

## ABOUT THE TRAIL

- $\rightarrow$  DISTANCE 11.6 km (7.2 mi) or 7.8 km (4.8 mi)
- $\rightarrow$  <u>DURATION</u> 5 to 7 hours
- → <u>TOTAL ELEVATION GAIN</u> 1,557 m (5,108 ft) or 1,095 m (3,593 ft)
- $\rightarrow$  <u>LEVEL</u> Moderate or challenging

n the Italian Dolomites, the Vajolet Towers are second only in fame to Tre Cime di Lavaredo (Drei Zinnen), and **L** an icon for climbing and mountaineering in the district. Although significantly less popular as a tourist destination than Tre Cime, the Vajolet Towers are just as impressive—arguably even more so. Three graceful limestone towers, Torre Delago (2,790 m/9,154 ft), Torre Stabeler (2,805 m/9,203 ft), and Torre Winkler (2,800 m/9,186 ft) crown the main formation (the Southern Vajolet Towers), but there are several other summits in the less-frequented Northern Vajolet Towers. This entire landscape is a place of surprising rock pinnacles rising up out of deep ravines, crisscrossed by via ferrata routes and well serviced by mountain refuges.

While the vertiginous summits are best left to expert rock climbers, the fit and determined hiker can climb high into this landscape and reach a number of classic viewpoints offering panoramas of the towers. And for those with the skills (and head for heights), the Via Ferrata Passo Santner offers an even more exciting way to access these viewpoints.

Both trails begin from the Rosengarten Hut (Rifugio Fronza), accessible from the König Laurin chairlift near Malga Frommer

Alm, a mountain restaurant a few kilometers north along the road from Lake Karersee-Carezza.

## **ROUTE 1**

The first trail takes a more roundabout route to the Vajolet Towers viewpoints, but the terrain underfoot firmly remains walking rather than aided rock climbing. Leaving the Rosengarten Hut behind, take the right-hand trail (550) southeast toward Pas de le Coronele (2,630 m/8,629 ft). The way is steep and scrambly in places, with rope handrails here and there for assistance, so take care to avoid a slip. After a few hundred meters of ascent, you will reach the Pas de le Coronele: a dramatic scree-filled notch in the mountain ridge. From this point, the Vajolet Towers themselves remain hidden behind the bulk of Rosengartenspitze (also known as Cima Catanaccio, 2,981 m/9,780 ft).

## VAJOLET TOWERS Dolomites, South Tyrol ITALY

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← Hiking back from Rifugio Vajolet to Pas de le Coronele.

↓ Challenging terrain beneath the pass.

