

CHAMONIX EXPERIENCE

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HAUTE ROUTE GUIDED SKI TOUR

Duration 7 days Physical level 4/5 Technical Level 4/5 Price from 2195€

The Haute Route Chamonix Zermatt guided ski tour is one of the most iconic and breathtaking ski mountaineering adventures in the world. Over the course of 7 days, you'll journey through the stunning Alps, from the French ski resort of Chamonix to the Swiss town of Zermatt, navigating glaciers, high alpine passes, and remote valleys. This guided ski tour offers a perfect blend of thrilling challenges, spectacular mountain scenery, and the expertise of experienced guides, ensuring both safety and an unforgettable experience. Whether you're a seasoned skier or a passionate mountaineer, the Haute Route Chamonix Zermatt ski tour provides an unparalleled opportunity to explore some of the most majestic terrain in Europe.

This is ski touring at its best – high in the mountains, from refuge to refuge, with long climbs and stunning descents. There are constantly changing views of Mont Blanc, the Matterhorn, Grand Combin and Monte Rosa. Starting in the heart of the Mont Blanc massif and ending up in the shadow of one of the most famous mountains in the Alps, the Matterhorn, this is a journey that every experienced ski tourer should undertake at least once in their lives.

Our 7-day Haute Route Chamonix Zermatt ski tour takes you through the most stunning Alpine terrain, staying in the most spectacular mountain huts along the way. This all-inclusive ski touring trip has no hidden costs—taxi rides, lift passes, and hut accommodations are all covered. The only expenses you'll need to plan for are daily lunches and drinks, with plenty of opportunities to purchase them during the tour.

ITINERARY

The group will meet at the Chamonix Experience office on the evening before start of the trip. Here, we will have an informal chat about the week ahead, weather, conditions, itinerary etc. Your guide will also want to check all of your equipment. You will then have time to decide if you need to pick up any missing equipment or leave some behind to lighten your pack before setting out in the morning.

Please note that this itinerary is an example of what we can do if the weather and conditions allow. The program will be adapted if the mountain conditions or weather prevent the original plan and we will re-organise the itinerary so you can ski a different tour.

Day 1. Ski Grands Montets and hike up to Argentière Refuge

You start with some steep ski runs on the Grands Montets. Your guide will want to check that you all have the right ski level before you set off and make sure that there are no issues with any of your equipment. After lunch you will ski down the Rognon glacier and across the Argentière glacier to the Argentière Refuge (2771 m). You will spend your first night there. Enjoy the beautiful views of the Argentière Basin!

Descent 800-900 m • Ascent 200-300 m • Time 4-5 h

Day 2. Argentiére hut to Trient hut via Col du Tour

The day starts with a short descent from the hut down to the glacier, where you put on your skins and climb up to the Col du Passon (3028 m). From the col it's a short descent before putting the skins back on for a short climb to the Col du Tour (3282m). Then the route takes you across the magnificent Trient plateau and up to the Trient hut where you will spend the night.

Descent 300 m • Ascent 1100 m • Time 6-8 h

Day 3. Trient hut to Prafleuri hut via Col des Ecandies

This is a long day, which is rewarded by long descents. It starts with descend to the Col des Ecandies (2796 m) followed by descend by the Val d'Arpette down to the village of Champex (1500m). Transfer by taxi will be arranged to take you to a cable-car station in Verbier. Climb up to the Col de la Chaux (2940 m) is followed by another descend. Then hike up to the Col de Momin (3015 m) and to the highest summit of the trip, the Rosablanche (3336). From the summit you have a great ski down the glacier de Prafleuri to the Prafleuri hut (2624m) where you will spend the night. Descent 2700 m • Ascent 900 m • Time 7-8 h

Day 4. Prafleuri hut to Refuge des Dix via Pas du Chat

This day starts with a steep climb over the Col des Roux (2804 m) before starting the long traverse above the Lac Dix and steady climb to the Pas du Chat and Refuge des Dix (2928m). Here you will leave some of your equipment before setting out for either the Col de Chelion (3237m) or to the summit of La Luette (3548m) for some extra descent before dinner. This extra is optional! Descent 450 m • Ascent 800 m • Time 5 h

Day 5. Refuge des Dix to Vignettes Refuge via Pigne d'Arolla

From the hut you cross the Glacier de Cheilon to climb the Glacier de Tsena Refien towards the Col de la Serpentine and on to the Col du Brenay. It is then an easy climb to the summit of the Pigne d'Arolla (3772m). Now you have a great descent to the Col des Vignettes and the spectacularly situated hut (3160m) of the same name. Ascent 850 m • Time 6 h

Day 6. Vignettes Refuge to Bertol hut via Col de Charmottane and Col de l'Evêque

The day will start with a quick descent to the Col de Charmottane (3037 m) followed by hike up to the Col de l'Evêque (3382 m). A beautiful, long descent of the Arolla glacier to the Plans de Bertol is followed by long but absolutely spectacular hike up to the Bertol hut (3311 m) where you will spend the last night in the of this trip! Descent 750 m • Ascent 1100 m • Time 7-8 h

Day 7. Bertol hut to Zermatt via Tête Blanche and Stöckji glacier.

