



ITALY, MONT BLANC RANGE

Grandes Jorasses: Diamond Ridge

ROUTE DESCRIPTION AND CLIMBING SECTIONS:

- » Section 1: Start at the bottom right of the Punta Grassi spur at an altitude of 2600m and climb mixed rock and grass up and left to the crest. Continue up the left side of the spur to smooth slabs topped by a prominent triangular cave (which is visible from the Val Ferret road). About four ropelengths.
- » Section 2: Climb slabs and cracks to belay above the cave. Climbing up to 4, 30m.
- » Section 3: Continue up the gully comprised of light coloured rocks above, and trend left to easier ground below the first prominent col on the Punta Grassi spur. About five ropelengths, 200m in total. Easy ground with some rock and snow.
- » Section 4: Descend into the gully originating from the hanging snout of the Tronchey Glacier (steep 5m descent on big holds, 4), cross the gully at its narrowest point to gain a slab of rock on the right side of the snowfield near the foot of the Diamond Ridge. Continue diagonally left across the snowfield to gain the foot of the open corner system cutting through the first band of overlapping slabs on the ridge. Three ropelengths, 100m.
- » Section 5: Climb the groove through the overlapping slabs for four pitches then trend right up the left flank of the main ridge line to gain a small col at an altitude of 3250m below a steep crest that rises to a prominent tower. Ten pitches in all. Climbing up to 5c. Small bivouac site 20m down and left of the col.
- » Section 6: Climb the crest by shallow cracks and move left to a good hidden stance. 5c/A0, 20m.
- » Section 7: Continue up the left flank of the ridge for eight rope lengths to gain the ridge crest below a small tower cut by a prominent short left-facing corner-crack. Climbing up to 5c.
- » Section 8: Climb the corner-crack (A0) and continue up the ridge crest for four pitches to where it steepens. The first Tronchey Tower is now visible on the right. Climbing up to 5b.
- » Section 9: Climb four pitches right of the crest taking a line about 50m left of the left-facing corner taken by the Tronchey Arête to join this route at the notch between the first and second towers. Alt. 3800m, climbing up to 5c.
- » Section 10: Continue up the Tronchey Arête for 400m to the summit of the Grandes Jorasses. Second bivouac taken on top of second Tronchey tower.



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Grandes Jorasses: Tronchey Wall

OVERALL VIEW (SEE ABOVE):

- » Tronchey Wall (Grandes Jorasses SSE Face) as seen from Tronchey, Val Ferret at 1620 m.

RATING/DIFFICULTY:

- » TD, 5c/A0, 2500 m climbing distance, 1600 m vertical elevation (1200 m Diamond Ridge + 400 m Tronchey Ridge to the top of Grandes Jorasses).

FIRST ASCENT:

- » Micha Rinn (Germany) and Simon Richardson (Scotland), 28th – 30th July 2016.

LOCATION/ACCESS:

- » Pra Sec, Val Ferret (southside of Grandes Jorasses). GPS Coordinates Approach: N 45° 50' 51", E 7° 0' 42" @ 1635 m.

EQUIPMENT/GEAR:

- » Camalots up to # 3. Small to medium wires. 2 x 50 m ropes.

NOTE:

- » The prominent Diamond Ridge divides the Pra Sec and Tronchey Glaciers on the SSE face of the Grandes Jorasses. It is the main ridge, that bounds the right side of the enormous 1435 m high Tronchey Wall, which is the highest rock face in the Mont Blanc range. Our ascent started lower than the base of the wall and had an overall height elevation of 1600 m. The ridge is undercut at its base and defended by a difficult approach up the chaotic Pra Sec Glacier. Instead, we gained the ridge from the south spur of Punta Grassi by crossing under the west branch of the Tronchey Glacier. The new climbing comprises 1200 m (yellow). It starts at 2600 m and joins the Tronchey Ridge below the Second Tronchey Tower at 3800 m. From here we followed the final 400 m of the Tronchey Ridge (red) to the summit of Grandes Jorasses (4208 m/Pointe Walker). Bivouacs shown in blue. Our ascent is thought to be only the fourth time the Tronchey Wall has been climbed. The rock is exceptionally good granite, solid with many natural features and holds.