COMONIACOM Monte Cervino 4476 m, Matterhorn 4478 m



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Act on Copyright in Literary and Artistic Works The Ministry of Justice

March 1, 1996 Stockholm (Act 1960:729, of December 30, 1960, as amended up to January 1, 1996).

CHAPTER 1.

Subject Matter and Scope

Article 1.

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Climbing / Via Ferrata, Monte Cervino / Matterhorn

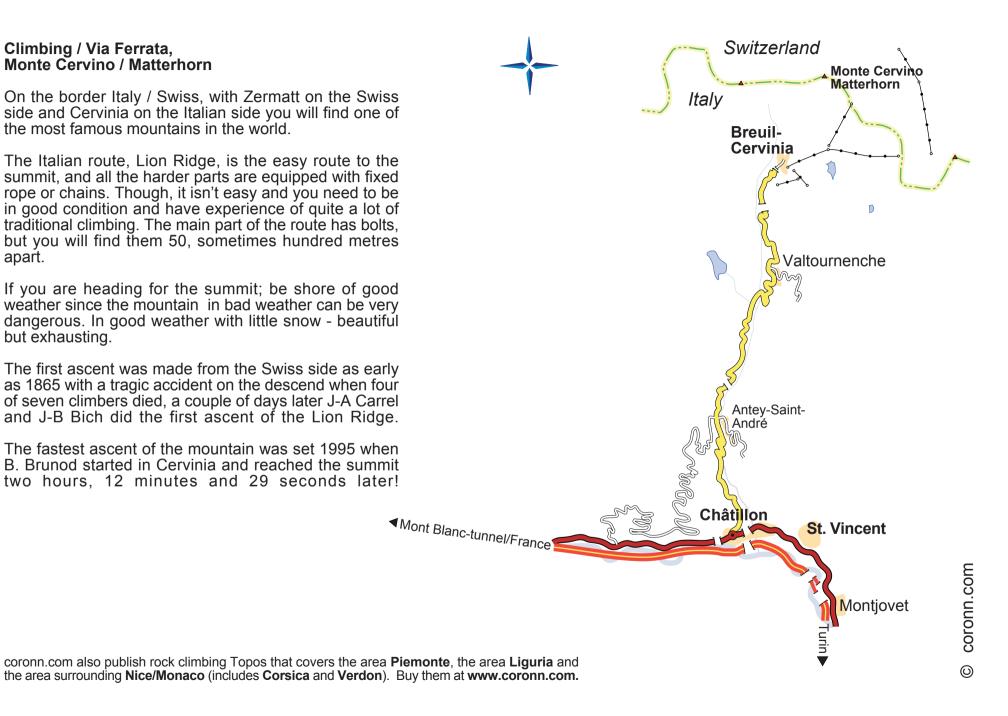
On the border Italy / Swiss, with Zermatt on the Swiss side and Cervinia on the Italian side you will find one of the most famous mountains in the world.

The Italian route, Lion Ridge, is the easy route to the summit, and all the harder parts are equipped with fixed rope or chains. Though, it isn't easy and you need to be in good condition and have experience of guite a lot of traditional climbing. The main part of the route has bolts, but you will find them 50, sometimes hundred metres apart.

If you are heading for the summit; be shore of good weather since the mountain in bad weather can be very dangerous. In good weather with little snow - beautiful but exhausting.

The first ascent was made from the Swiss side as early as 1865 with a tragic accident on the descend when four of seven climbers died, a couple of days later J-A Carrel and J-B Bich did the first ascent of the Lion Ridge.

The fastest ascent of the mountain was set 1995 when B. Brunod started in Cervinia and reached the summit two hours, 12 minutes and 29 seconds later!







Rifugio L.A. Carrel, 3829 m

On the highroad between Turin and the tunnel that cuts under Mont Blanc in Valle d'Aosta vou reach the village Châtillon and signposts for Breuil Cervinia. Turn of the highroad and follow a winding road in beautiful surroundings up to Cervinia on a altitude iust over 2000 m.

The village is a tourist spot with a lot of parking spaces. try to drive towards the left side of the village where a small gravelled road is the first part of access to the adventure. In the village you will find all you need as food, climbing stores, pharmacy (don't forget to bring sun block) and the Guide office where you can get updated information about the conditions of the route. If you want to save money, buy food in the village Châtillon instead.

