



Area: **Eastern Dolomites** - Group: **Civetta** - Peak/Summit: **Cima Su Alto**

Route: **"Livanos' Dihedral" (Diedro Livanos)** - Face: **North - West**

Difference in height: **800 mt** - Length: **400 m (Base wall); 550 m (Dihedral)**

Level: **ED (VI+ / A<sub>2</sub> UIAA)**

First Ascent: **G. Livanos – R. Gabriel (1951)**

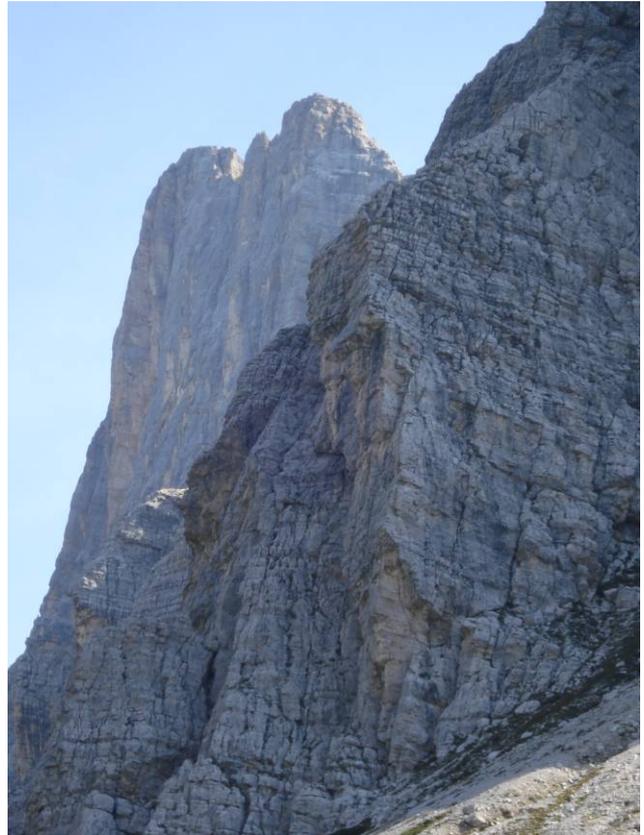
Information(s) & Reference(s): **Kelemina O. "Civetta", Edizioni Oscar Kelemina, 1986. (Further data will be given on request, with no responsibility. Mountaineering and Climbing are dangerous and riskful activities whoever decides to practice on his/her own responsibility! – Please, mail your question/s to: [info@ilmonodito.it](mailto:info@ilmonodito.it).)**

Comment by: **P. Gorini (2008)**

Even though more than fifty years have elapsed since 1951, when two French mountaineers successfully climbed the 400-meter-high dihedral that characterizes the North-West face of the Cima Su Alto, that ascent still remains **an example of "classic" high-level climbing** in Mount Civetta group. Following the so called "golden age of VI°" (approximately the period of time from 1925 to the II World War) when people as E. Solleder, E. Comici, G. Soldà, R. Carlesso, G.B. Vinatzer, R. Cassin and many others had drawn their famous routes on almost all the highest walls in the Dolomites, ever preferring the traditional climbing (mainly free climbing), climbers began to use pitons and aiders more and more frequently, while challenging their "dreams". **Breaking a psychological barrier**, Georges Livanos and Robert Gabriel, a well trained French climbing team, pushed forward the level of climbing just along the "Gran Diedro" of the Cima Su Alto. They actually used many pitons, and aid-climbing played a major role but still that ascent could be considered as climbed "by fair means", if compared with many routes opened later on in sixties (the period in XXth century known in Dolomites as the "Age of Direttissima"). Livanos and Gabriel didn't use bolts, resulting their climbing more similar to Carlesso or Solda's one rather than to Cesare Maestri (Roda di Vael, 1960) or Uhner's (Cima Grande di Lavaredo, 1963) just to remember people who began to use that kind of belay in a systematic way. **Until today, nobody has climbed "Livanos's Dihedral" without having recourse to aid-climbing.** In fact, after an about 400-meter base wall, the overhanging dihedral straightforward rises toward the sky, carved by cracks and interrupted by some roofs. These latter however do not represent the main difficulties of the ascent, because the loose rock climbers have to deal with along the course is even a more arduous task. Many pitons can be found on the way, but friends and nuts are needed and **aiders could be practical too. Descent is neither easy nor advisable in the darkness** and if foggy weather supervenes, it could be troublesome as well. The itinerary is weakly signalled by a few cairns, some of those being pretty small or partially destroyed. Moreover, from the summit of the Cima Su Alto (2951 m. a.s.l.) to Bivacco Tomè (a tiny fixed bivouac, equipped with four bunks, placed at 2860 m. a.s.l. on the return way on the south east side of the mountain) as well as from there to Rifugio Vazzoler (Vazzoler hut, 1714 m. a.s.l.) the trail is very steep and runs down slopes with detritus and loose rock. Climbing is still frequently requested. **Warning:** climbing in the Dihedral is **longer than 500 meters** and it is definitely not as long as 350 meters as reported in the guidebook (see Kelemina O. "Civetta", 1986). A natural cave offers a comfortable place to bivouac (better two people) about 100 meters above the base wall, just at the beginning of the dihedral. Inside there, several famous mountaineers as Aste, Susatti, Zeni, etc. left memories of their ascent by engraving on stone their name. Finally: while planning this excursion, a two-day time-schedule should be considered. In conclusion: climbing this wall could be a great experience not only for the technical aspect but also, and maybe more, for its historical significance.



Walking to the base wall



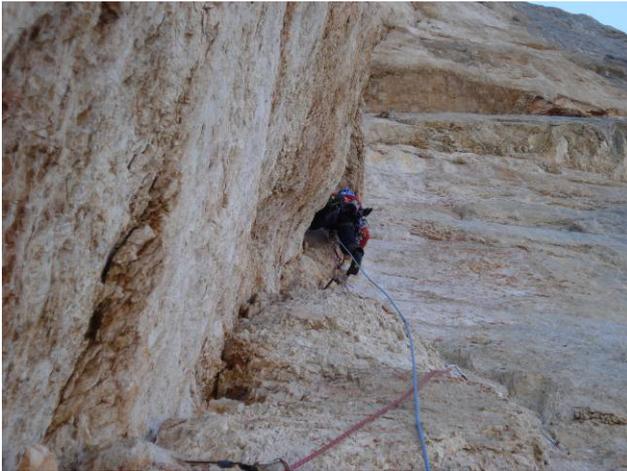
"Livanos's Dihedral"



Sunset on Marmolada and Sella



A natural cave offers ...



...carved by cracks...



...and interrupted by some roofs



Overhanging...



...dihedral



Loose rock



High level climbing



Night-time on the summit



Bivacco Tomè



Going down to Rifugio Vazzoler



Remember: roofs are not the main task