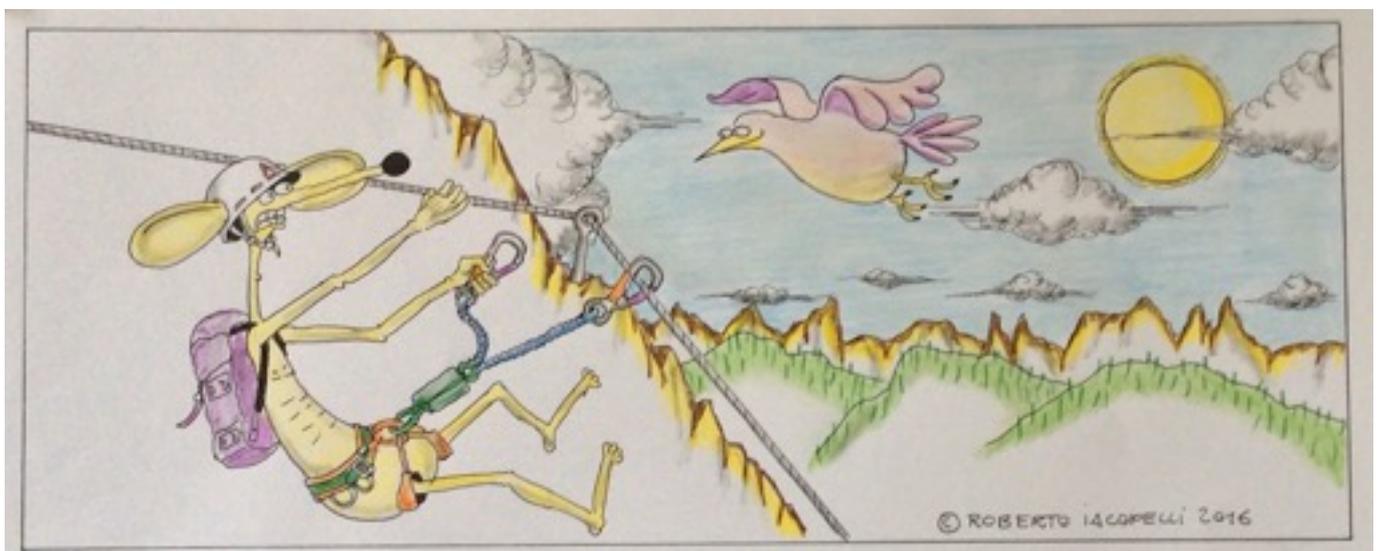


Via Ferratas

A introduction to the "art of climbing the Via Ferratas in the Dolomites."



A Short history of the ferratas

It's hard to believe that just 90 or so years ago, during World War I, our mountains were wracked by violence: explosions blew off summits and shrapnel pierced tree trunks. Even now, the ground is littered in places with bits of barbed wire and other debris from the conflict. The history of the Via Ferrata in the Dolomites starts with this war. The "Alpini" (Italian mountain troops) and the "Kaiserjaegers" (Austrian mountain troops) each sought supremacy in the Dolomites region, and some of the high passes were intense battlegrounds. During the First World War, via ferrata were constructed in the Italian Dolomites so that troops could move equipment and artillery from one side of the mountain to the other. After the war, the army abandoned the routes and local people took to maintaining them, recognizing their potential for attracting visitors to the area.



The Dolomites via ferrata routes are accessible to most people, not just technical climbers. Hikers and scramblers with reasonable fitness and a head for heights can also enjoy the routes with a mountain guide and the right gear and training.

Clothing:

You need only normal hiking clothes suitable for alpine areas. (read our INFO 5 pdf file).

Equipment:

On guided days, I will supply you with all the necessary gear for via ferrata:

- Helmet and Harness
- Ferrata gloves, lanyards + shock absorber
- Crampons and ice axe or trekking sticks (only if are necessary)



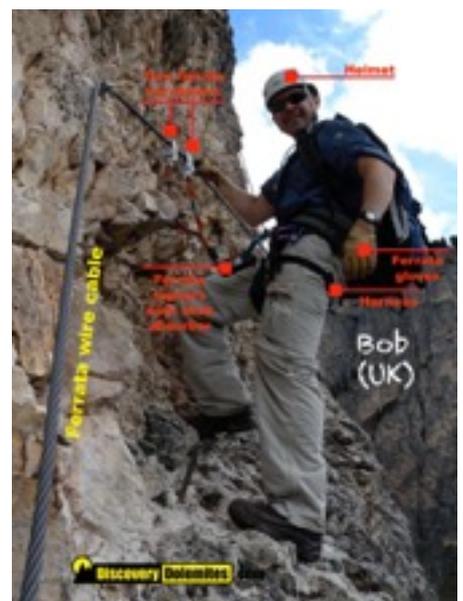
If you are a beginner, you and me will climb an easy via ferrata on the first guided day. All people from 7 to 70 years old, with basic hiking experience, can climb an easy via ferrata.