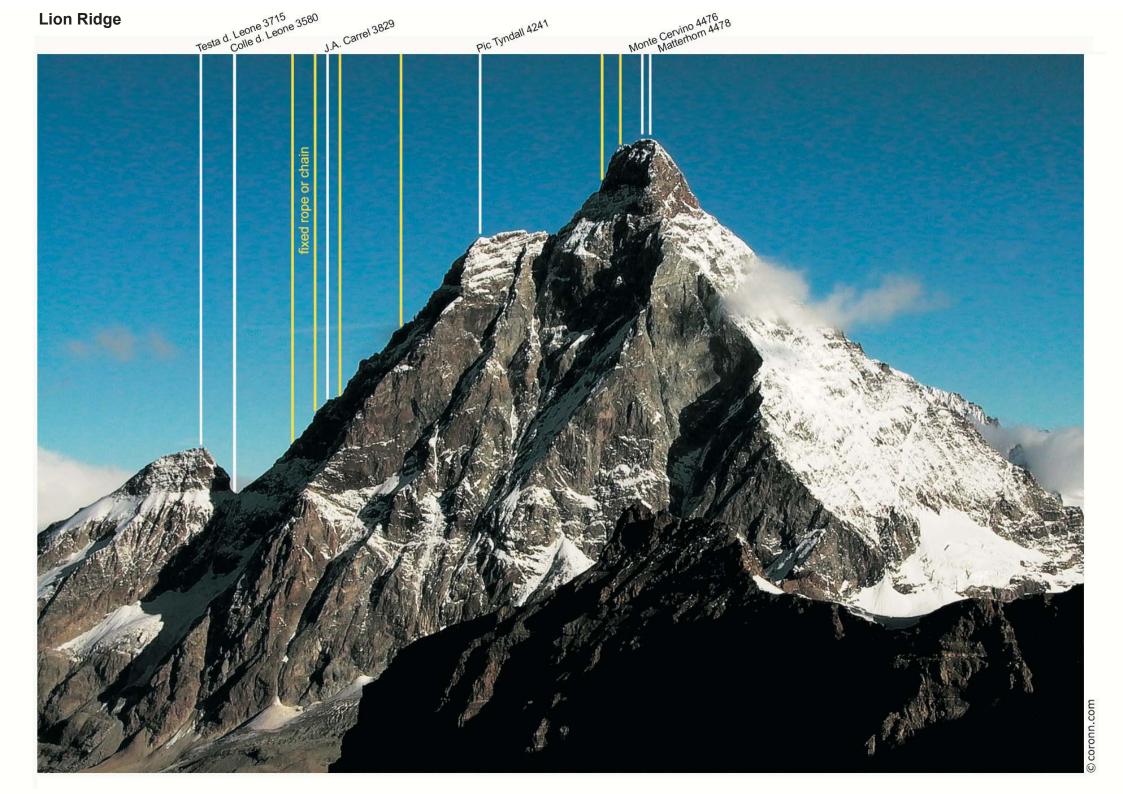
On the hillside on the left part of the village you will see a chapel, "Capella Ciduti". Walk in direction of the chapel on a gravelled road, pass the chapel and continue on the road that ends with two small lakes by the Rifugio Duca degli Abruzzi at 2802 m. (See picture to the right, below.)

Just after you have passed the hut Duca degli Abruzzi.

