse | 146 |
| • 7a Normal Route | 80 | • 29-30 Col Armand Charlet South Couloir and Summit Traverse | 147 |
| • 7b Contamine Grisolle to the Triangle | 82 | 31 Les Droites | 150 |
| 8 Mont Maudit | 84 | • 31 Normal Route via the East Spur | 151 |
| • 8a Normal Route | 85 | FOUR • GRAND COMBIN GROUP | 157 |
| • 8b East Ridge | 87 | 32 Combin de Valsorey | 160 |
| 9 Picco Luigi Amedeo | 89 | • 32a Isler-Gillioz Route (SW side) | 161 |
| • 9 Brouillard Ridge | 90 | • 32b Couloir du Gardien | 164 |
| 10 Punta Baretta | 94 | • 32c Arête du Meitin | 168 |
| 11 Mont Brouillard | 94 | 33 Combin de Grafeneire | 170 |
| • 10-11 Brouillard Ridge Integral | 95 | 34 Combin de la Tsessette | 170 |
| | | • 33-34 Traverse of the Peaks | 171 |

| | | | |
|--|------------|--|------------|
| FIVE • WEISSHORN AND MATTERHORN ALPS | 175 | • 51a Normal Route to Punta Giordani | 257 |
| 35 Dent d'Hérens | 180 | • 52a Normal Route to the Vincent Pyramid | 259 |
| • 35a Normal Route | 181 | • 52b Punta Giordani-Vincent Pyramid Traverse | 261 |
| • 35b Tiefmatten Ridge (West Ridge) | 183 | 53 Schwarzhorn/Corno Nero | 265 |
| 36 Matterhorn | 185 | 54 Ludwigshöhe | 265 |
| • 36a Hörnli Ridge (Hörnligrat) | 186 | 55 Parrotspitze | 265 |
| • 36b Lion Ridge | 192 | • 53-55 Traverse of the Three Peaks | 266 |
| 37 Dent Blanche | 198 | 56 Signalkuppe | 269 |
| • 37 Normal Route via the Wandflue Ridge | 199 | 57 Zumsteinspitze | 269 |
| 38 Bishorn | 202 | • 56-57 Normal Route to the Signalkuppe and the Zumsteinspitze | 270 |
| • 38 Normal Route | 203 | 58 Dufourspitze | 274 |
| 39 Weisshorn | 206 | 59 Nordend | 274 |
| • 39 Normal Route | 207 | • 58a Normal Route to the Dufourspitze | 275 |
| 40 Ober Gabelhorn | 212 | • 58b Zumsteinspitze-Dufourspitze Traverse | 278 |
| • 40 NE Ridge via the Wellenkuppe | 213 | • 59a Normal Route to the Nordend | 280 |
| 41 Zinalrothorn | 216 | • 59b Dufour-Nordend Link | 282 |
| • 41 Normal Route | 217 | | |
| SIX • MONTE ROSA GROUP | 221 | SEVEN • THE MISCHABEL AND WEISSMIES GROUPS | 285 |
| 42-46 Breithörner Massif | 227 | 60 Strahlhorn | 292 |
| 42 Western Breithorn | 228 | • 60 Normal Route - NW Ridge | 293 |
| • 42 Normal Route | 228 | 61 Rimpfischhorn | 296 |
| 43 Central Breithorn | 230 | • 61 Normal Route | 297 |
| • 43a Normal Route | 230 | 62 Allalinhorn | 301 |
| • 43b Kaspar Mooser Route | 232 | • 62a Normal Route | 302 |
| 44 Eastern Breithorn | 234 | • 62b North-East Ridge and North Face | 304 |
| 45 Gendarme | 234 | 63 Alphubel | 306 |
| 46 Rocca Nera | 234 | • 63a Normal Route via the Eastern Side | 308 |
| • 42-46 Traverse of the Breithorns from East to West | 234 | • 63b Allalinhorn-Alphubel Traverse via the Feechopf | 311 |
| • 46 Normal Route | 237 | 64 Täschhorn | 313 |
| 47 Pollux | 239 | • 64 Normal Route via the SE Ridge | 314 |
| 48 Castor | 239 | 65 Dom | 316 |
| • 47a Normal Route via the South-West Ridge | 240 | • 65a Normal Route | 317 |
| • 47b West Face | 243 | • 65b Festigrat | 319 |
| • 48a Normal Route from the West | 245 | 66 Lenzspitze | 321 |
| • 48b Normal Route via the South-East Ridge | 247 | • 66a North-East Face | 322 |
| 49 Western Lyskamm | 249 | • 66b East-North-East Ridge | 324 |
| 50 Eastern Lyskamm | 249 | 67 Nadelhorn | 327 |
| • 49 Normal Route to the Western Lyskamm | 250 | • 67a Normal Route via the NE Ridge | 328 |
| • 50a Normal Route to the Eastern Lyskamm | 252 | • 67b Lenzspitze-Nadelhorn Traverse | 331 |
| • 50b Traverse of the Lyskamm | 254 | Nadelgrat | 333 |
| 51 Punta Giordani | 256 | | |
| 52 Vincent Pyramid | 256 | | |



| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| 68 Stecknadelhorn | 333 |
| 69 Hobärghorn | 333 |
| 70 Dirruhorn | 333 |
| • 68-70 Nadelgrat | 336 |
| • 68-69 Hobärghorn North Face | 339 |
| 71 Weissmies | 341 |
| • 71 Normal Route | 342 |
| 72 Lagginhorn | 344 |
| • 72 Normal Route via the WSW Ridge | 345 |

EIGHT • THE BERNESE ALPS 349

| | |
|--|-----|
| 73 Aletschhorn | 355 |
| • 73a Normal Route and Traverse of the Aletsch Glacier | 356 |
| • 73b Oberaletschgletscher South-West Spur | 358 |
| 74 Jungfrau | 361 |
| • 74 Normal Route to the Rottalsattel and the South-East Ridge | 362 |
| 75 Mönch | 365 |
| • 75 Normal Route via the South-East Ridge | 366 |
| 76 Gross Fiescherhorn | 368 |
| 77 Hinter Fiescherhorn | 368 |
| • 76-77a Normal Route to the Fiescherhorn peaks from the Mönchsjoehütte | 369 |
| • 76-77b Alpine ski descent from the Fiescherhorn Peaks to the Finsteraarhornhütten | 371 |
| 78 Gross Grünhorn | 373 |
| • 78a Normal Route | 374 |
| • 78b Ski Mountaineering Route | 377 |
| 79 Finsteraarhorn | 379 |
| • 79 Normal Route | 380 |
| 80 Schreckhorn | 382 |
| • 80 Normal Route via the South-West Ridge | 383 |
| 81 Lauteraarhorn | 386 |
| • 81 Normal Route via the South Gully and the South-East Ridge | 387 |

NINE • BERNINA RANGE 391

| | |
|---|-----|
| 82 Piz Bernina | 394 |
| • 82 Normal Route via the South-East Ridge of the Spalla | 395 |
| • List of the summits in height order | 402 |
| • List of the routes by grade order | 405 |
| • My 4000 metre alpine peaks diary | 409 |



*The Matterhorn, Weisshorn and Bishorn, photographed
from the Lauteraarhorn (ph. V. Cividini)*



GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



For conventional purposes, the alpine range extends from the Colle di Cadibona in Liguria, Italy, and develops west to east to the city of Vienna, Austria. Found within the borders of eight countries (Italy, France, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, Austria, Slovenia and Hungary), the Alps are the main mountain range in Europe and reach their highest point on Mont Blanc at 4810 metres. There is no universally recognised classification of the Alps and this guide has used the Suddivisione Orografica Internazionale Unificata del Sistema Alpino (SOIUSA – known in English as the International Standardised Mountain Subdivision of the Alps or ISMSA) because of its international standing. According to this classification, the alpine peaks which reach and exceed 4000 m, as well as those included in the official UIAA list when these are omitted, are located in three areas: the south-western, north-western and central-eastern Alps. There are no peaks equal to or exceeding 4000 metres in the other two areas (north-eastern and south-eastern Alps).

