



CHAMONIX SKI TOURING WEEK

2023 TRIP NOTES





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2023 SKI TOUR DETAILS

Dates: Available on demand from January to April

Duration: 5 days

Departure: ex Chamonix, France

Price: From €1,630 per person

▲ A week of Chamonix's best backcountry tours. Photo: Olivier Baron

Explore the magic of the Mont Blanc Massif and all the ski touring that it has to offer. Utilising the extensive ski lift system infrastructure, it is possible to access even the most remote corners of the range through daily ski tours with your knowledgeable guide. Staying in a Chamonix each night gives you the chance to relax, recuperate and soak up the atmosphere of this bustling mountain town with its great selection of bars and restaurants.

The best skiing around Chamonix is found off-piste across the huge area of terrain in the region. Our guides are tuned into where you can find primo snow by utilising a combination of lift access and short tours each day throughout your week. There are numerous glaciers to explore and often it is not far to find the untracked snow that makes touring so satisfying!

Classic ski runs such as the Vallée Blanche and the Grande Montets can be combined with ski tours around the Brévent, Les Trois Cols or the Crochues Bérard, to make up a multi-day program. Our resident guides have a comprehensive knowledge of the region and know where to find the best skiing in some of the most spectacular terrain.

You can use this week as a way to develop your ski-touring skills with the help of your guide or you may already be a seasoned ski mountaineer who has a specific penchant for certain terrain. You

decide with your guide on a programme that suits you, that can include as little or as much skiing as you want on the type of terrain that you prefer. This really is the ultimate holiday!

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.

OUR GUIDES

Adventure Consultants guides are BMG, NZMGA and/or IFMGA-UIAGM qualified mountain and ski



▲ Escape the crowds and venture into the backcountry. Photo: Guy Cotter

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 and 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 worldclass 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 off-piste snow conditions, be physically fit and have a minimum of 5 days ski touring experience.

Even skiing at the moderate altitudes in Europe has a definite physical effect on people. Most 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 1:2 or 1:4 depending on the skill level 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 Week:

Day 0	Arrive in Chamonix and overnight at hotel
Day 1	L'Aiguillette des Houches (2,285m/7,497ft)
Day 2	Col d'Argentière (3,552m/11,654ft)
Day 3	Col des Aiguilles Crochues (2,704m/8,872ft) and Crochue-Bérard (2,469m/8,100ft).
Day 4	Col des Autannes (2,777m/9,110ft)
Day 5	Vallée Blanche and Col d'Entrèves (3,527m/11,572ft)
Day 6	Depart for home

NOTE: A shorter 2-day Chamonix Ski Touring Weekend option is also available, please see our website or enquire for more details.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 0

Arrive in Chamonix and overnight at hotel.



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



▲Enjoy fresh turns on Valle Blanche. Photo: Paolo Pieroni



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

Day 1

L'Aiguillette des Houches (2,285m/7,497ft)

From the village of Coupeau, a gentle ascent through the forest takes us up past Chalet de Chailloux. Now we are well above the tree line and the open slopes take us up to one of the best viewpoints of the entire Chamonix Valley. We spend some time refreshing skills and eventually descending back down through the trees to Chamonix. Overnight at our Chamonix hotel.

Day 2

Col d'Argentière (3,552m/11,654ft)

At the top of Col d'Argentière, we are rewarded with amazing views of the Argentière basin and the summits of the Aiguille Verte, Les Droites, Mont Dolent and the Aiguille de Chardonnet. The terrain is huge and the skiing spectacular! We return to Chamonix and overnight at our hotel.

Day 3

Col des Aiguilles Crochues (2,704m/8,872ft) and Crochue-Bérard (2,469m/8,100ft)

Starting from the La Flegère, we take a cable car and chairlift to l'Index. Our first climb up to the Col

des Aiguilles Crochues is started on skins, before a final boot pack with skis on rucksacks up to the col.

A long traverse descending into the Aiguilles Rouges Nature Reserve takes us to our second 200m/650ft gentle climb on skins to the Col de Bérard. All of our efforts are rewarded with a stunning ski down the Combe de Bérard to the village of Le Buet. From here, we take the train back to Chamonix and overnight at our hotel.

Day 4

Col des Autannes (2,777m/9,110ft)

From the Le Tour ski area, we have a climb of 650m/2,100ft up to the col before a brilliant descent on north facing slopes that often hold very good powder snow. This takes us down to the village of Trient in Switzerland. A bus and then train takes us back to Chamonix and our hotel.

Day 5

Vallée Blanche and Col d'Entrèves (3,527m/11,572ft)

Any ski trip to Chamonix wouldn't be complete without a descent of the Vallée Blanche. From the Aiguille du Midi, we ski down the classic Vallée Blanche to Pointe Adolphe Rey before putting our



▲ Discover a variety of interesting terrain. Photo: Paolo Pieroni

skins on and climbing for 2 hours up to the Col d'Entrèves on the Italian border. Now it is time for our final run down the majestic Vallée Blanche before heading back to Chamonix for a celebratory beer.

Day 6 Finish

Depart for home.

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

THE ADVANTAGES OF SKI TOURING WITH ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS

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

We employ strong and specialised IFMGA 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 experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make trips safe and successful.

EQUIPMENT LIST

Skiing in the European Alps requires high-quality clothing and equipment due to the extremes of weather conditions. Our focus is on having the essential clothing and equipment to keep you warm and comfortable while touring.

You will be sent an equipment checklist on confirmation of your booking and your guide will go through this with you at the beginning of your trip. You can rent ski touring equipment for the trip but you must provide your own appropriate mountaineering/ski clothing as per the equipment list.

Actual equipment taken may vary subject to seasonal weather and route conditions. Group equipment including ropes and technical hardware will be provided by your guide.



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



▲ Fresh turns in sublime conditions. Photo: Paolo Pieroni



▲ Fantastic glacier skiing in the Valle Blanche area. Photo: Guy Cotter

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 course. 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 any medications you may take. Any information you supply will be treated as confidential.

FOOD

Adventure Consultants will provide breakfasts for the duration of the trip, from breakfast on Day 1 until breakfast on Day 6. 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 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 B&B basis. The 2-3 star hotels 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.



▲ Enjoy skiing a variety of terrain throughout the week. Photo: Olivier Baron

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.

PRICE

The costs for the five-day Chamonix Ski Touring Week are:

- 1:1 guide to skier ratio €3,650
- 1:2 guide to skier ratio €2,090 per person
- 1:4 guide to skier ratio €1,630 per person

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Ski-tour guiding for 5 days
- Group technical equipment
- Lifts
- Hotel accommodation twin share B&B for 6 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
- 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: BKNZNZ22

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 Week we require a completed registration form with a deposit of €500.



▲ Ice formations on Aiguille des Glaciers. Photo: Paolo Pieroni

BALANCE

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

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 Weeks, please complete our online booking form and forward your deposit payment at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/skiing/european-alps-backcountry-skiing/chamonix-ski-touring-week/book-now>.

CONTACT US

If you require more information, please contact us at:

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▲ Join us on a week skiing Chamonix's finest backcountry terrain. 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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