Fun day! A hike up to the second highest point of the trip, the Tête Blanche (3707 m) is followed by a brilliant, long and relatively complex descent of the Stöckji and Zmut glaciers. You will be making your way through crevasses and around rocks as you go. The views of the Matterhorn are always changing and always spectacular. Eventually you will reach the edge of Zermatt's huge pisted ski area and stop for a well-earned beer at a piste-side bar before continuing to Zermatt. From here you will catch the train to Tasch to meet the minibus waiting to take you back to Chamonix, a 2.5-hour drive. Once back in Chamonix you will have a short debrief over a coffee at our office, where you can also swap photos before heading home. Descent 2100 m • Ascent 500 m • Time 6 h

PRICE DETAILS

Collective groups: From 2195€ per person for groups of 6 skiers

Private trips: Contact us on info@chamex.com for customised itinerary and price.

Included in trip package:

- 7 days of guiding
- 6 nights in mountain huts with breakfast and dinner
- Lift passes as per the itinerary
- Transport as per the itinerary
- Group safety equipment
- Office based support

Not Included in the trip package:

- Drinks, lunches and snacks in huts
- Personal equipment
- Accommodation in Chamonix
- Travel to Chamonix
- Mountain rescue and travel insurance (covering course cancellation for any reason)

DATES

Collective groups: See our web page for dates and availability.

Private trips: Contact us on info@chamex.com for dates and availability.

EQUIPMENT

We recommend choosing your equipment carefully, as it plays a key role in the success of your trip. Weight is crucial —always aim for the right balance between comfort and lightness. Remember: the lighter your backpack, the happier the skier!

Warm hat

Sun hat

Thermal underwear

Fleece layers

Light puffer jacket (either synthetic or down)

Wind and waterproof jacket

Wind and waterproof trousers

Thick gloves

Thin gloves

Spare pair of ski socks

Spare base thermal layer

Ice axe (light)*

Harness*

Helmet for ski touring/mountaineering is recommended.

1 screw gate carabiner

Touring skis: lightweight skis – maximum 95mm under foot, fitted with low tech bindings

Ski touring boots*

Ski poles*

Ski goggles

Ski skins (with well sticking glue)

Couteaux (ski crampons)

Crampons*

120cm climbing sling

Ski touring helmet

Avalanche transceiver, shovel, and probe

Headlamp (with fresh batteries and spare bulb)

Sunglasses

Sleeping bag liner

Water bottle, 1L at least

Sun block

Toothbrush + toothpaste

Duct tape

Your ID and cash (in a plastic zip bag)

About 35L rucksack adapted for carrying skis and ice axe

A small personalised medical kit including blisters treatment, painkillers for headaches, earplugs

It is your responsibility to have all of the equipment needed for this trip. The equipment has to be fully functional. If your gear shows functional issues during the trip, you will have to stop your participation on the trip. There is no

alternative ski trip to be offered, in this case, and there will be no refund for the missed days. You will also be responsible for the cost of your return to Chamonix. We will be here to help with the logistics.

FURTHER INFORMATION

PHYSICAL LEVEL REQUIREMENTS

You have to be physically fit, ready to hike up to 1200m vertical meters gain per day and ski for up to 8 hours per day without being too tired the next day.

It is your responsibility to be prepared for the trip and to have the right off piste skiing & ski touring level as well as appropriate level of fitness. In case your fitness or technical skills are not adequate for the trip, you will be asked to leave the group. This is purely for safety reasons as the group will have to progress within certain time limit. There is no alternative ski trip to be offered, in this case, and there will be no refund for the missed days.

TECHNICAL LEVEL REQUIREMENTS

This trip is for experienced ski tourers who have already done at least one hut-to-hut tour or a multi-day ski tour. You have to be good and efficient in your skinning technique and confident moving over a steep and exposed terrain. You are expected to be comfortable and safe doing kick turns on slopes of over 35 degrees. You have to be skilled using ice axe and crampons and be happy to climb over steep, snowy and rocky terrain.

You have to be an excellent off piste skier, confident and efficient in skiing in all snow conditions without stopping or losing control over your skis. You have to be confident and safe skiing on slopes of 40 degrees.

