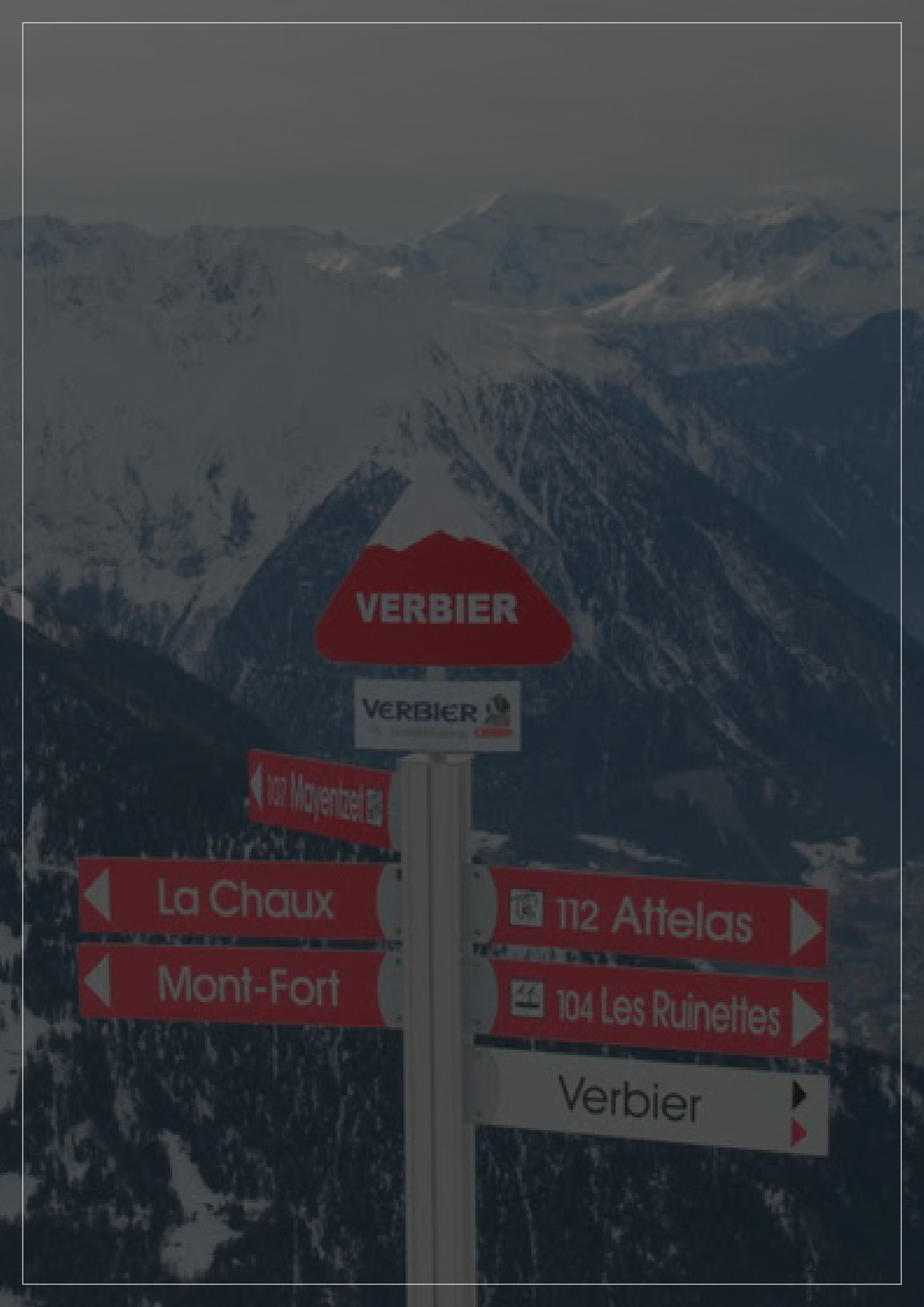


EUROPE HAUTE ROUTE SKI TOUR

2027 TRIP NOTES


VERBIER
VERBIER
La Chaux
Mont-Fort
112 Attelas
104 Les Ruinettes
Verbier

EUROPE HAUTE ROUTE SKI TOUR TRIP NOTES



2027 SKI TOUR DETAILS

Dates: April 1–5, 2027
or Private departures available on demand
Duration: 3 to 7 days
Departure: ex Chamonix, France, or Verbier, Switzerland
Price: From €1,420 per person

▲ Gaining altitude high on the Haute Route. *Photo: Paolo Pieronii*

The Swiss Haute Route passes through some of the most spectacular scenery in the Western Alps, finishing with a long descent beneath the North Face of the Matterhorn. Skiing rarely gets more scenic than this. In addition, there is the possibility of climbing three fine skiable mountains along the way, namely Rosablanche (3,336m/10,945ft), Pigne d'Arolla (3,796m/12,454ft) and Tête de Valpelline (3,802m/12,474ft).

