

WIPPTAL VIA FERRATA TRIO

Medium difficulty grades (B-C), south facing routes and modern construction: these are the ingredients for a via ferrata package like no other.

The Wipptal Via Ferrata Trio brings together three highly attractive via ferratas, all close to the valley floor and all south facing, into one unforgettable experience. A key feature is that the trio was designed as a cross border package: one of the routes lies in North Tyrol (Austria), while the other two are in South Tyrol (Italy). What's more, all three via ferratas can be reached by public transport, which makes this trio truly one of a kind.

THREE TIMES GOOD: ROCK, SUN, WIPPTAL

Where the via ferrata season goes into extra time

There's always something going on. At first glance, the shoulder seasons, when the peaks are covered in snow and the higher via ferratas are closed for winter, look like a challenge for mountain lovers. But instead of the obvious choice of heading south, via ferrata fans are increasingly saying: head to the Wipptal instead.

Between Innsbruck and Sterzing there are three via ferratas close to the valley floor waiting to be discovered, running spectacularly and safely through south facing rock faces. In early and late winter, when the sun is out, it can almost feel like summer. It's a striking contrast: while the shaded side of the valley still feels like winter, the sunny side stretches the via ferrata season well beyond its usual limits.

Just above the train station in the mountain village of St. Jodok in the North Tyrolean Wipptal, the Peter Kofler via ferrata climbs through the impressive rock faces of the Stafflach Wall. On the south side of the Brenner Pass, just a few kilometers from Sterzing, two more via ferratas await: the Ibex route in Ratschings and the Ölberg route at the entrance to the Pfitsch Valley, both rated grade C. All three routes impress with short approaches and descents, airy traverses, and features like ladders and rope bridges. The two South Tyrolean routes also offer variants in grades D and E, providing a demanding challenge even for the most experienced climbers.

The three routes combine perfectly for a multi day stay. Add a side trip to Innsbruck, the capital of Tyrol, or a stroll through Sterzing, and the Wipptal Via Ferrata Trio brings together sport, enjoyment and culture in a particularly charming way.



