

D3. LUISIN
East couloir 2786 m

- ▶ **Start/End: 2200/1110**
- ▶ **V +/ V -: 690/1780**
- ▶ **Aspect: east**
- ▶ **Slope: 45°/350**
- ▶ 1324
- ▶ **Time: 3h30**
- ▶ **Ski: 5.1**
- ▶ **Alpine: AD**
- ▶ **Exposure: 2**
- ▶ 111

From Les Marécottes, follow **D2.1** to under the summit blocks. Make a traverse left on the north side and head to a gap that provides access to the couloir's entrance: make a short rappel from here (depends on the snowpack) or a 30 m rappel directly from the summit. (You can also climb directly up the couloir, traversing to the base from the top of the chairlifts. This option is shorter.)

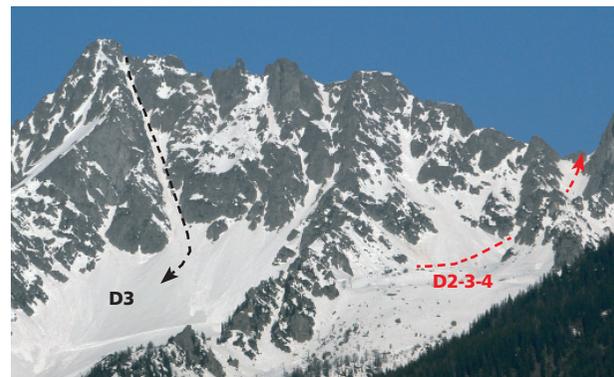
D4. TOUR SALLIERE
Circum and summit 3220 m

- ▶ **Start/End: 2200/1110**
- ▶ **V + D1+D2: 830/1610**
- ▶ **V - D1+D2: 930/2600**
- ▶ **Aspect: all**
- ▶ **Slope: 40°/100**
- ▶ 1324 + 1304
- ▶ **Time D1+D2: 3h30 + 7h00**
- ▶ **Ski: 3.3**
- ▶ **Alpine: PD-**
- ▶ **Exposure: 2**
- ▶ **Hut: Susanfe**
- ▶ 96, 108, 111, 112, 114, 133, 135

D1. From Les Marécottes, follow **D2** to La Golette. Head northwest and descend the Combe de la Golette. Traverse Salanfe lake (generally frozen when the ski area is open) or ski along its west end. Go around the Tour 2210 to its right, always heading northwest. Ascend to the Col de Susanfe via its eastern slopes. Descend southwest to the hut.

D2. From the hut, descend skier's left the Susanfe valley then contour (2000 m) southwest under the long line of cliffs that blocks access to the face. Ascend up and left a large couloir that allows passage through the line of cliffs. From there (2200 m) continue heading southwest and pass through a second line of cliffs (2450 m). Just to the left of the Glacier du Ruan ascend the slopes that provide access to the vast glacial plateau. Traverse the plateau, heading towards the Tour Salière's northwest face. Climb the face on its right side until you reach the summit rocks (in general you leave your skis here). Climb a short couloir, traverse left and then straight up, topping out a few meters west of the summit. Once you have put your skis back on, ski to the bottom of the face towards the Col de la Tour Salière (pass). Continue southeast until you reach La Chaux du Milieu (2400 m). From there climb the southern point of Aboillon (2781 m) and then descend the southwest slopes (35°/300) to the Col de Barberine. From there head back to Les Marécottes via **D1.1**.

D4.1. Descend towards Emosson lake (**C10**), ski along the left bank for 1.5 km. Climb back up to the Col de Barberine and join **D4**.



D3 can easily be seen from the ski area: it is a quick morning outing when you catch the chairlifts as soon as the ski area opens. Circumnavigating the Sallière massif is a high mountain adventure. Three of the four valleys you will visit (Salanfe, Susanfe, Barberine) still have glaciers (however small they may be). In spite of their imminent demise, the Ruan glacier (the only glacier that you will actually traverse) is one of the more beautiful glaciers of the region with an impressive series of seracs. The landscape changes as you travel from one point to the next, leaving you with a strong feeling upon your return that you spent more than two days out in the mountains. You can combine the relatively short first day with Luisin (D2.1), the Haute Cime (E7) or even the Dôme Sallière (E8) after dropping off your personal items at the hut. With a deep snowpack you can descend from the Tour Sallière's summit on skis (4.2/E3). If it is too late to descend the Vallon d'Emaney, ski to Finhaut via the Emosson dam and then back to Les Marécottes by train. This is also an alternative used by those who complete the circumnavigation in a day.