If you are comfortable with sports and not afraid on steep and exposed routes, then you can climb with the Standard Safety System. It is easy to learn

STANDARD SAFETY SYSTEM

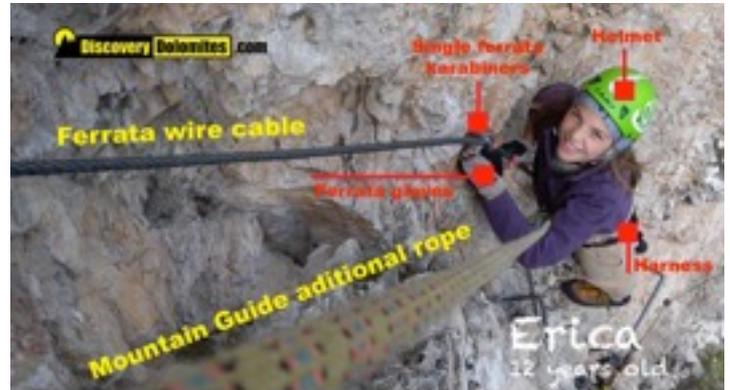
Look at this photo of Bob. He is climbing the Via Ferrata Pertini on the Stevia wall with the standard safety system. Two ferrata lanyards and a shock absorber are fastened to his climbing harness at one end and to the safety cable of the ferrata with carabiners at the other end. He is careful to always keep at least one carabiner clipped onto the cable.

This is the standard via ferrata safety system. If you prefer to have additional help, the Mountain Guide can belay you with a rope (see below).



MOUNTAIN GUIDE SAFETY SYSTEM

Clients who struggle on exposed or more difficult sections (or kids like Erica in the photo) have the option to receive additional help from the rope of the Mountain Guide. In this case, a single carabiner / ferrata lanyard is clipped onto the ferrata cable. The guide's climbing rope is fastened directly to the client's harness and the guide belays (with tension as needed) the client through the difficult section. Both systems represent safe climbing techniques.

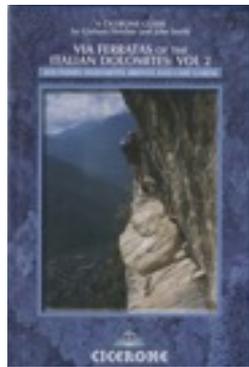
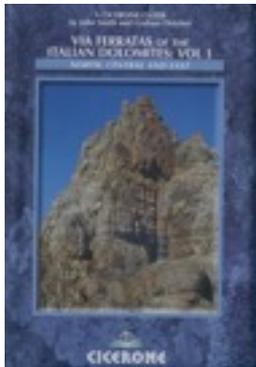


In any case “relax you” the ferrata are a safety system to climb the walls of the Dolomites... ..



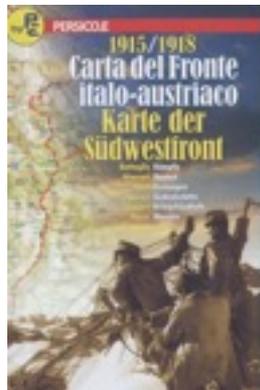
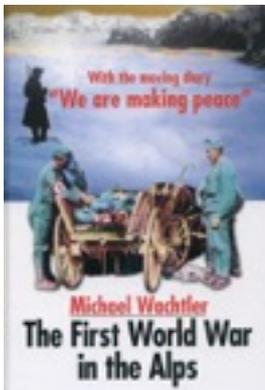
THE BEST BOOKS

If you are interested to read more about the Via Ferrata of the Dolomites, I suggest that you buy the two good guidebooks from the publisher CICERONE London (www.cicerone.co.uk) (www.amazon.com)



Title: **VIA FERRATAS OF THE ITALIAN DOLOMITES - Vol 1**
(north, central and east) – J. Smith and G. Fletcher – 2002
ISBN: 978-1-85284-362-4

Title: **VIA FERRATAS OF THE ITALIAN DOLOMITES - Vol 2**
(south, Brenta and Lake Garda) – J. Smith G. Fletcher – 2003
ISBN: 978-1-85284-380-9



Pertaining to World War 1 in the Dolomites, there is only one good book in English and a general map. If you are interested in this topic, it's a great idea to buy both :

Title: **THE FIRST WORLD WAR IN THE ALPS**
ISBN: 88 - 6011 - 037 - 8 (Athesia Spectrum Edition)
Michael Wachtler – 2006
<http://www.athesiabuch.it/menu/engl>



There are two main editors that produce maps for the Dolomites territory:

The TABACCO (blue covers)

The KOMPASS (green cover)

Both editors produce the maps, in 1:25.000 scale, for every group of mountains of the Dolomites.

So if you are looking for the map of the Via delle Bocchette in the western Dolomites, you will find the "Gruppo di Brenta" map for both.

Every map have a sequential number of identification, and is easy to find on lime or by the ATHESIA book shop of Bolzano. Both brands of maps are good, but personally I prefer the colours of the Tabacco.