There are a number of outstanding Haute Route variations. We enjoy the Verbier to Zermatt 'Highlight Tour' as it allows you to keep to skis and snow for the entire time. This tour can be extended to Saas-Fee with an extra day, which can also be used as a contingency in the event of bad weather.

You will need to be a confident off-piste skier for this tour, as well as having a good background level of fitness. Although the days will be relatively short (up to six hours long), you will cover high altitude ground and will need good aerobic conditioning.

Throughout the week, you will climb and ski under the supervision of our exceptional mountain guides. This will allow you to build in confidence whilst taking in the grandeur of your surroundings. Our accommodation during the tour will be in typical high altitude huts, rustic but warm and with good wholesome Swiss food to finish each day.

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 services for mountaineers and ski tourers not seen elsewhere in the world.

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.

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▲A journey that encompasses spectacular scenery and sublime skiing. *Photo: Paolo Pieroni*

Being a technically proficient 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 SKILLS

To ski tour in the European Alps, you need to be physically fit, have strong mental stamina and be capable of strenuous exercise for several days. Most days will start well before dawn, but there is usually some scope for occasional later starts and relaxed evenings enjoying classic European culture.

Even skiing and climbing at the moderate altitudes in Europe has a definite physical effect on people. Most climbers and skiers notice a lower performance rate than normal. Summit days and touring days are the most physically demanding and can entail 1,000m/3,300ft of ascent at altitude. These rewarding and photogenic days typically take around six hours.

The Haute Route ski tour is suitable for people wanting to practice general ski-mountaineering skills while touring over classic and challenging passes. Though not essential, some climbing experience is desirable and prior use of ice axe and crampons advantageous.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP

The number of guides is determined by the size of the group. The ratio of guides to climbers is 1:4 or 1:6, depending on the skill level of the group.

ITINERARY

There are several itinerary variations available for the Haute Route Ski Tour as follows:

5-DAY 'HIGHLIGHT TOUR' VERBIER TO ZERMATT

Dates: April 1–5, 2027 or available on demand

Day 0	Arrive and meet in Verbier
Day 1	Off-piste/ski touring revision, overnight at Mont Fort Hut
Day 2	Traverse (and climb) Rosablanche, overnight at Prafleuri Hut
Day 3	Pass along le Lac des Dix and cross le Pas de Chat to Dix Hut
Day 4	Traverse the Pigne d'Arolla to Vignettes Hut
Day 5	Traverse three cols to Zermatt and overnight at a Zermatt hotel
Day 6	Depart for home (option to continue to Saas-Fee or spend another day skiing out of Zermatt—please see variations on page 6)

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▲Climbers on the Pas des Chevres ladders. *Photo: Paolo Pieroni*



▲Skiers near Pigne d'Arolla. *Photo: Jon Bracey*



▲Enjoy staying in Europe's renowned alpine huts. *Photo: Paolo Pieroni*

5-DAY 'HIGHLIGHT TOUR' VERBIER TO ZERMATT DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 0

We meet at 8:30pm in Verbier. Our guide will go over the activities for the week, answer any last-minute questions and arrange the hiring of any equipment.

Day 1

Today is used for revising off-piste and ski touring techniques. We can make last-minute equipment changes as well as enjoy the excellent off-piste runs for which Verbier is famous. We end the day at the Mont Fort Hut (2,457m/8,061ft) to give us an early start the next day.

Day 2

We make an early start from the hut and climb gently, crossing the Col de la Chaux (2,940m/9,646ft) and then the lovely Col de Momin (3,004m/9,856ft) which suddenly lets us out onto a glacial plateau below Rosablanche (3,336m/10,945ft). In good weather, we will have a chance to climb this mountain before descending to the Prafleuri Hut (2,624m/8,609ft).

Day 3

From the hut, we climb 150m/500ft up to the Col des Roux (2,804m/9,199ft) before traversing the 5km/3 mile-long western shore of the frozen Lac des Dix. We then pick our way through the Pas de Chat and climb 600m/2,000ft gently up to Dix Hut (2,928m/9,606ft) where the food is always delicious.