© Stefan Herbke



© Stefan Herbke



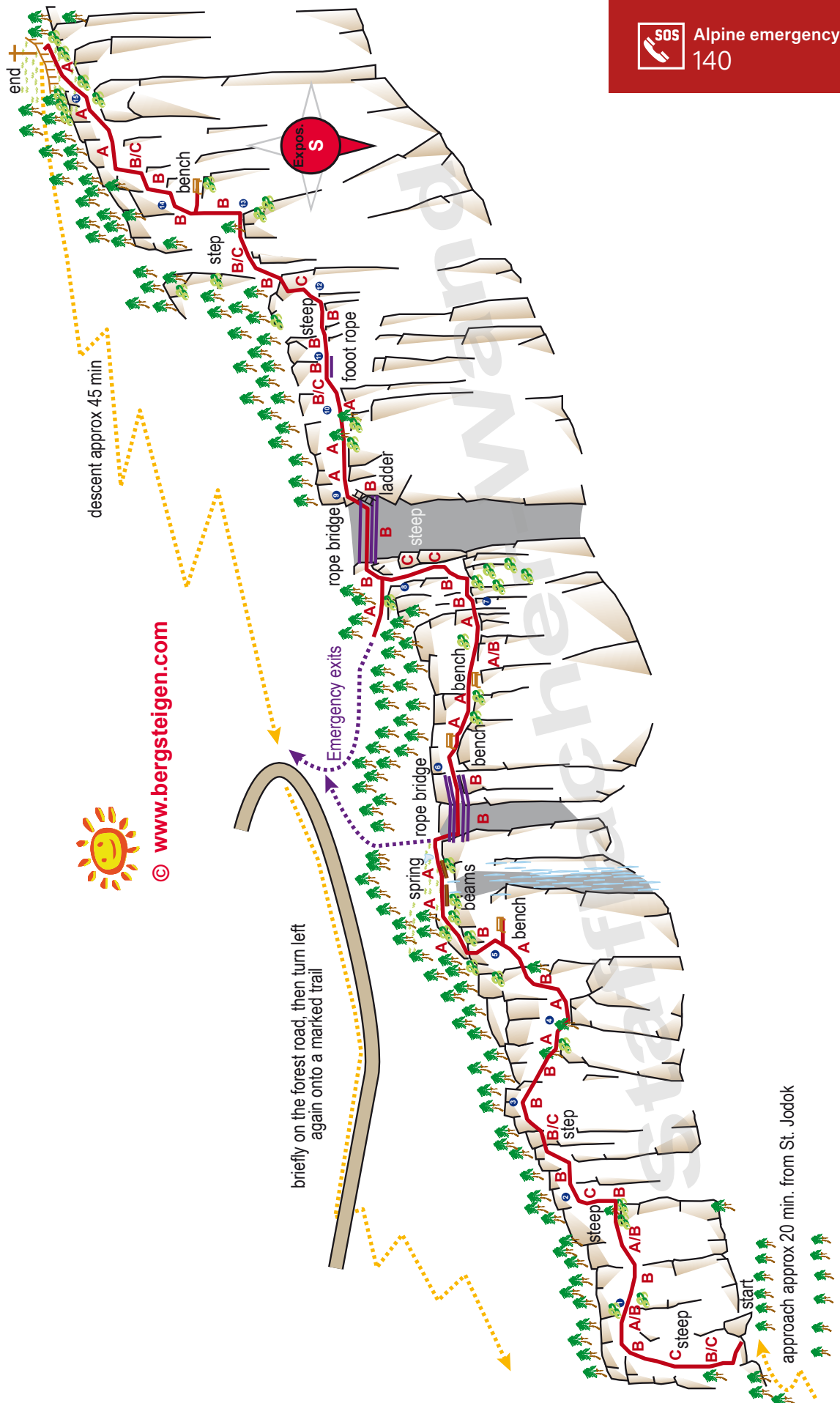
© Axel Jentzsch-Rabl

Peter Kofler Via Ferrata

ST. JODOK NORTH TYROL



Alpine emergency
140





Key Facts



Difficulty
C – medium



Climbing time
1:45–2 h



Approach
15 min



Descent
45 min



Route length
650 m



Elevation gain
300 m



Aspect
South

CHARACTER

La via ferrata Peter Kofler sulla parete dello “Stafflacher” gode di grande popolarità. I motivi sono il breve avvicinamento, l'esposizione a sud, il grado di difficoltà medio (C), i panorami mozzafiato e l'area di sosta allestita con grande cura presso la croce di vetta. Da sottolineare in particolare è la perfetta raggiungibilità con i mezzi pubblici: dalla stazione ferroviaria di St. Jodok si arriva al punto di partenza più velocemente che dal parcheggio!

APPROACH

From the train station, head above the railway line away from the valley until the approach path branches off to the right (approx. 10 min).

From the “St. Jodok village center” parking lot, walk briefly toward the church, then turn left over the stream and continue toward the train station. From there, head above the railway line away from the valley until the approach path branches off to the right (approx. 15 min).

From the “Schmirner Leite” parking lot, walk away from the valley to the train station. From there, head above the railway line away from the valley until the approach path branches off to the right (approx. 15 min).

From the Wipptal cycle path at the Stafflach railway underpass, follow the approach path to the left to the start (approx. 5 min).

