



KLETTERSTEIG  
FERRATA  
IFINGER-SCHENNA



IM MERANER LAND  
A MERANO E DINTORNI

[www.klettersteig-heiniholzer.com](http://www.klettersteig-heiniholzer.com)  
[www.viaferrata-heiniholzer.com](http://www.viaferrata-heiniholzer.com)





## HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The via ferratas used to be a privilege of the Dolomites mountains not too long ago. Throughout the interwar period the good climbers cavorted on the Ifinger, the local mountain of the **tourist destination of Schenna**. Then, the majestic symbol of the Merano area fell into oblivion.

Only in 2015, the idea of a via ferrata on the Ifinger took concrete shape. The Merano mountain guide Peter Vanzo had earlier explored a route directly adjacent to the steep slope that had been skied by Holzer.

A joint effort by the **Tourist Association Scena** and **Alpine Club Scena** meant that work on the **Heini Holzer via ferrata** project could begin in May 2016. A spectacular climb in a breathtaking environment which is the simplified counterpart to the extremely difficult “Hoachwool” via ferrata at the Schnalstal valley entrance.

The **Heini Holzer via ferrata** was completed by four mountain guides in eight weeks; Peter Vanzo coordinated the project.

**Geological features:** the Mt. Ifinger is located directly on the Periadriatic seam. Spanning a total length of 700 km, it is the most significant tectonic fault line of the Alps, which runs roughly parallel to the coastline of the Adriatic Sea in a wide arc.





55°

STEEP SKI DESCENT;  
SHOULD I,  
OR SHOULD I NOT?



“ MY PATH,  
MY LIFE ”

**Heini Holzer**, the friendly chimney sweep from the village of Scena, below the towering Ifinger, was one of the greatest climbers of his time.

A random accident catapulted him into an alpine edge discipline, a field in which very few mountaineers felt at home in the 1970s. Holzer can easily be described as the father of steep wall skiing. As a real mountaineer, he explored all the sheer faces he skied via a direct ascent, and planned down to the last detail the individual routes.

Over 100 times, the „sweeper“ successfully completed a first descent (a nickname referring to his work as a chimney sweep and also to his sweeping descents over ice walls); one of the most difficult being the Ifinger SW flank.

For almost three years Holzer waited for the appropriate time to ski the 55 degree steep, and rock bolt enforced wall.

In 1977, Holzer succumbed to an accident on Piz Roseg (3937 m) in the Bernina range, Graubünden - Switzerland.





Großer Ifinger  
Picco Ivigna  
2.581 m

Kleiner Ifinger  
Piccolo Ivigna  
2.552 m

Abstieg  
Discesa  
Descent

TOP

Ski-Steilwandabfahrt  
Discesa con gli sci  
Ski descent  
13. 05. 1974  
55°

Ausstiegsmeile  
Tratto d'uscita  
Exit mile

Engelskante  
Spigolo dell'angelo  
Angel's edge

AVS Schenna Kanzel  
Pulpito AVS Schenna  
AVS Schenna recess

Heini Holzer Rastplatz  
Sosta dell'onorificenza / Tribute bench

Goasberg Pascolo delle capre / Goat meadow

Waldele Boschetto / Little forest

Geistergrat Cresta degli spiriti / Spirit crest

Dolomitenpanorama  
Panorama Dolomitico / Dolomites panorama

Bergführerweg  
Via delle guide / Mountain guide's path

Gsteier-Blick  
Veduta su Gsteier / Gsteier view

Steilaufschwung  
Erta / Steep section

Einstiegswandl  
Paretina iniziale / Access wall

START Anseilplattform „Ochsenboden“  
Piattaforma / Platform

Ifinger Schartlweg

18

18



## Ascent

The **500 m** long climb is perfectly secured with **1000 m** of steel cable, is rated at medium difficulty (**A - B** – in some places **B/C**) and is suitable for the less strong alpinists or for families with enthusiastic young climbers. An early start, alpine experience and a good overall physical condition is a prerequisite for the ascent of the climbing route. Along the ascent, there is no water and no escape routes. A withdrawal is possible only by down-climbing. The via ferrata is fully secured with a steel cable and no passages have to be dealt with in unsecured terrain or by free climbing. Many steep and difficult sections have been mitigated with steel clamps, which function as steps. Nevertheless, the last part of the via ferrata, the so-called Angel's edge, presents a very impressive rock passage.

The orientation of the via ferrata to the **southwest** allows for an early ascent of the route, and the climbing season extends well into late autumn. The experienced mountaineer will even be able to access the Heini Holzer via ferrata during many winter months.

■ Total climbing time: 3-4 hours

## Access

> **Meran - Naif Valley.** Ascend with the cable railway Meran 2000 to the top station, which can also be reached from Hafling - Falzeben with the gondola lift. Follow the wide road for a short distance to the junction with the sign for the via ferrata. Then turn left on the trail no. 18 (Ifinger Schartlweg - partially secured with steel rope). Proceed past two turnoffs to the signposted branch-off to the start, just below the easily recognizable platform (rope-up area).

■ 130 m ascent, 75 m descent, ¾-1 hour

> **Scena - Taser cable car valley station.** Ascend with the car. Proceed via the signs for the Ifinger Hut to the Ifinger notch and from there follow the Ifinger Schartlweg no. 18 (partially secured with steel rope) to the marked branch-off below the platform.

■ 700 m ascent, 200 m descent, 2½-3 hours

> **Gsteier** (middle station of the cable railway Meran 2000 - a short ascent to Gsteier). Follow the route no. 3 to the Ochsenboden. Continue to the Ifinger Schartlweg (no. 18 - partly secured with steel rope). From there turn left to the signposted branch-off to the start, just below the easily recognizable platform.

