

A8. GRANDE FLORIA
West face 2888 m

- ▶ **Start/End:** 2385/1060
- ▶ **V +/- V -:** 880/2200
- ▶ **Aspect:** west
- ▶ **Slope:** sect. 50° ; 45°/250
- ▶ 1344 or 3630OT
- ▶ **Time:** 4h00
- ▶ **Ski:** 5.1
- ▶ **Alpine:** AD
- ▶ **Exposure:** 2
- ▶ 45, 48

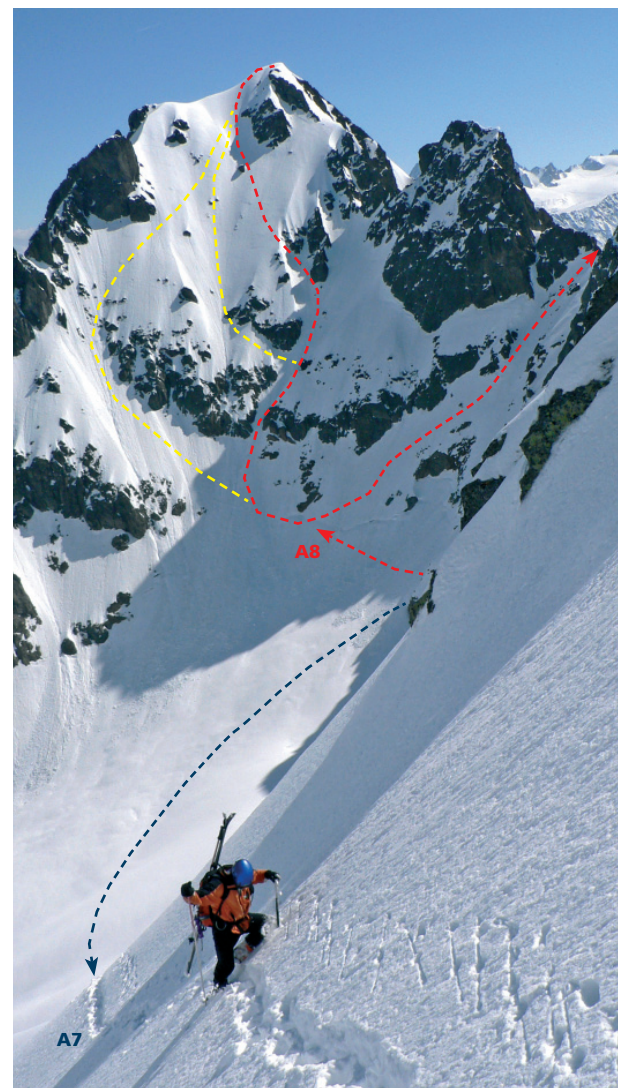
From the Index, follow **A7** to the Floria glacier. Ascend the couloir directly beneath the summit, head left then back right to reach the summit (*several possible descents*). Climb back up to the Col de la Floria; descend the southeast side to join back up with the runs of the Index.