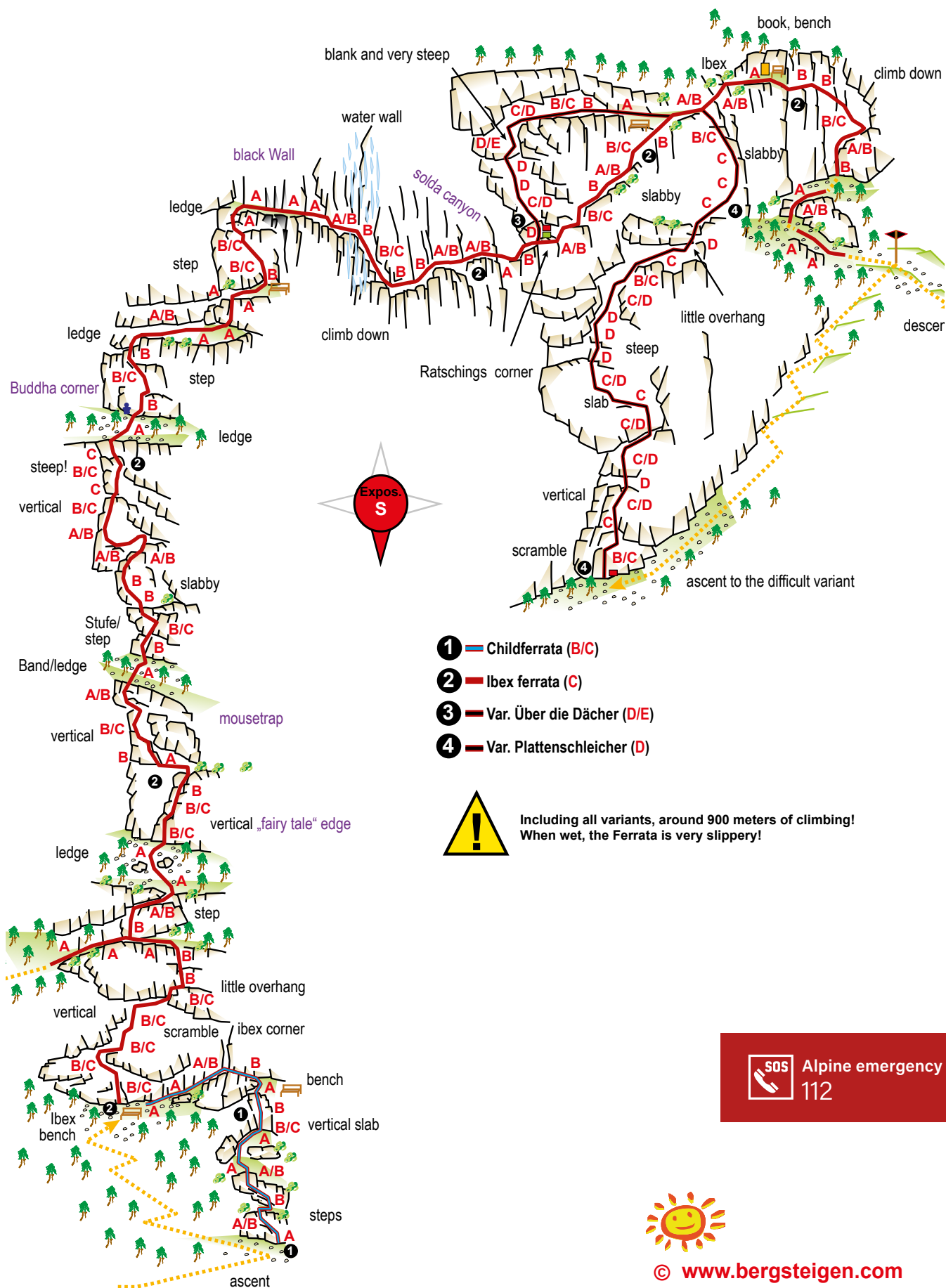
DESCENT

From the respective exit, follow the route down to where it meets the forest road. Descend along the forest road for about 5 minutes until a hiking trail branches off to the left, leading back to the approach path.



Alpine emergency
140







Key Facts



Difficulty
C variant D/E



Climbing time
3:00 h



Approach
5 min



Descent
30 min



Route length
900 m



Elevation gain
370 m



Aspect
South, Southeast

CHARACTER

The Ibex via ferrata, on the sunny south facing slope above Innerratschings, combines striking rock formations, varied climbing sections and impressive views. Benches and photo spots along the route invite you to linger. A children's via ferrata offers an ideal introduction for young climbing enthusiasts, while information panels featuring the mascot Raci share fun facts about climbing technique, equipment, and the local flora and fauna.

DIRECTIONS

From Sterzing, head to Stange and turn left into the Ratschings Valley. Pass the Ratschings-Jaufen cable car and continue another 2.7 km toward Flading, then turn right at the turn off to the Pulvererhof, where you'll find a large parking lot.

By public transport: take the train to Sterzing, then bus line 319 into the Ratschings Valley to the "Larch" stop. From there it's about a 10 minute walk on the gravel path toward Flading to reach the start of the route.

APPROACH

From the exit, follow hiking trail no. 14B to the Plattnerhof. From there, head back into the valley on the gravel path toward Flading, back to the parking lot.