Day 4

Another big day today. We climb the Cheilon Glacier, the Serpentine (3,789m/12,431ft) and then the Pigne d'Arolla (3,796m/12,454ft). The subsequent ski down to the Vignettes Hut (3,160m/10,367ft) can be, and often is, filled with champagne powder. This is a spectacular day with outstanding views, and the following day is even better!

Day 5

Making an alpine start again, we slide down to the Col de Chermontane (3,053m/10,016ft), then cross in (hopefully) quick succession the Col de l'Evêque (3,392m/11,129ft), Col du Mont Brûlé (3,213m/10,541ft) and Col de Valpelline (3,568m/11,706ft). Each of these has a fine ski descent after the climb.

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▲Taking in the magnificent Matterhorn. *Photo: Russell Braddock*

Now we have the option to climb the Tête de Valpelline (3,568m/12,467ft), adding an extra hour to our day, before skiing under the spectacular North Face of the Matterhorn and then on down to Zermatt (1,614m/5,295ft), your hotel, showers and a well-deserved beer or a refreshing cup of tea! This is the most special and scenic ski touring day of the trip, providing unsurpassed views.

Day 6 Finish

Add an additional day of skiing in Zermatt, continue on to Saas-Fee or depart for home. Please see variations below.

ITINERARY VARIATIONS

6-DAY 'HIGHLIGHT TOUR' VERBIER TO SAAS-FEE

Add an extra day to your 'Highlight Tour' departure (scheduled or private) taking you through to Saas-Fee. This allows you to make the most of your ski touring experience and build in a contingency day for inclement weather enroute.

Days 0–5

As per the 'Highlight Tour' Verbier to Zermatt itinerary detailed on pages 4–5.

Day 6

After an early breakfast, take the Gornergrat railway and cable car to the Stockhorn (3,532m/11,588ft), which allows us to ski down to 3,100m/10,200ft on the Findel Glacier before climbing gently up to the steep Adlerpass (3,789m/12,431ft) which is sandwiched between the 4,000m/13,700ft summits of the Rimpfischhorn and the Strahlhorn. This pass is the gateway to Saas-Fee. On this day we will have skied under three 4,000m/13,000ft peaks. The tour will end with yet another day in paradise.

Alternatively, it is also possible to use this day in Zermatt to enjoy some of the best lift-based off-piste skiing in the Alps. You can descend into Cervinia, ski the top-notch Schwarztor Glacier or climb and ski down Breithorn (4,164m/13,661ft), which is easily accessible from the Klein Matterhorn lift.

Day 7 Finish

Depart for home.

3-DAY FRENCH HAUTE ROUTE CHAMONIX TO VERBIER

A great long weekend for those with limited time.

Day 0

The team arrives Chamonix and enjoys a night in a comfortable local hotel.

Day 1

We meet after breakfast in Chamonix, check gear and organize last-minute hiring of equipment, before off-piste skiing and climbing practice with skins. Return to the hotel.

Day 2

Today is an early morning start, as we take the lift to Grands Montets (3,200m/10,500ft) and enjoy a delightful 600m/2,000ft ski down to the Argentière Glacier. This is where we stick the skins to our skis for the first big climb of the tour, 700m/2,300ft of gentle zigzagging up to the Col du Chardonnet (3,323m/10,902ft), followed by an exciting rappel

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▲A good level of fitness is essential for this challenging but achieveable tour. *Photo: Paolo Pieroni*

descent to the Saleina Glacier. A short ski traverse leads to the next col and an easy climb (skins again) to the Fenêtre de Saleina (3,261m/10,699ft) and the Trient Glacier, from where a gentle ski brings us to the remote Trient Hut (3,170m/10,400ft). The skins go back on again for the 100m/330ft climb up to the hut.

Day 3

From the Trient Hut, we ski down the right bank of the Trient Glacier to 2,750m/9,000ft. We climb 50m/160ft steeply up to the Col des Ecandies (2,796m/9,173ft). In good conditions there is a superb 1,000m/3,300ft powder descent into the Arpette Valley to join the piste and the picturesque little town of Champex (1,500m/5,000ft). We then take road transport to Verbier, where we round off the trip in a comfortable hotel.

Day 4 Finish

Depart for home.

7-DAY FULL HAUTE ROUTE CHAMONIX TO ZERMATT

This itinerary combines the French Haute Route: Chamonix to Verbier with the Verbier to Zermatt 'Highlight Tour' for the ultimate ski tour.

Day 0	Arrive Chamonix, hotel night
Day 1	Gear checks, off-piste skiing and climbing practice with skins, hotel night
Day 2	Ski the Argentière, Saleina and Trient Glaciers to Trient Hut
Day 3	Cross the Col des Ecandies down to Champex, drive to Verbier, ski over to Mont Fort Hut

NOTE: See French Haute Route: Chamonix to Verbier itinerary on page 6 for the Days 0–3 detailed itinerary.