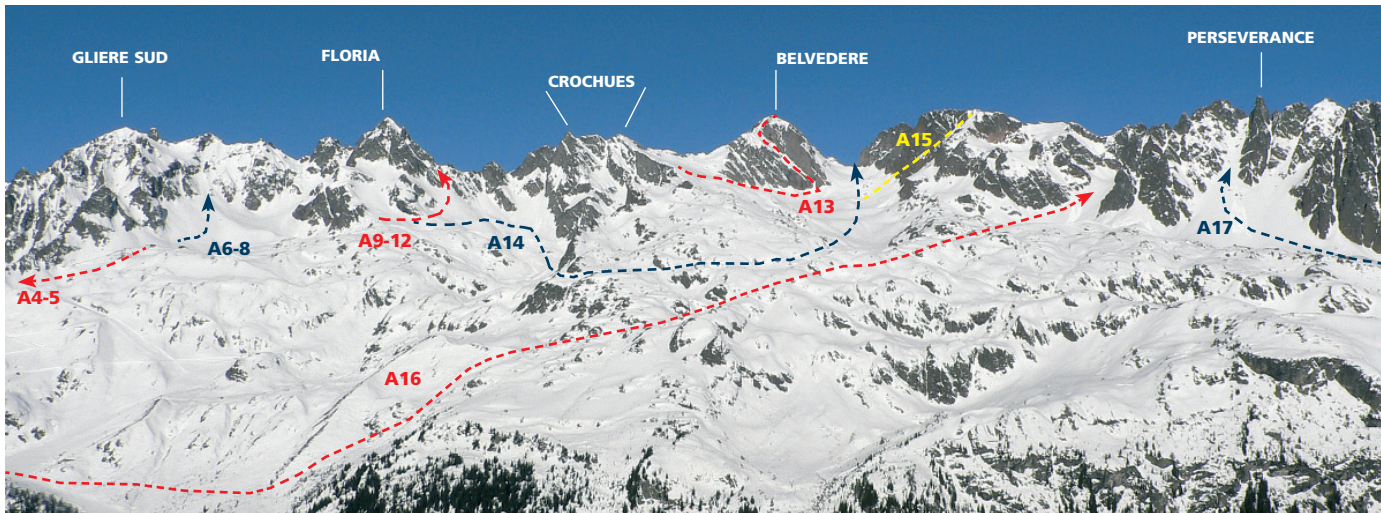
A8.1. North-northeast face. Follow **A10** to the Col Supérieur des Crochues. (45°/100; ski : 4.2/E2).

The western aspect requires an afternoon descent during the spring; this is why we recommend a quick return via the Col de la Floria. However, as with A7, you can continue via the Bérard valley via A6 or A11. A8.1 is short and is best combined with A10, A11 or A12. The Floria also has an east couloir, although not recommended since it is short (100 m), often has thin snow conditions and has a Gazex tube (avalanche control) at the top. At the end of the 19th century, this wonderful panoramic viewpoint (that we refer to as the Grande Floria to distinguish it from the neighboring Petite Floria to the southwest) was relatively unknown and the name Floria (meaning steep pasture in the local dialect) was given to the Pouce. When the Pouce was renamed, the coomb on its south flank was not, explaining why it is still called the “Combe de la Floria” even though it “belongs” to the Pouce. Not too long after, in the summer of 1919, the 27 m monolith that rises up out of the east couloir of the Aiguille de la Glière was baptized “Gen-



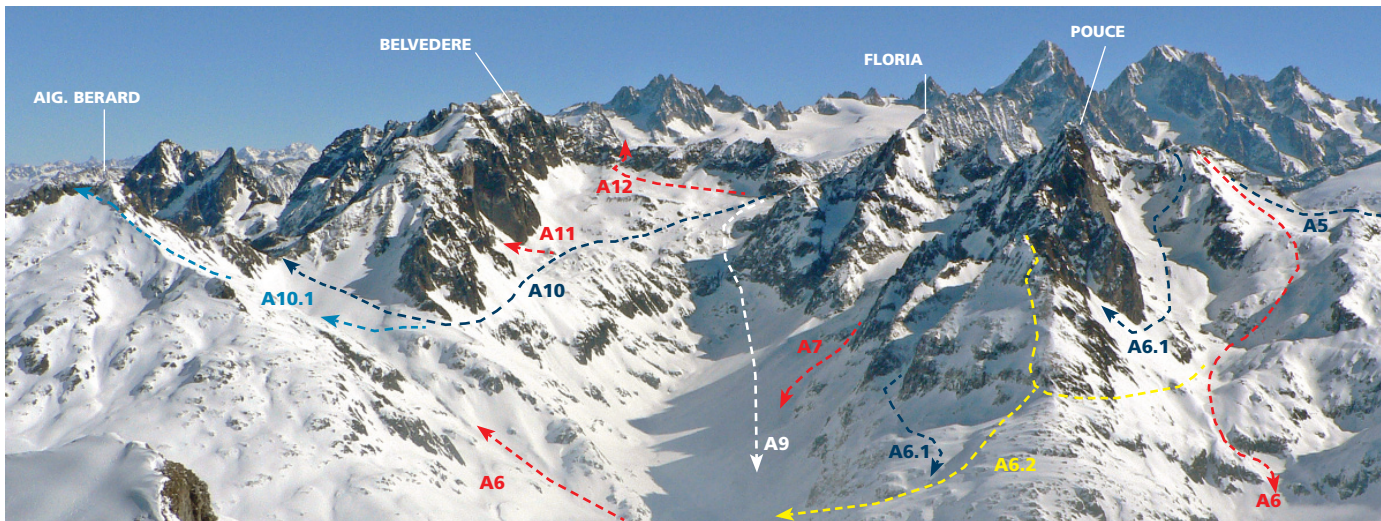
darme Wehrin” (tower) to honor Jacques Wehrin who disappeared in combat during the World War I. Wehrin was the leader of a group of rock climbers who would create, at the start of the same summer, the well known Groupe de Haute Montagne (GHM). During the winter of 1991 two guides, Armand Comte and Roland Ravanel, made first descents of the Balme couloirs (A6.1) which have the potential to become as classic as climbing at the “Chapelle de la Glière” developed by Armand Comte in 1964.





