

# Chamonix Snowshoe and Ski

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£995 or 1195 Euros  
Introductory

This trip is especially suited to those who are regularly active and would like to experience a winter wonderland on both skis and snowshoes. It is aimed at those who have little or no cross country skiing or snowshoe experience. Both activities are very easy to pick up and enjoy in a week.

The world famous Chamonix Valley in the French Alps is a good base from which to explore the alpine valleys and plateaus of the Mont Blanc Massif. With Switzerland and Italy each just a 30 minute drive away it allows us to experience three different cultures in just as many days.

- Learn to cross country ski 'classic technique'
- Snowshoe peaks around Mont Blanc
- Enjoy a Savoyarde meal on a night snowshoe excursion
- Snowshoe & ski to a remote mountain hut for the night

## Departures

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## Day 1 Arrival in Chamonix Valley

We meet you at your hotel the evening you arrive to brief you on the days ahead and answer any questions. Your guide will be at your accommodation at 6.30pm.

## Day 2 Classic Skiing and afternoon in Chamonix

Today is all about learning how to slide & glide! After organising our skis we take our time to learn and practice the 'classic technique' of cross country skiing (also known as Nordic Skiing). You'll learn how best to slide efficiently along freshly groomed trails and enjoy fabulous mountain vistas. After a picnic lunch we re-visit those newly learned skills and finish the day with a journey

along easy angled trails at your own pace. Enjoy gliding gracefully along a deep sided valley, glaciers all around and through thick Norwegian spruces. This ancient form of skiing is not only an excellent form of exercise but is easily tailored to your experience, fitness and enthusiasm! No ski experience is necessary to have fun on cross country skis!

After your ski you will have time to enjoy a little 'apres ski' whilst exploring Chamonix's town centre..

## Day 3 Introduction to snowshoeing & night snowshoe!

Today we head towards the Swiss border to the hamlet of Vallorcine which means the 'valley of the bears'. Unfortunately because the locals used to pay their taxes in bear meat there are none left today! Here we put on our snowshoes and leave the village to head along the remote Berard Valley and explore a true winter wonderland. We then gently climb through woodland to visit chalets and to summer pastures cut off by the depths of winter. We come out to a wonderful view point at 'Les Granges' or 'the graneries'. Our high point is an excellent vantage point of both Swiss and French peaks. We then enjoy a walk back down to the valley base and along the ancient stage coach road known as Chemin des Diligences.

Enjoy a restful afternoon back at the chalet, where you can relax in the hot tub or sauna. After which we put on our snowshoes once again and leave the chalet for a short walk to a Savoyarde restaurant for the evening. Head torches can be provided! Enjoy trying local wines and dishes of the Haute Savoie region.

## Day 4 Snowshoe Day - Mont Truc 1811m

We get higher today. We start with a drive through the spa town of St Gervais heading for the Contamines Valley, famous also for a night on the Tour du Mont Blanc. Our destination is Mont Truc which offers a 360 degree panoramic view taking in the high summits of the Domes des Miage and the Aiguille de Bionassay. We have a steady climb through the forests before emerging into the alpage of the Chalets du Truc and eventually to the peak itself. From this wonderful vantage point you can now view the Chains des Aravis, the Rocher des Fiz, Mont Joly and surrounding valleys and ski villages. Don't forget to watch out for the chamois! Ascent 700m.

## Day 5 Ski Journey

Today we take back our skis and visit a different ski area. The focus today is to practice our new skiing skills and to get to grips with different travelling techniques. That way we will feel confident and ready for slightly longer and more challenging journeys. Because our groups sizes are not large the sessions are always aimed to teach you at your individual level. You can now see how far you have progressed since your first day on XC skis!

Tonight we will pack for a night away in the Bonatti Refuge, Italy!

## **Day 6 Val Ferret, Italy ? Bonatti Refuge ? Ski and Snowshoe day**

Today we travel through the famous Mont Blanc Tunnel into Italy. We ski along the beautiful Val Ferret with our journey taking us through the trees to the snowy meadows at La Vachey. Here we stop for lunch in a rustic mountain restaurant which has great atmosphere and superb cuisine! The views of jagged ridges, spires, and glaciers are stunning.

In the afternoon we swap our skis for snowshoes, and head deeper into the mountains for a night at the famous Bonatti Refuge. The Refuge enjoys stunning views of the Mont Blanc Massif from the Italian side giving another perspective to this famous alpine range. This is a relatively new mountain hut which pays homage to the world renowned Italian mountaineer and photographer Walter Bonatti. It makes a fantastic overnight trip, with excellent accommodation (more like a hotel), Italian coffee and pasta to match!

## **Day 7 Snowshoe and ski - Courmayeur**

After a relaxing breakfast in the high mountains we make our way back down to the Val Ferret valley floor and remove our snowshoes. We then need to return onto our skis to ski out and down the valley back to our transport. As this is our last day and depending on how we feel we can do as much or as little skiing as we wish. Val Ferret has 20km of groomed tracks to keep us busy. We complete our trip with a little 'après ski' celebration in the delightful Italian town of Courmayeur before returning to our Chamonix Valley accommodation.

## **Day 8 Departure**

Today is departure day. The package ends after breakfast.

## **Accommodation**



Our accommodation is located in the village of Ardenne.

The chalet has a sauna, hot tub and wonderful views of Mont Blanc. The bedrooms are twin or triple bedded with either en suite or shared bathrooms depending on the availability. The group has the use of the comfortable lounge area which has a real fireplace, satellite TV & DVD and free WIFI. There is a secure underground car park, ski lockers and overnight ski boot warmers in the basement.

## Price

**Included:** The price includes half board accommodation, dinner, bed and breakfast, and afternoon tea. Based on twin or triple rooms possibly with a shared bathroom, in a chalet at Yeti Lodge and half board in the mountain hut based in non-segregated dormitory accommodation. Twin rooms can be arranged in advance in the mountain hut, subject to a small fee. Ski passes, snowshoe hire, shovels and probes (essential avalanche equipment), the fees of a qualified BASI Nordic Ski Instructor/International Mountain Leader and their expenses are also all included.

**Not included:** Insurance, flights & transfers (but we can advise on the best options), drinks and lunches. If, due to adverse weather conditions, we use uplifts/ transport to another area as an alternative itinerary this is unlikely to be included. Ski hire and avalanche transceivers are also not included. In total the ski hire and transceivers will cost approximately 90 euros.

## Minimum numbers

This trip requires a minimum of 4 clients to run. We take a maximum of 8 clients.

## Insurance

Please note that you must have the appropriate insurance for your chosen activity. You must be covered for helicopter rescue, repatriation and medical costs. With regard to this please be sure you have read the [Insurance section in our Terms and Conditions](#)

## Further Information

We prefer not to specify exactly where we will ski each day, but have given a *possible* itinerary (this is dependant mainly on weather/snow conditions at the time). Upon booking a full list of the necessary suitable clothing will be provided.

Argentiere is easily reached from other European & Worldwide destinations by road, rail, coach or plane. For suggested travel links please refer to our Booking & Information pages for further details. Geneva is the closest international airport, only 1 hour 15 minutes away by road, making shared transfers, buses or trains easy to arrange. Please contact us if you need further advise on your specific travel requirements.

[Chamonix Snowshoe and Cross Country Ski](#)

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Views from  
Chalets du  
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