The south-western Alps are home to the Massif des Écrins and the first two Alpine four-thousanders: the Barre and Dôme des Écrins. The Écrins are part of the Dauphiné Alps and are entirely situated within French borders. The north-western Alps extend through France, Switzerland and Italy and feature the most four-thousanders in any one area: the extremely popular Graian Alps which include twenty-eight of the UIAA's four-thousanders, the Mont Blanc and Gran Paradiso ranges; the Pennine Alps and the Grand Combin Massif (three four-thousanders), the Weisshorn and Matterhorn Alps (seven four-thousanders), the Monte Rosa Massif (eighteen four-thousanders), the Mischabel and Weissmies Alps (thirteen four-thousanders) and the Bernese Alps area (nine four-thousanders).

Finally a single four-thousander stands alone in the central-eastern area: Piz Bernina, located in the eponymous group and forming part of the Western Rhaetian Alps in the Swiss canton of Grisons and Lombardy in Italy.

Normal Route to the Eastern Lyskamm



FIRST ASCENT: W.E. Hall, J.F. Hardy, J.A. Hudson, C.H. Pilkington, A.C. Ramsay, T. Rennison, F. Sibson, R.M. Stephenson, J.P. Cachat, F. Lochmatter, K. Herr, J. and P. Perren, S. Zumtaugwald, 19 August 1861

GRADE: PD+, narrow snow ridge, up to 45°

ASCENT: 900 m

SUPPORT BASES: Gnifetti or Mantova huts

CHARACTERISTICS: Glacial approach and a long sharp ridge developing entirely on snow

EQUIPMENT: Equipment for glacier travel



50a

Forming a steep and exposed white flake which extends for more than a kilometre, the east ridge of the Eastern Lyskamm is an inviting but very exposed line, where every step requires maximum concentration.

APPROACH

From the Gnifetti hut move onto the glacial plateau of Garstelet behind the hut and cross it with care (many dangerous crevasses – somehow the bad practice of pitching tents here has developed - do not copy their example!) towards the north-north-east until nearing the base of the SW face of the Vincent Pyramid. Move left up a glacial ramp onto the Eastern Lys glacier then ascend it on its right side (looking up), passing close to the snowy sides of the Vincent Pyramid (some large crevasses). Continue north on progressively easier ground to reach the rocky rise of the Balmenhorn and the nearby Felice Giordano bivouac on the right. Leave the path which leads to the Margherita hut on the right and bear progressively west on level ground to reach the wide Col de Lys, 4151 m, (approx. 2 hours from the Gnifetti hut).

ROUTE

From Col de Lys head to the base of the first rise of the Lyskamm east ridge. Overcome the bergschrund and climb the first part of the ridge, which is steep (45°) and very sharp, until reaching its snowy cap. Continue on the ridge, usually on the right of the edge on the exposed north side, for a long flat section (be very careful of cornices, usually facing south), passing beyond the spot height 4335 m. The ridge steepens again: climb carefully on the right of the arête until the join with the south ridge (Sella



The Eastern Lyskamm's summit cross, partially buried with snow (ph. V. Cividini)

Ridge), which can be delicate when icy. From this point the ridge becomes gentler until overcoming some easy protruding rocks to reach the summit (2-3 hours from Col de Lys).