We highly recommend you to arrive a day or two in advance for some warm up skiing. This is also the best way to check your equipment – if everything fits well and is in a good working order. Badly fitting boots or bindings can be a stopper problem for your trip!

ACCOMMODATION

The high alpine huts are one of the big attractions to touring in the Alps. They allow us to enjoy the mountains with only light packs and without having to worry about meals or finding somewhere to sleep! Most huts have only very basic facilities.

Sleeping arrangements are in mixed sex dormitory-style rooms with bunks. Washing facilities are limited and generally there is no running water in any of the huts although this may vary in some huts. There are basins in which you can use bottled water to wash the best you can and clean your teeth, but they are NOT generally in private cubicles and are mixed sex. Toilets are generally septic-tank type (non-flushing) and again mixed sex. You need to be prepared for simple living in the huts and appreciate they are located at high altitude and in inhospitable terrain.

Breakfasts and evening meals are served by the guardian and his team and the food is usually nourishing and filling. Beer, wine, soft drinks and snacks are also available to buy. All food and drink in the huts is delivered by helicopter and consequently prices will be high e.g. around 10€ for a 1.5litre bottle of still water.

There are a few basic hut 'rules' that you need to follow so that you (and your fellow climbers) have a pleasant stay:

1. On arriving at the hut you must take off your boots and leave these together with your ice-axe, crampons in the foyer. Be sure to store these carefully as the hut is likely to get very busy and you'll need to find all your kit in the morning rush!
2. House slippers are provided and must be worn in the hut
Your guide will register you with the guardian and will assign you your bunk.
3. Follow the instructions of your guide and keep requests to the guardian and his team to a minimum – they are usually very busy sorting out groups, cooking meals, keeping the hut clean.
4. In the morning your guide will often want to leave early – be sure to have all your kit ready to go the night before. Be organised and everything will be much easier!
5. It is recommended to bring ear-plugs for the nights – but make sure that you get up on time!

FOOD

We recommend bringing or purchasing snack food in the resort to take into the mountains each day—items like cereal bars, dried fruit and nuts, chocolate, sugary sweets, or your favourite trail mix. When staying overnight in huts, breakfasts and dinners are included in the package price. However, it's wise to bring extra supplies for the days you'll be away, as huts do sell food but it can be expensive and stock may be limited.

If you have food allergies or specific dietary requirements—especially if you're Coeliac (gluten-free) or have a dairy allergy—we strongly advise bringing additional food to supplement your hut meals. While huts generally cater well to vegetarians, they are less equipped for other dietary needs.

Huts can provide a basic packed lunch (typically bread, salami, cheese, and chocolate), which you can order, but it's important not to rely solely on this option. You'll need to carry your own snacks each day. Expect to take short breaks during the day, and it's important to eat something each time to maintain your energy levels throughout the day.

OUR GUIDES

You will be supervised by an UIAGM mountain guide, groups of maximum 6 skiers per guide. Minimum age is 18.

DOCUMENTS

Mountain search and rescue and repatriation insurance is mandatory on all our trips. We highly advise you to also have a travel insurance policy covering the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your trip in the event of cancellation or curtailment. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

You will need to bring your ID with you.

SPENDING MONEY

The package price includes transport as per itinerary, cable cars and mountain railway tickets, 6 nights in mountain huts with breakfast and dinner, and guiding. You will need to allow an amount for lunches, drinks and snacks. Please note that the huts do not accept credit cards, you will need to have € and CHF in cash for your snacks, drinks and packed lunches. Your guide will advise you how much you need.

LUGGAGE

If you need to leave any luggage here at our office during the trip, then this is no problem, but we ask that you kindly limit this to 1 suitcase per person, as we only have limited storage space and many different trips departing throughout the week. If you require your luggage to be delivered to Zermatt at the end of your trip, then we will provide you with luggage labels so we can clearly identify your bags when the taxi comes to collect them.

TRANSPORT DURING THE COURSE

All transport during the course, as outlined in the itinerary, is included in the price. We use public transport whenever possible; when it's not available, taxis and private transfers will be organised.

BAD WEATHER AND CONDITIONS

If the group gets caught in bad weather and is prevented from moving on to the next hut, the guide will change the itinerary. His choice will depend on several factors (weather forecast, snow conditions, overall fitness of the group, etc.). You can ski down to the closest town and take a taxi to the next lift to get to the next booked hut. If the bad weather persists, the trip may have to be cancelled entirely and replaced by another activity - skiing elsewhere. The Haute Route is very popular and the huts are usually fully booked most of the season, therefore changing the dates of the trip is not an option.

BOOKING AND CANCELLATION

Send us an enquiry stating your preferred dates and your previous mountaineering experience. We will require 30% deposit to confirm your booking. Please read carefully our [terms and conditions](#) before booking your trip.