

8 DAYS MONT BLANC HIGHLIGHTS

DESTINATIONS

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Destination	Chamonix or Chocolat
Meals included	Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Start Chalet Chamonix or Chocolat.

Your holiday begins at your comfortable alpine chalet. Those making their own way to the chalet should aim to arrive early afternoon for introductions. There is plenty of time to walk into Chamonix in the afternoon before a pre-dinner briefing from the walking leader.

Meals included: Dinner

DAY 2

Destination	Chamonix or Chocolat
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Drive to the head of the Chamonix Valley; walking towards Switzerland via the trekking peak L'Aiguillette des Posettes and onto Col du Posettes and then descend back towards La Tour.

Our first walk of the week is on the slopes of the Col du Balme from where we will have stunning views back to Mont Blanc as well as into Switzerland. From the small hamlet of Montroc (1380m – 4400ft) we have a short warm-up walk before the trail turns uphill on a steady zigzag path. As the trees thin out, the views get ever better and by late morning we reach Aiguillette des Posettes (2200m – 7220 ft). This is a stunning peak from where we are rewarded with a superb panoramic view over the Chamonix Valley, the Aiguille Rouge national park and around to Switzerland. The path continues down to the Col du Posettes and then on a steady trail becoming ever more winding and finally down to La Tour. (1450m – 4750ft).

6 hours walking. 820m - 2700ft up, 730m – 2400ft down

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance covered: 9 km / 6 miles

DAY 3

Destination	Chamonix or Chocolat
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Transfer above Les Houches; ascend to the Bel Lachat Refuge, before crossing the Carlaveyron Natural Reserve and summiting the Aiguillette des Houches and the Aiguillette du Brevent.

Today we have a spectacular walk from (1370m – 4450ft) up to the Bel Lachat refuge on the classic TMB and GR5 routes. Crossing the beautiful Carlaveyron Natural Reserve, we summit the Aiguillette des Houches (2285m – 7500ft) for one of the finest views in the Alps - looking directly across the Chamonix Valley to the Mont Blanc summit. Passing through alpine meadows we descend by a different route to La Flatière (1370m – 4500ft).

7 hours walking. 900m – 2950ft up, 930m – 3050ft down

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance covered: 11 km / 7 miles

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TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 4

Destination	Chamonix or Chocolat
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Starting from the Les Contamines. Valley we cross the Col de Voza and continue towards Les Houches. Approximately a 35-minute transfer from our chalet brings us to the les Contamines valley which is where we start our walk back towards the Chamonix Valley. The day starts on a valley path that narrows and steepens as we climb up towards the Passerelle de Bionnassay, a dramatic suspension bridge spanning a white-water stream that tumbles from the Bionnassay glacier a few 100 meters higher up. The route then brings us round to the Col de Voza (1653m – 5360ft) with an expansive view up the Chamonix Valley. During the afternoon we trek down to the valley floor although there is a cable car option (payable locally) for those with tired legs.

7 hours walking, 11km – 7 miles, 560m – 1840ft up, 610m – 2000ft down

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance covered: 11 km / 6 miles

DAY 5

Destination	Chamonix or Chocolat
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Free day for optional walks, activities or sightseeing.

Today is a free day for optional walks or sightseeing. Your leader will be able to advise you of possible walking routes or you may choose to visit the bustling alpine resort town of Chamonix, which has numerous shops, bars, restaurants and cafés. There are several cablecar excursions you can make from Chamonix, of which the most spectacular is the ascent to the Aiguille du Midi (3842m - 12600ft), offering fantastic views of Mont Blanc and surrounding peaks. It should also be possible to take the mountain train up to Montenvers for close up views of the glacier, Mer de Glace or if you are feeling adventurous you could enjoy a tandem Paragliding flight.

Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 6

Destination	Chamonix or Chocolat
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Drive through the Mont Blanc tunnel to Italy; climb to Bonatti refuge and traverse high above the spectacular Ferret Valley to Courmayeur.

We drive through the Mont Blanc tunnel to Italy for a chance to soak up some Italian atmosphere! From Arp Nouva (1770m – 5805ft) we climb up and along to the Bonatti refuge. At just over (2000m – 6560ft), the view from here is one of the finest on the tour. Mont Blanc itself, the towering rocky peak of Grandes Jorasses and the glaciers that crowd the northern flank of Val Ferret are there to be admired. Following a dramatic traversing path we contour high above the valley before descending towards the valley floor. Time allowing, we head off to Courmayeur, the perfect spot for a well-deserved Italian ice-cream.

7 hours walking. 450m – 1500ft up, 550m – 1804ft down

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TOUR ITINERARY

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance covered: 15 km / 9 miles

DAY 7

Destination	Chamonix or Chocolat
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation	N/A

Starting from Argentiere; walk up to and along the Grand Balcon Sud to Plan Praz then descend by cable car. From Argentiere (1250m – 4100ft) we start our day following the petit Balcon Sud before changing tack and climbing to the Grand Balcon Sud that contours the Chamonix valley to Plan Praz (2000m – 6560ft) from where we descend by cable car back to Chamonix. The Grand Balcon Sud is a stunning must do walk in the valley and looks over to Mont Blanc and the Mont Blanc massif. The views of snowy peaks, soaring cliffs, fractured glaciers and lush green forests ensures this trek is not just a highlight in the valley but the whole of the Alps.

(Due to maintenance on the Flegere cablecar this walk has been amended from our previously advertised walk to Lac Blanc. This trek is a little longer than the original and is equally beautiful).