Day 4	Traverse (and climb) Rosablanche, overnight at Prafleuri Hut
Day 5	Pass along le Lac des Dix and cross le Pas de Chat to Dix Hut
Day 6	Traverse Pigne d'Arolla to Vignettes Hut
Day 7	Traverse three cols to Zermatt and overnight at a Zermatt Hotel (ski lift to Zermatt if dry or late season).
Finish	Depart for home.

NOTE: See Verbier to Zermatt 'Highlight Tour' Itinerary (Days 2–5) on page 4 for the days 4–7 detailed itinerary.

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▲Of course it's all about the skiing! *Photo: Paolo Pieroni*

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.

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 proven experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make our trips safe and successful.

EQUIPMENT

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

You will be sent an equipment checklist and your guide will go through this with you at the beginning of your trip. You can rent technical equipment but you must provide your own mountaineering clothing. 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.

WEATHER

Europe has a continental climate, which in general encourages stable weather. However, the weather in the high mountains can be changeable and at times very severe. It is possible that weather conditions may thwart our programme. Your guide will be monitoring weather conditions closely and may change the itinerary slightly to work around frontal weather systems.

FITNESS & HEALTH

To make the most of your ski touring 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 trip. Your guide will place 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 medication you may take. Any information you supply will be treated as confidential.

FOOD

Adventure Consultants will provide breakfasts for the duration of the trip and evening meals on hut nights while the trip is running. This is from breakfast on Day 1 until breakfast on your departure day. You will be responsible for your own lunch and snacks each day, plus evening meals on the non-mountain nights. This allows you to experience the exciting culinary options available in the region 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 in the mountains. 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.

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.

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▲Skiing near Verbier. *Photo: Paolo Pieroni*

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 an efficient rescue service nearby.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel accommodation is provided on a twin share B&B basis as per your trip inclusions. Accommodation in the mountains is in alpine huts in shared bunk rooms or dormitory rooms. Blankets are provided and no sleeping bag will be required. There is no single supplement (or private room) available in the mountain huts but we can arrange this for hotel nights in Verbier, Zermatt, Saas-Fee or Chamonix. Please enquire about costs at the time of booking.

PRICE

5-DAY 'HIGHLIGHT TOUR' VERBIER TO ZERMATT

7 days (5 days skiing, 2 travel days)

EUR€2,590 each (1:4 guide to skier ratio)
EUR€6,600 (1:1 guide to skier ratio)

6-DAY 'HIGHLIGHT TOUR' VERBIER TO SAAS-FEE

8 days (6 days skiing, 2 travel days)

EUR€3,100 each (1:4 guide to skier ratio)
EUR€7,890 (1:1 guide to skier ratio)

3-DAY FRENCH HAUTE ROUTE CHAMONIX TO VERBIER

5 days (3 days skiing, 2 travel days)

EUR€1,420 each (1:4 guide to skier ratio)
EUR€3,500 (1:1 guide to skier ratio)

7-DAY FULL HAUTE ROUTE CHAMONIX TO ZERMATT

9 days (7 days skiing, 2 travel days)

EUR€3,350 each (1:4 guide to skier ratio)
EUR€7,990 (1:1 guide to skier ratio)

NOTE: All prices are subject to change without notice.

The cost includes:

- Ski tour guide
- Group technical equipment
- Lift passes as per the scheduled itinerary
- Hut or hotel accommodation as per the scheduled itinerary
- Local ground transport as per the scheduled itinerary
- Breakfast and dinner during mountain component of the trip

The cost **does not** include:

- 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 equipment as per lists supplied
- Evening meals during hotel nights in town
- Lunches
- Extra additional meals, snacks or drinks purchased from huts or hotels

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▲On the summit of Briethorn, a possible climb on the Highlight Tour optional day. *Photo: Mike Roberts*

- Insurance
- Transport to and from trip departure location (although we can arrange it for you)
- 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 Haute Route Ski Tour, 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.

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.

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▲Join our scheduled departure or bring along a group of friends for this fantastic flexible adventure! *Photo: Paolo Pieroni*

HOW TO JOIN THIS TRIP

If you would like to join one of our Haute Route Ski Tours, please complete our online booking form and forward your deposit payment at https://adventureconsultants.com/skiing/european-alps-ski-touring/europe-haute-route-ski-tour#DepartureBookingBlock.

CONTACT US

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▲Earn your turns on this classic European Alps traverse. *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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