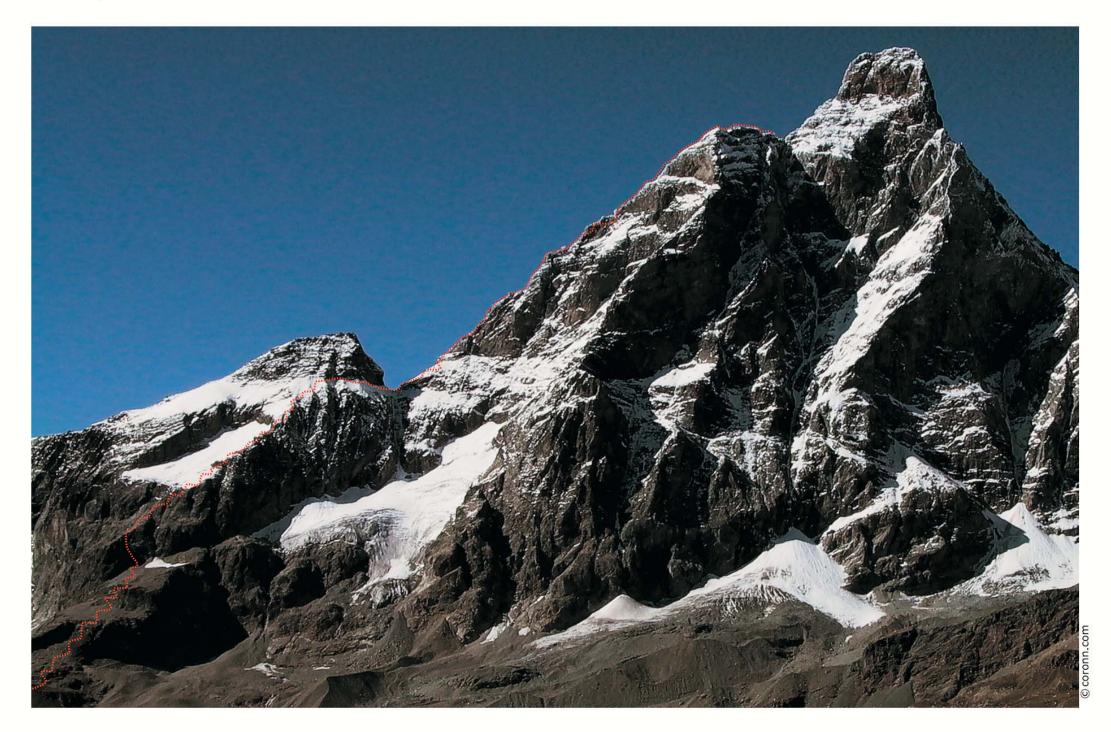
turn left and follow a small track behind the hut, the hut has been under renovation 2006/2007 and you might see signposts for J.A. Carrel. Follow the track that in some places has red marks, sometimes - small towers of stone. In high season for Monte Cervino / Matterhorn you normally doesn't meet snow before the hut Carrel but the last two years, with strange weather, did occasionally offer snow and then it is harder to find the track. During summer, and high season, there are a lot of climbers heading for Carrel, during weekends and around the 15th of August 20 to 60 people per day. With new snow on the track before Carrel you need to be an experience climber since the following part will be much harder. In good conditions the climbing, where the route isn't equipped with rope or chains, is to be regarded grade 3/3+ and only in short passages.

The hut J.A. Carrel offers about 60 beds, but the 20 on top is very hot if the hut is full, approximately 35-40 degrees Celsius. In high season, be there before lunch to be shore to get a bed on the first two levels. The views in sunset is extraordinary beautiful.





Lion Ridge



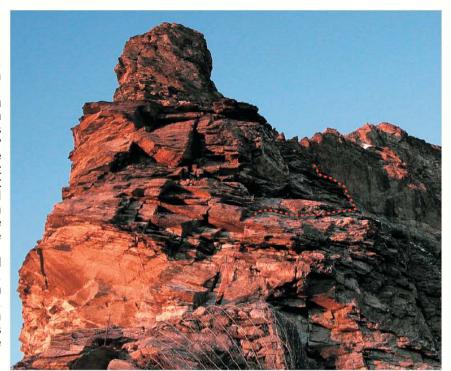
Pic Tyndall, 4241 m

Most of the climbers that are heading for the summit walk up to Carrel day 1. The access takes about 5-7 hours. In the hut you will find gas and a simple kitchen and if you find snow you can melt it since the trip is hard and you need a lot of water. However, ask in the guide office to be sure that it exist gas and if you arrive a year with little snow, bring big bottles and stop to take water before the hut Duca degli Abruzzi. Normally the track later crosses a spring on the way from that hut up to Carrel. Normally day 2 starts at 03.00-04.00, but some few climber's starts later. The advantage with an early start, with headlamp, is that there is quite often that the summit gets cloudy around lunchtime. Just behind the hut Carrel the continuing route starts with a steep passage equipped with rope and chains and if you was not awake before you will soon wake up. The first part of the route is at the right part of the crest and after 20-30 minutes you arrive at the crest. From here, the route turns right, ones again just to the right of the crest, hold high and look for bolts and slings. After this traverse you reach a part that often is covered with snow and ice. If not needed

before, now you need crampones and a ice axe. This part is equipped with a steel wire, though often covered with snow.

After this passage, hold slightly left and head for a long chain that will lead up to the crest and then continuously follow the crest, at two or three places slightly to the left or to the right for to find the easy way. Pic Tyndall offers a beautiful view over the Alps and if you has moved quick you will be about there in the sunrise. Behind you will see the Mont Blanc massif in the horizon (see picture below) and towards Swiss Massif of Monte Rosa, the ski system in Cervinia / Zermatt and the village Cervinia (see picture below to the right, Pic Tyndall with the village Cervinia at the bottom).