7 hours walking. 800m – 1690ft up, 100m – 330ft down

Spring and Autumn departures - The Plan Praz cablecar is open for trips starting between 15th June and 7th Sep. Outside of this time the cablecar is due to be closed and its cost is no longer included in the price of the holiday. If the timetable changes, and the lift is open, then the cable cost will be paid locally. Approx 20 euro. Alternatively we will follow a Spring and Autumn itinerary which is the same as above but instead of walking from Flegere to Plan Praz we will walk off the mountain from Flegere via the charming Chalet Floria where we will have time for a cup of tea. Due to the added decent this is a little harder than the summer itinerary but the views are equally stunning.

8 hours walking. 740 m – 2430ft up, 950m – 3120ft down - Distance covered: 12 km / 7.5 miles

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance covered: 9 km / 6 miles

DAY 8

Destination	Chamonix or Chocolat
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

End Chalet Chamonix or Chocolat.

Following breakfast we say our goodbyes.

Meals included: Breakfast

TOUR ITINERARY

Inclusions

WHATS INCLUDED

7 nights in comfortable chalet, all rooms with private bathrooms
5 days centre-based walking; 1 free day
Travel by minibus, local train and cable car
Altitude maximum 2352m, average 1525m
Group normally 4 to 14, plus UK leader
7 nights in comfortable chalet, all rooms with private bathrooms
Walk surrounded by dramatic mountain scenery
Stay in a comfortable chalet with outdoor hot tub
Enjoy the shops, bars, restaurants and cafes of Chamonix
Superior twin share accommodation
Sightseeing and transportation as per the itinerary

Fine Print

HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

Deposit & Payments

Book now and secure your package with only a \$250 deposit per person.

Pay a 2nd instalment of \$400 per person within 28 days.

You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure.

Booking Process

Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)
Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests

Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab

Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment. You may also pay via BPAY (not available within 70 days of departure)

Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking

Your position on the tour will be confirmed within 48 hours of completing your order. If your place cannot be confirmed, a full refund of the deposit will occur"

OPTIONAL TOURS

TOUR ITINERARY

EXCLUSIONS

International Airfares
Personal Expenses
Travel Insurance
Optional activities
Anything not mentioned in the itinerary or optional

HOTEL LIST

Chalet Chamonix or Chocolat - These delightful alpine chalets both have 7 rooms with private bathrooms and are surrounded by large gardens with a Jacuzzi and Mont Blanc views. Both have comfortable lounges and dining rooms with a large table where delicious home cooked meals will be served and scrumptious cakes will be provided daily for afternoon tea. Located between 15-25 minutes from the heart of Chamonix they provide the perfect base for walking the best of the Tour du Mont Blanc and a relaxing week in the Alps. Due to the natural layout of a chalet build, bedrooms vary in size and shape and some, but not all, have access to a balcony. In Chalet Chocolat one bedroom on the top floor has a Velux window as opposed to a wall mounted window and a large private bathroom on the floor below. This room will usually be allocated to the last 2 people to book *. In Chalet Chamonix, two bedrooms on the top floor have Velux windows set into a gradually sloping roof. Half the room has a full height ceiling while the beds are positioned under the sloping section these two rooms will usually be allocated to the last 4 people to book *. Both chalets offer complementary Wi-Fi in the communal areas.

*Very occasionally these rooms may need to be allocated to those other than the last 6 people to book to enable us to match up independent travellers with a same sex roommate. On weeks where we are not full we will allocate these rooms to the first independent travellers as single rooms.

If you are booking and not on the same booking reference as a friend/s that you wish to share a chalet with please let your sales consultant know at the time of booking. Equally if you have a preference for one chalet over the other, please let us know at the time of booking and we will do our best to fulfil your request. Otherwise we will select a chalet for you automatically. The walking itinerary will be the same for both chalets however the order of the walks may differ slightly.

Please note: on booking your confirmation documents will name

TOUR ITINERARY

Chalet Chamonix however you may be allocated to Chalet Chocolat. This will be confirmed on your Final Joining Instructions sent 4 weeks before your departure date.

A Chalet is different from a hotel and provides open and social spaces ideal for group holidays. The atmosphere is homely and welcoming and we hope you will enjoy the chalet as much as the stunning local walks. Outside of the bedrooms both chalets have living rooms with sofas and comfortable chairs and a client kitchen which is not for preparing food but has unlimited tea and coffee making facilities and a honesty bar. Outside there is a large and scenic decking area with more seating, a grassy garden which we encourage you to go out and enjoy as well as an outdoor hot tub. In the dining room meals are taken together around a communal table and are prepared by your two resident chalet hosts. There is no reception in the chalet. Chalet hosts live on site and can be contacted in an emergency.

Generally we don't enter your rooms at all during the week to make beds or clean, however, if you feel your room needs to be serviced mid-week then please ask your chalet hosts and they will be happy to help. None of the rooms have air-conditioning but we do provide electric fans. A hair dryer is also available to borrow but we suggest you bring your own.

TOUR ITINERARY

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences, however, any changes are beyond our control.

Single Supplement

A single supplement is available on all nights of this trip from an extra \$410 subject to availability.

Triple Share

Not available.

Children

Children must be 5 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are charged the same price as adults.

Tour Documentation

Final documentation will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

Activity Level 3 Moderate

You are moderately fit and possess a spirit of adventure. Some previous experience is required for most activity based trips.