

Best of Tour du Mont Blanc

Best of the Tour du Mont Blanc
Best of Tour du Mont Blanc
£895 or 1075 Euros
Difficult

This is the best of the famous classic walk of the Alps passing through three countries and three cultures. We meet in Chamonix, the mountaineering capital of the world, and begin a journey of discovery which takes in the history, culture, folklore and wildlife of the mountains. From remote farms and refuges, to ancient Roman towns and beautiful lakeside mountain villages - it's all there on the Tour du Mont Blanc.

This great trip picks out the best of the daily stages and links them by short vehicle transfers. Our route will tackle several major pass crossings, such as the Col de Bonhomme, and the Col de la Seigne. As a grand finale, we have also included the superb day-hike to Lac Blanc regarded by many as one of the best day walks in the world! It provides stunning views across the Chamonix Valley to Mont Blanc. For those with limited time, this one-week version of the Tour du Mont Blanc offers superb trekking in France, Italy and Switzerland, as well as a wealth of unforgettable Alpine experiences.

```
<iframe width="560" height="315"
src="http://www.youtube.com/embed/S7LPNeAEd94" frameborder="0"
allowfullscreen></iframe>
```

[Departures](#)

Day 1 Arrival in Chamonix

Valley

We meet at the group chalet at Yeti Lodge in Argentiere, just outside Chamonix. Lying beneath the stunning north face of Mont Blanc, the views are amazing from the start! Before dinner, you will meet your trip leader to have an informal chat about the days ahead and have the chance to check out your clothing and gear and to decide if you will need to pick up any further items of equipment, before setting out in the morning.

Day 2 Col de Tricot to Les Contamines

We transfer to Les Houches (20 mins) and begin our trip by taking the cablecar which eliminates the need to walk through a ski area and provides an excellent start to the trek. On arrival we have views to the Bionassay Glacier with the Aiguille de Bionassay towering above. Crossing the torrent via a fine new suspension bridge, we climb to the Col de Tricot. Ahead lies the bulk of the Dome de Miage and below us is the idyllic summer hamlet of the Chalet de Miage. After a welcome drink at the Chalet de Miage, a relatively short climb and easy descent takes us into the colourful village of Les Contamines. Ascent 700m.

Day 3 Col du Bonhomme to Les Chapieux

A leisurely wander by the river to Notre Dame de la Gorge is our start for today. Leaving the river our route then climbs steeply, following the 'paved' Roman road thought to have been a route taken by Hannibal. Our next stop is at the refuge at Le Balme, a good place to contemplate the climb to the Col du Bonhomme. This is a long, steady climb and the pass itself often has snow patches early in the season. At 2469 metres this is considerably higher than the Col de Tricot, but once reached the climbing is over for the day, as we traverse round to the Col de la Croix du Bonhomme before dropping gently down to Les Chapieux. Ascent 1300m

Day 4 Courmayeur via the Col de la Seigne

A section of road takes us out of Les Chapieux towards the refuge Le Mottet, which doubles as a donkey and mule sanctuary. Many of these animals earn their keep by transporting the baggage of the less energetic to our next high point, at the Col de la Seigne 2513m. This is a significant col on the border between France and Italy and gives superlative views of the Brenva face of Mont Blanc. An easy descent takes us past the Elizabetta Refuge and down into the head of the Val Veny, under the awesome ridge of the Aiguille Noire de Peuterey. We then take the local bus and descend to the vibrant town and mountaineering centre of Courmayeur. Ascent 970m

Day 5 Grand Col Ferret to La Fouly

We set off on the long climb to the Grand Col Ferret at 2537m. From this pass, there are views of the snow-capped Grand Combin 4090m and also Mont Dolent, the summit of which is shared by France, Switzerland and Italy. Beyond the pass, we have entered Switzerland and the terrain is very different, less rugged, as we descend to La Fouly. Here we catch a local bus to our overnight halt in the beautiful lakeside Swiss village of Champex. Ascent 870m