Often it is quite cold at this altitude, with some wind it gets freezing, and bring winter clothes and gloves. From Pic Tyndall, follow the crest slightly down towards the final wall to reach the summit. Most of the climbers climb without guide though guided climbs is quite common. Most of the climber's walks/climbs in couple with 10-15 metres of rope between them.







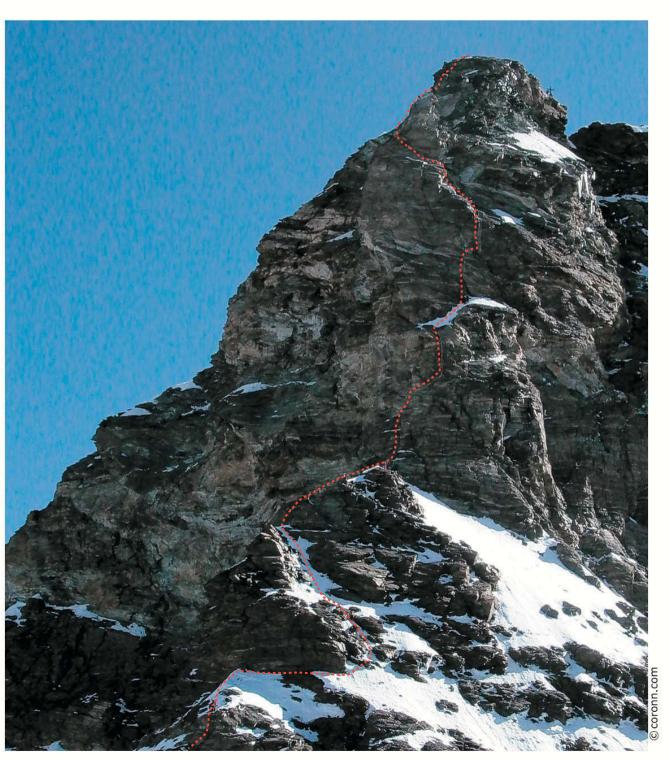
The last part to the summit

The harder parts of the Italian route, Lion Ridge, is equipped with rope, chains and wire, one passage near the summit is a wooden scale, "scala Jordan". The rest of the route has sporadically bolts and a good idea is to bring some friends and nuts. The time needed for the part from Carrel to the summit is 4,5-5,5 hours, that is if you use the method of approach with 10 to 20 metres of rope between you and when both moving more or less at the same time. Crampons are needed, especially for the last part to the summit.

After the crest from Pic Tyndall to the last wall, climb slightly to the right up to a steep wall. Traverse to the right and when you have passed the wall, turn left and climb slightly left in a steep snow slope. At the end of the sloop, turn right and continue up to a rope that leads up to the "scala Jordan". After the scale, follow a rope and traverse to the left up to a crest. Follow the crest up to the summit of Monte Cervino and an altitude of 4476 m. If you want to reach the summit of Matterhorn continue, pass the big cross arranged on order of the Pope Leone XIII as the first of 19 cross in the Italian Alps. After 30-40 metres on a sharp crest you will stand on a snow dressed Matterhorn.

The route is graded AD/AD+, the rock is relatively good with one bad part just before you reach Pic Tyndall.







View over Monte Rosa from Pic Tyndall in sunrise.

The Ufficio Guide di Cervinia is a perfect resource for information, you reach them on phone number +390166948169.

Peak season is July-August and the first week in September. Rescue services with expert helicopter evacuation are sophisticated but expensive, carry full alpine insurance.

To get broadcasts, search Google for; webcam, Matterhorn or webcam, Cervinia.

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Scrambling/climbing TOPOS to Monte Viso, 3841 m

Scrambling TOPOS to Argentera, 3297 m

* autumn 2007

Monte Cervino Matterhorn **Detailed map**

As you reach Cervinia you will find a big car park directly to the left. You can also turn left, continue and pass a golf-course and find your way to the left side of the village where you will find a small car park near a tennis-course. This one has only about 10 parking squares but is just near the gravelled road that leads up to "Capella Ciduti" and then to Rifugio Duca degli Abruzzi where the track to J-A. Carrel starts.

If you afford it, rent a bike and bring up on the gravelled road, when descending it is an relieve to hit the bike and only use muscles for the brakes.

The area is very beautiful and you could stay for several days, a alternative before or after Monte Cervino and Matterhorn could be the summit of Brighthorn. Take the Funevia to Plateau Rosa, follow the stream crossing ski-slopes and finally the ascent up to the summit. Crampons is needed, guides that get profit of possible dangerous brings clients in full equipment, rope, harness, helmet, axe and crampons. When I walked up I was passed by a elder couple with antique leader-boots and leader rucksacks.