DESCENT

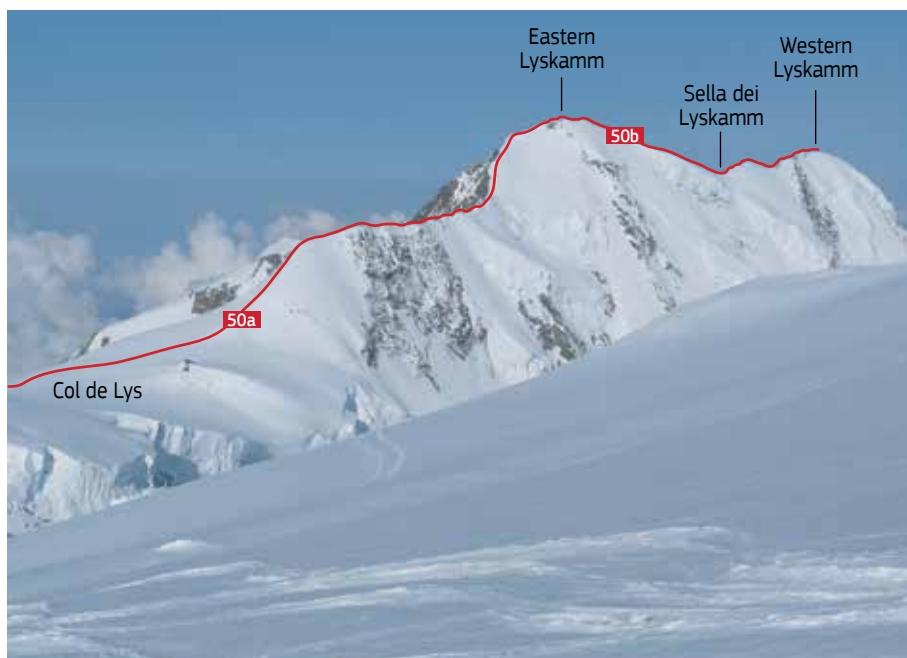
Reverse the route, taking extra care in the event of soft snow.

FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS

Generally possible throughout the summer, this route is delicate in very warm periods due to soft snow and the possible presence of underlying ice on the steepest sections. Excellent re-freezing conditions are essential. To be avoided in fresh snow and late in the season (first half of June) as a heavy snowfall results in a higher number of cornices.



Traverse of the Lyskamm from east to west



FIRST ASCENT: E.N. Buxton, L. Stephen, J. Anderegg, F. Biner, 16 August 1864 (from west to east, having completed the first ascent of the Western Lyskamm). J.H. Kitson, C. Almer, 1866 (from east to west)

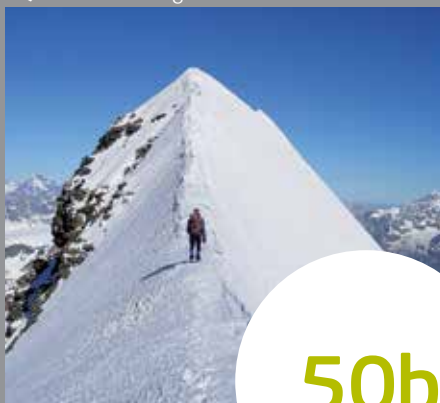
GRADE: AD, narrow snow ridge, up to 45° and III on rock (one move)

ASCENT: Approx. 200 m undulation on the traverse, long development

SUPPORT BASES: Gnifetti or Mantova huts, Quintino Sella hut on the Felik glacier (on the descent)

CHARACTERISTICS: Narrow and snowy ridge traverse

EQUIPMENT: for glacier travel



50b

One of the great classic routes in the Alps, the Lyskamm traverse is a spectacular and vertiginous route. In good snow conditions and with tracks the difficulties are contained but the exposure is always impressive. The traverse can be completed in both directions but the east-west option as described here is the most advisable.

APPROACH

Ascend to the Eastern Lyskamm via route 50a. Logistical note: ascend to the Mantova or Gnifetti huts from Gressoney and not from Alagna, so as to return to the car on the way back from the Quintino Sella hut.

ROUTE

From the summit of the Eastern Lyskamm follow the ridge which descends gently west until the notch of the Sella dei Lyskamm at 4417 m. Follow the ridge (on the edge or just right of it, depending on the state of the cornices) to a snow cap. Overcome a second rise, partly on rock, to reach a short rocky step which blocks the continuation along the ridge. Overcome this easily (one section of III) moving from right to left. Continue on the ridge to reach the eastern peak (1,30-2 h).

DESCENT

Via route 49.

FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS

As for the previous route. Cornices are present throughout the route; these can be exposed to both sides but are more commonly on the south side.



Three parts of the Lyskamm Traverse
(ph. arch. Cividini)