The Aiguilles-Rouges chain extends from the southwest to the northeast for roughly 10 km from the Brévent to the Aiguille de Praz Torrent. On the southeast side sit the Brévent and the Flégère ski areas, which extend

6 km to the Combe des Crochues. The lift system provides access to the Aiguilles-Rouges natural reserve, a protected area where the wildlife and the wilderness have slowly but surely taken back their rightful place.



A9. SALENTON
West face, loop 2720 m

- ▶ **Start/End:** 2500/1330
- ▶ **V +/ V -:** 1750/2920
- ▶ **Aspect:** all
- ▶ **Slope:** 35°/300
- ▶ 1344 or 3630OT+3530ET
- ▶ **Time:** 7h00
- ▶ **Ski:** 3.2
- ▶ **Alpine:** F
- ▶ **Exposure:** 2
- ▶ 48, 50, 54

From the Index, follow **A10** to the first pass (2720 m). Descend towards the Chalets de Balme, either directly by the coomb of the same name or by **A10** and then by the Combe de l'Envers de Bérard. At around 1800 m, head right to join up with the Diosaz valley; climb up the valley (northeast) to reach the Col de Salenton. Go around the Aiguille de Salenton on its eastern side and climb to the summit via the broad northwest ridge. Descend the west face for 500 m and then traverse towards the south. Climb back up towards the Aiguille de Bérard to reach **A10.1**.

A9.1. Crochues-Cochons. Prior to the Col de Salenton, head to the Col des Cochons (2497 m on CNS). Descend via **B1** (ski: 3.1/E1).

A9.2. Crochues-Salenton. From the Col de Salenton. Descend via **B1** (ski: 3.1/E1).

The A9 loop is more than just a variation to the heavily traveled Crochues-Bérard traverse (A10). The first part of the trail is safe due to avalanche control at the Flégère, it is relatively easy technically, with two short climbs, has a diverse landscape, and with a long, beautiful descent has become a victim of overcrowding. It remains, nevertheless, a very good approach route. In winter, you will need to use your imagination to escape the crowds. First and foremost, avoid weekends, school holiday periods (February in France), the first tram of the day...which leaves us with what? Smart time management. With a mid-morning start, the snow on the first descent (southwest) and the exposed traverse will have had a chance to soften up. Next, the descent of the Vallon de Bérard (northeast) should still have good snow, and what you may miss in first tracks, you will certainly gain in peace and quiet. The last train is at 8pm, which leaves time to enjoy a hot meal at the Hôtel du Buet.

