

Via Ferrata Difficulty Ratings

Schall Scale

www.alpenventuresunguided.com



Difficulty	Terrain	Fixed Protection	Ability	Gear
A Easy	Flat to steep, mostly rocky or exposed passages are possible.	Steel cables and chains, as well as aids, such as iron steps or pegs in the rocks, and possibly a ladder. This can be mostly done without using the available aids.	Stable footing and ability to deal with heights	Via ferrata gear is recommended; however, experienced via ferrata climbers will often go without
B Somewhat Difficult	Steep, rocky terrain, sometimes with small foot placements. Exposed sections.	Steel cables and chains, as well as aids, such as iron steps or pegs in the rocks. Longer and vertical ladders. Sections without aid (but protected with a cable) up to UIAA III (YDS 5.4-5.5).	Stable footing and ability to deal with heights, good condition, as well as strength, and endurance in arms and legs.	Via ferrata gear is recommended
C Difficult	Steep, or very steep, rock terrain with small foot placements, and longer, as well as frequent, exposed sections.	Steel cables and chains, as well as aids, such as iron steps or pegs in the rocks. Longer or overhanging ladders. The aids are located further apart from each other. Sometimes in vertical sections there is only a cable, and no aids. Sections without aid (but protected with a cable) up to UIAA IV (YDS 5.6).	Stable footing and ability to deal with heights, good condition, as well as strength, and endurance in arms and legs.	Via ferrata gear is strongly recommended. Inexperienced children should be additionally secured with a rope.
D Very Difficult	Vertical, and often overhanging terrain, with exposure.	The steel cables and aids, such as iron steps and pegs, are further apart. Many exposed sections are secured only by a steel cable.	Enough strength in the arms and hands to endure longer vertical, and even overhanging sections with small unprotected climbing passages up to UIAA II (YDS 5.2-5.3) possible.	Via ferrata equipment is necessary. A rescue kit (rescue rope with pullies, etc.), as well as the knowledge of how to use it, is strongly recommended. Not suitable for beginners or children.
E Extremely Difficult	Vertical and overhanging, exposed throughout, with very small foot placements or friction climbing.	Steel cable. The aids, such as steps and pegs, are further apart. Many exposed sections have only a steel cable. Climbing technique is often required.	Strong hands (fingers), arms, and legs. Very good physical condition, and flexibility.	Via ferrata equipment necessary. A climbing rope and belay device are strongly recommended, as well as a rescue kit (pullies, etc.). Knowledge in self-rescue is important. Not suitable for beginners and children.
F More than Extremely Difficult	Mostly overhanging and exposed with very small foot placements or friction climbing.	Steel cable. The aids, such as steps and pegs are further apart, and many exposed sections have only a steel cable. Climbing technique is often required.	Good climbing technique. Strong hands (fingers), arms, and legs. Very good physical condition, and flexibility.	Via ferrata equipment is necessary, and tope rope gear is recommended. Not recommended for those who have not mastered via ferrata difficulty level E without a problem.

Source: Translated from <https://www.bergfreunde.de/klettersteig-schwierigkeitsgrade-rechner/>