■ 850 m ascent, 3-3½ hours

## Descent

From the exit, follow the signs to the junction "**Kleiner Ifinger**" (2552 m) and "**Großer Ifinger**" (2581 m). From there, the descent starts down to the clearly visible **Kuhleitenhütte**. Anyone who is late, or who does not want to stop at the hut, can follow a trail shortly before, which slips to the right and leads back down through the grass slope to the wide road (gravel road) which returns to the starting point.

■ 500 m descent, 1-1½ hours

### Peak climbs:

■ Exit via ferrata > Kleiner Ifinger, 52 m ascent, approx. 10 minutes

■ Exit via ferrata > Großer Ifinger (via ferrata A-B-B/C), 81 m ascent, ¾-1 hour (time there and back)





## SAFETY NOTES



> Climbers should be in good physical condition and ready to start early.



> Mountaineers use the Heini Holzer via ferrata at their own risk. Inadequate training, poor equipment or incorrect use of the equipment may lead to a fall with fatal consequences.



> Use all the necessary equipment which conforms to safety standards: climbing harness, climbing gear and helmet. The proper use of the equipment is an essential prerequisite for a safe climb.



> The climb is exposed to the southwest. Bring enough to drink. There is no drinking water along the route.



> Do not climb when wet or unsafe weather conditions are predicted. The ascent route is extremely exposed to lightning strikes during thunderstorms. Consult the weather forecast before climbing: [www.provinz.bz.it/wetter/suedtirol.asp](http://www.provinz.bz.it/wetter/suedtirol.asp)



> The via ferrata is divided into 16 sections. The sections begin with number 1 and end with number 16. This allows climbers to measure their progress by using the numbers. In case of emergency communicate the number of the section you are located in, to the emergency call center (118).



> If in doubt about the climb, postpone the tour and enlist assistance from a certified mountain guide (book a guide at the Tourist Office Scena, phone number 0473 945669).



> Respect nature and environment! Take your rubbish with you and avoid excessive noise.





**IFINGER**  
Picco MIGNA

lfinger Hütte

**TASER**  
Bergstation  
Stazione a monte  
Cable car mountain station

**TASER**  
Talstation  
Stazione a valle  
Cable car valley station

**SCHENNA**

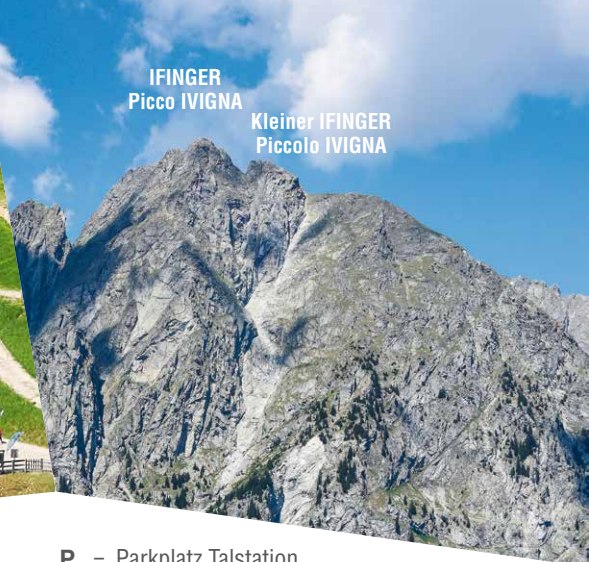
Gsteier

**Meran/o 2000**  
Bergstation  
Stazione a monte  
Cable car mountain station

**Meran/o 2000**  
Mittelstation  
Stazione intermedia  
Cable car middle station

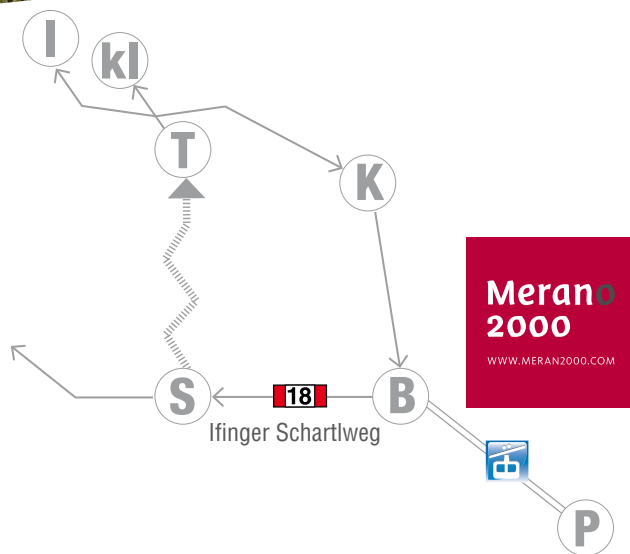
**Meran/o 2000**  
Talstation  
Stazione a valle  
Cable car valley station





IFINGER  
Picco IVIGNA

Kleiner IFINGER  
Piccolo IVIGNA



**P** = Parkplatz Talstation  
Parcheggio stazione a valle  
MERAN/O 2000

**B** = Bergstation Seilbahn  
Stazione a monte  
Cable car mountain station

**S** = **START** Einstieg Klettersteig  
Partenza via ferrata  
Start via ferrata

**T** = **TOP** / Ausstieg Klettersteig  
Uscita via ferrata  
End via ferrata

**I** = Großer Ifinger  
Picco Ivigna  
Ifinger Peak

**kl** = Kleiner Ifinger  
Piccolo Ivigna

**K** = Kuhleiten-Hütte  
Malga Kuhleiten  
Kuhleiten hut

**Schenna**

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A MERANO E DINTORNI

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**SÜDTIROL**



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SCHENNA



Gemeinde  
SCHENNA



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