



CHAMONIX SKI TOURING WEEKEND

2023 TRIP NOTES





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2023 SKI TOUR DETAILS

Dates: Available on demand from January to April

Duration: 2 days

Departure: ex Chamonix, France

Price: From €800 per person

▲ A weekend of Chamonix's best backcountry highlights. Photo: Guy Cotter

The stunning setting of the European Alps offers world class ski touring in abundance and our Chamonix Ski Touring Weekend is the perfect short weekend ski getaway or ideal warm-up to ensure you are up-to-date with the skills and competencies required to safely and successfully negotiate the backcountry.

From our comfortable base in Chamonix, our knowledgeable guides will teach or refresh the essential techniques for travelling in glaciated terrain, honing your skills, fine-tuning your equipment and setting you up to be ready for a longer guided ski tour; or simply guiding you through some of Chamonix's backcountry touring highlights—the choice is yours.

This trip can be designed as a precursor to one of Europe's iconic multi-day ski touring journeys, such as the Haute Route Ski Tour, or as a standalone guided ski touring adventure, exploring some of the many backbowls and accessible terrain around the Chamonix region, under the watchful eye and expert guidance of our fully qualified and experienced IFMGA mountain and ski guides.

HISTORY

The European Alps are full of climbing and skiing history. They are the birthplace of mountaineering and their rich heritage adds to the superb facilities, including catered huts and lift systems, which provide catering for mountaineers and ski tourers not seen elsewhere.

SKILLS COVERED

Chamonix is bestowed with multiple possibilities for ski touring. Your guide will suggest an itinerary based on your experience, goals and snow conditions in the area. For those looking for a skills based weekend we can incorporate the teaching of the following skills:



▲ Escape the crowds and venture into the backcountry. Photo: Paolo Pieroni

- Avalanche awareness and safety procedures
- Transceiver usage
- Skinning technique
- Kick turns
- Safe glacier travel

OUR GUIDES

Adventure Consultants guides are BMG, NZMGA and/or IFMGA-UIAGM qualified mountain and ski guides. They are professional mountaineers and operate to the highest industry standards.

Being a technically proficient climber or skier is not enough to work with us; our standards demand that trip leaders are great guides with good people skills as well. You will find your guide friendly, approachable and focused on providing a safe and enjoyable trip in line with your objectives and comfort level.

Success with the highest margin of care is always a hallmark of our approach; promoting the realisation that even extreme pursuits such as high-altitude mountaineering can be undertaken safely.

Adventure Consultants only employs IFMGA qualified guides for European ascents and courses. Guides must undergo rigorous training and assessment on climbing skills, instructional skills, avalanche training and assessment, wilderness first aid, rescue training and much more to gain these qualifications. It takes many years to attain IFMGA status, which ensures you are getting a world-class professional service.

PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE

To ski tour in the European Alps you will need to be able to link parallel turns in all types of snow conditions and be physically fit. However, previous ski touring experience is not a pre-requisite for this trip.

Please note that skiing and climbing even at moderate altitudes in Europe has a definite physical effect on people. Most climbers and skiers notice a lower performance rate than normal. Ski touring days are physically demanding and can entail a 1,000m/3,300ft ascent at altitude.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP

The number of guides is determined by the size of the group, the ratio of guides to skiers is 1:1 up to 1:6 depending on the skill level and intentions of the group.

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Departures are available on demand from January to April.

The following is a sample itinerary for the Chamonix Ski Touring Weekend:

Day 0	Arrive in Chamonix and overnight at hotel.
Day 1	L'Aiguillette des Houches (2,285m/7,497ft).
Day 2	Vallée Blanche and Col d'Entrèves (3,527m/11,572ft).



▲ Utilise Chamonix's lift systems to access the mountains. Photo: Guy Cotter



▲ Enjoy fresh turns. Photo: Olivier Baron



▲ Join us on your own or bring a group of friends. Photo: Paolo Pieroni

NOTE: A longer five day Chamonix Ski Touring Week option is also available, see our website or enquire for more details.

The sample itinerary is an ideal itinerary but is subject to change as it may be affected by weather and snow conditions.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 0

Arrive in Chamonix and overnight at hotel.

Day 1

L'Aiguillette des Houches (2,285m/7,497ft). From the village of Coupeau, we begin the weekend with a gentle ascent through the forests, providing a good warm up that takes us up past Chalet de Chailloux. After some avalanche transceiver training, the open slopes offer ample opportunities to work on the competencies required for your upcoming tour, as well as taking us up to one of the best viewpoints of the entire Chamonix valley. Return to Chamonix, overnight hotel.

Day 2

Vallée Blanche and Col d'Entrèves (3,527m/11,572ft). From the Aiguille du Midi, we ski down the classic Vallée Blanche to Pointe Adolphe Rey, checking our kick turns before donning our skins and climbing for 2 hours up to the Col d'Entrèves on the Italian border. Here we have time to work on additional ski touring skills and techniques, making the most of the instructional time with your guide before we take our final run down the majestic Vallée Blanche and head back to Chamonix for a celebratory meal. Depart for home or continue on to an Adventure Consultants ski tour.

THE ADVANTAGES OF SKI TOURING WITH ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to expedition and ascent climbing. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our climbers the best possible chance of success.



▲ Discover a variety of interesting, uncrowded terrain. Photo: Guy Cotter

We employ strong and specialised IFMGA Mountain Guides, who are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry.