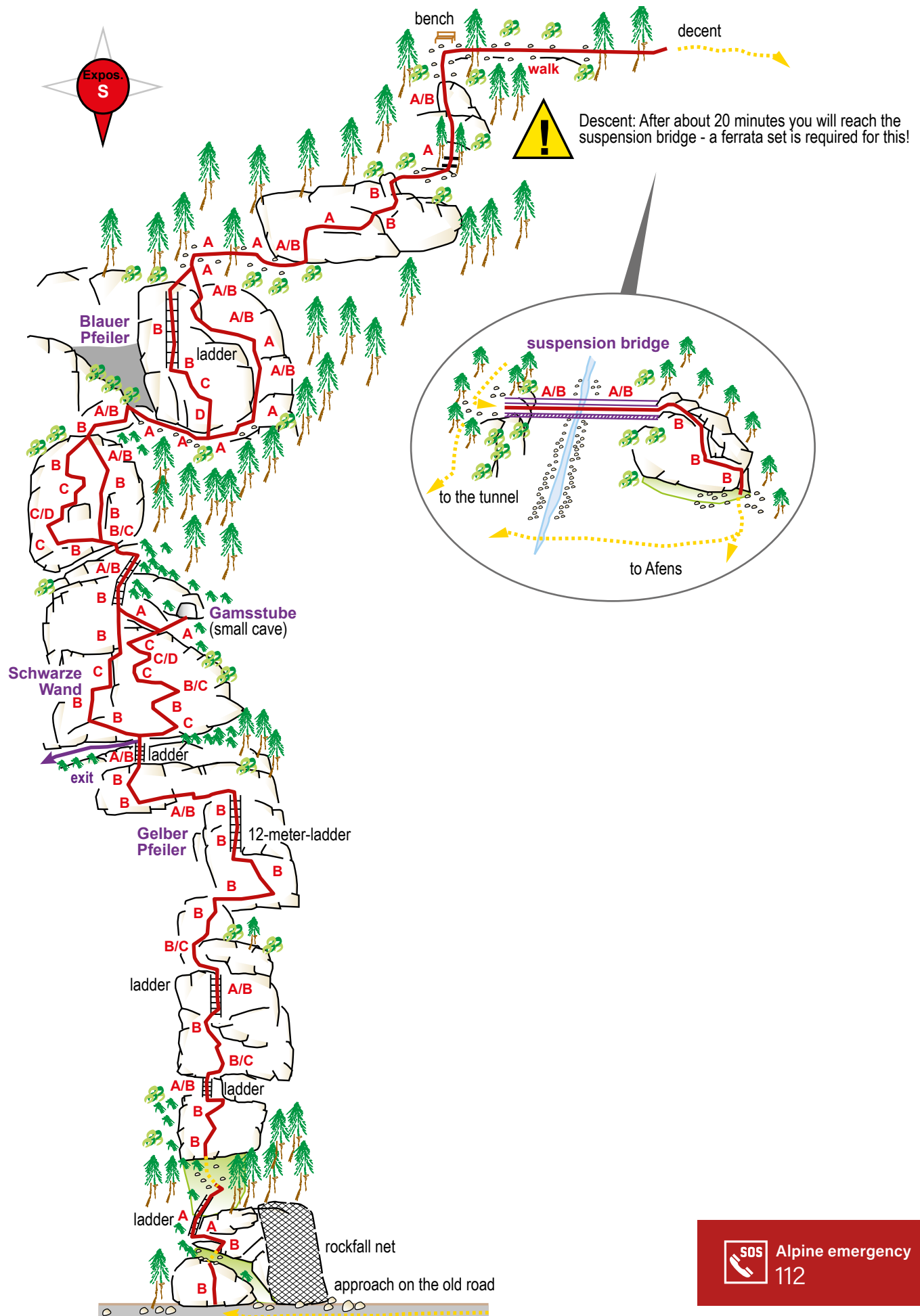
DESCENT

From the exit, follow hiking trail no. 14B to the Plattnerhof. From there, head back into the valley on the gravel path toward Flading, back to the parking lot.



Alpine emergency
112





Alpine emergency
112

© Axel Jentzsch-Fiabl



Key Facts



Summit
Ölberg 1.300 m



Difficulty
C variant D



Climbing time
2:00–2:45 h



Approach
15 min



Descent
30 min



Elevation gain
225 / 250 Hm



Aspect
sud

CHARACTER

At the entrance to the Pfitsch Valley near Sterzing lies the Ölberg via ferrata, which rewards the effort of the climb with phenomenal views. Right after the Ölberg tunnel, the varied route heads up the right side of the rock face, with several ladders and three difficult variants that run in a zigzag pattern alongside the main route on two steep sections of the wall. On the way down there's a short suspension bridge before the trail flattens out and leads back to the tunnel.

DIRECTIONS

Drive to Sterzing, then turn east into the Pfitsch Valley. Pass the hamlet of Wiesen and continue into the valley until you reach the tunnel. Drive through the tunnel and park in the lot on the right.

By public transport: take the train to Sterzing, then continue by bus to Afens.

APPROACH

From the parking lot, head toward the tunnel and, just before it, turn left onto the old road. You'll reach a rockfall protection net; the start of the via ferrata is just to the left of it. Watch out for falling rocks on the old road.

DESCENT

From the exit, follow the path, which is steep in places, down to the stream. On the left you'll reach the suspension bridge variant (B). From there, either follow the western side of the stream back to the tunnel, or head east across a meadow to the Afens farms. From there, continue to the road (bus stop) and back to the parking lot at the tunnel.



Alpine emergency
112



© Stefan Herbke