Day 6 Champex to Trient

Today we have two options and your guide will make a decision on the best route for the group. The climb up to the pass known as the Fenêtre d'Arpette 2670m is one of the most demanding days of the tour, but there are compensations. On reaching the rocky col the spectacular view across the Trient Glacier to its seracs and crevasses is quite breathtaking. Ascent 1180m. Alternatively, we take the beautiful Bovine trail through the high meadows where the famous Swiss fighting cows spend the summer months. After a steep ascent to the meadows we hope to stop at the farm for coffee and a chance to chat with the cowherder. We overnight in Argentiere. Ascent 570m

Day 7 Lac Blanc

Today's walk is an excellent finale to the Tour du Mont Blanc with spectacular views across to the main Mont Blanc range. We take the path up through the Aiguilles Rouges Nature Reserve to reach the start of our ridge walk which will lead us upwards to Lac Blanc. En route we often see ibex, chamois, and marmots. It really can be a great chance to get up close to some of the alpine wildlife. At Lac Blanc itself there is an opportunity to visit the Refuge and indulge in some home made tart and a coffee! We then descend to the mid-station at La Flegere and descend to Chamonix by cable car before returning to Argentiere. Ascent 900m

Day 8 Depart Argentiere

Today is departure day, services end after breakfast.

Price

Included: The guiding services of a fully qualified International Mountain Leader, hotel or gîte accommodation for 7 nights (based on twin or triple rooms possibly with a shared bathroom), breakfast and dinner each day, transfers and cable cars involved in the itinerary and the services of a baggage vehicle and driver.

Not included: Travel Insurance, airport transfers, snack food, transfers and cable cars which are not part of the itinerary, personal expenses ? beer, souvenirs etc. We are happy to advise on the best options for airport transfers and flights. Lunches are not included as we find that many people prefer to eat certain foods while walking and prefer to have the flexibility of choosing their

own.

Accommodation



During this trip, you will start and finish the trek at the very comfortable Yeti Lodge, in Argentiere, near Chamonix. Offering stunning views of Mont Blanc, facilities include Hot Tubs, Saunas, free WIFI, in-house computers and secure parking. On the trek, you will spend four nights in comfortable hotels, chalets or gites with all bedding provided. All accommodation is in twin and occasionally triple rooms, either ensuite or with shared bathrooms. Depending on availability we may have to use larger rooms in Les Chapieux where accommodation is limited.

Luggage

On each trekking day, there will be vehicle support to carry your luggage to the next overnight stop. To make things efficient during the luggage transfer process, and to prevent any losses, please keep luggage to a minimum. IE: A day sac whilst walking and one bag labelled clearly to transfer.

Spending money

You will need to allow approximately 10 - 15 euros per day for snacks and you should also make an allowance for drinks, including bottled water. Beer, wine and soft drinks are available every night. We estimate that approximately 200 - 250 euros should cover all your personal expenses. Please note that a part of the route is in Switzerland and you should consider taking a small quantity of Swiss francs. These are particularly useful at Geneva Airport.

Minimum numbers

This trip will run once a minimum number of 4 clients have booked. We will take a maximum of 10 clients. We advise you not to make your travel arrangements until the trip is guaranteed to run.

Further Information

Chamonix 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.

Once you have booked we will send you a list of suggested equipment and clothing for the trek.

```
<iframe width="425" height="350" frameborder="0" scrolling="no"
marginheight="0" marginwidth="0"
src="http://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&t=h&msa=
0&msid=213201162817846344091.0004989b2c1a3f5505e82&ll=45.844108,
6.954346&spn=0.669657,1.167297&z=9&output=embed"></iframe><b
r /><small>View <a
href="http://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&t=h&msa
=0&msid=213201162817846344091.0004989b2c1a3f5505e82&ll=45.844108
,6.954346&spn=0.669657,1.167297&z=9&source=embed"
style="color:#0000FF;text-align:left">Tour du Mont Blanc</a> in a
larger map</small><a href="#">Tour du Mont Blanc</a>
No
```



Views to Mont Dolent