Many of our expedition members and climbers come to us because they have seen us in action on a previous trip and decide to opt for our level of service and proven experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make expeditions and guided ascents safe and successful.

EQUIPMENT LIST

Skiing in the European Alps requires high quality clothing and equipment due to the extremes of weather conditions that may be encountered. You will be sent a clothing and equipment checklist upon confirmation of your booking. A selection of rental equipment is available in Chamonix should you need to hire any equipment.

FITNESS & HEALTH

To make the most of your skiing experience we encourage you to work on your fitness and skiing/snowboarding prior to the trip. You need to be a

strong intermediate skier or snowboarder to get the most out of the weekend. Your guide places special focus on fitness levels and will regulate the pace accordingly.

Our registration form requests that you advise us of any medical problems you may have and if you are on any medication. Any information you supply will be treated as confidential.

FOOD

Adventure Consultants will provide breakfasts for both days of the trip. You will be responsible for your own lunch and snacks each day, plus evening meals. This allows you to experience the exciting culinary options available in Chamonix as there are many restaurants and bars within close walking distance that provide a variety of foods to suit your tastes. Any additional food, bottled water, beverages or meals you purchase that are not mentioned in the inclusions will be at your own expense.

You should bring a selection of your favourite snack food and hydration drinks with you to ensure you are fuelled for by your preferred brands, as well as money for lunches and snacks whilst skiing. Actual amounts



▲ Suitable for all levels from backcountry beginner to expert. Photo: Paolo Pieroni



▲ Enjoy the magic of winter evenings in Chamonix. Photo: Suze Kelly



▲ Epic glaciated terrain in the Valle Blanche area. Photo: Paolo Pieroni

depend on your consumption but two per day in addition to your lunch would seem reasonable.

If you have any special dietary requirements, please advise us at the time of registration. If your dietary requirements are especially strict you are advised to bring a sufficient supply of your required food types with you to ensure you are provided for.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is provided on a twin share basis. The 2-3 star hotel B&Bs we utilise are clean and comfortable and include breakfast. We can arrange a single room or upgrade to a higher quality hotel if you prefer. Please enquire about options and costs at the time of booking.

TRAVEL TO CHAMONIX

We commence and finish our Chamonix Ski Touring Weekend in Chamonix, France. The closest international airport is in Geneva, just over the border in Switzerland. Regular shuttles operate between Geneva airport and Chamonix and the

journey each way takes about 1.5 hours. Although the shuttle transfers are at your own cost, we are happy to help you arrange transport and your shuttle driver will drop you off and pick you back up at your accommodation.

INSURANCE

We strongly recommend that you take out Trip Cancellation Insurance and Travel Insurance, as well as Medical and Rescue Insurance to protect yourself in the event of injury or mishap prior to or during your trip.

While our focus is on safety and our track record supports this, the mountains do have hazards and there is the potential for mishap. If you were injured whilst on the trip, there is a very efficient rescue service nearby.



▲ Skiing the Valle Blanche. Photo: Paolo Pieroni

PRICE

The costs for the two day Chamonix Ski Touring Weekend are:

- 1:1 guide to skier ratio €1,650
- 1:2 guide to skier ratio €1,040 per person
- 1:4 guide to skier ratio €800 per person

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Ski-tour guiding for 2 days
- Group technical equipment
- Lifts as per scheduled itinerary
- Hotel accommodation twin share B&B for 2 nights

The cost **does not** include the following:

- Any lift, hut, hotel or transport costs additional to the programme due to weather or logistics (any changes will be actioned only after you have been consulted by your guide)
- Personal ski/mountaineering clothing and ski equipment rental
- Airport transfers to/from Chamonix (although we can arrange this for you)
- Evening meals in Chamonix
- Snack/lunch food whilst touring
- Single supplement in hotels
- Insurance
- Gratuity

PAYMENT DETAILS

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following Euro bank account:

Bank of New Zealand

Offshore Branch
42 Willis Street
Spark Central
Wellington
New Zealand

For the account of Adventure Consultants Limited

Account Number: 1000-594771-0002

Account Type: Euros

Swift Address: BKNZ NZ22

NOTE: All bank transfer charges are for the remitter's account.

We can also accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard and Amex) plus a 3% credit card transaction fee.

DEPOSIT

To secure a place on the Chamonix Ski Touring Weekend we require a completed registration form with a deposit of €500.

BALANCE

The balance of payment is then due 60 days prior to the start date.



▲ Discover why Chamonix's backcountry touring is renowned as world class! Photo: Paolo Pieroni

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

- Cancellations outside of 60 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
- For cancellations made within 60 days of the trip commencement date, we reserve the right to retain 50% of the full fee.
- For cancellations made within 30 days of the trip commencement date, we reserve the right to retain 75% of the full fee.
- For cancellations within 15 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

We recommend you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent if you wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons.

HOW TO JOIN THIS TRIP

If you would like to join one of our Chamonix Ski Touring Weekends, please complete our online booking form and forward your deposit payment at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/skiing/european-alps-backcountry-skiing/chamonix-ski-touring-weekend/book-now>.

CONTACT US

If you require more information, please contact us at:

Adventure Consultants Ltd
PO Box 739
Wanaka 9343
New Zealand

Phone: +64 3 443 8711
Email: info@adventure.co.nz
Web: www.adventureconsultants.com



▲ Tailor your weekend to suit your goals. Photo: Paolo Pieroni



Adventure Consultants is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their 'Revitalise a Village' programmes.

Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA/UIAGM standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.



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