



## **Eiger Guided Ascent 2012 South Ridge**

**Ex Chamonix, France**

**Eiger 13,025ft / 3,970m**

### **Trip Notes**

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The Eiger, a dramatic mountain. It is steeped in a colourful history, not because of its first ascent via the West Flank in 1858, but more-so because of the attempts to climb the formidable Nordwand (north face) in the 1930's that saw prospective ascensionists perish.

On this five day program, you get to climb three major peaks, in addition to climbing on some classic terrain in the Chamonix region where we acclimatise.

These are the triple summits visible from the Swiss capital city, Bern. From afar they are alluring, from nearby they are awe-inspiring. Using the Jungfrauoch railway, which tunnels through the Eigerwand, it is possible to climb these great summits in one short outing. We will climb the Mönch (4,107m), the Jungfrau (4,158m) and finish with ascent of the Eiger's South Ridge (3,970m).

Though the technical level never exceeds AD (US 4<sup>th</sup> Class, Logan 3+) there is quite a bit of rock climbing in mountaineering boots on the Eiger, and on the Jungfrau there can be difficult icy conditions. Being comfortable on Alpine AD ground is an essential pre-requisite to this course. And because we use the railway to gain height you must also be acclimatised and fit.

The South Ridge of the Eiger is the most achievable of the Eiger's ridges, yet still presents a significant challenge. The first few days of the program involve warming up on some classic peaks around Chamonix and then in the Oberland close to the Eiger. These ascents are very good for getting your mind and body prepared for the intensity of climbing a big alpine route like the Eiger's South Ridge.



## History

The first ascent of the Eiger was made via the West Flank by Charles Barrington with Christian Almer and Peter Bohren in August 1858 and the South Ridge was first climbed in 1876. Note: Don't let the date of the first ascent fool you into thinking the climb is easy! The route is long, difficult and serious. That the ascent was done in that era is more a reflection of the skills of the first ascentionists than an indication of it being easy.

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## About the Climb

First and foremost, weather and conditions have to be favourable for a safe ascent of this serious peak. Although success cannot be guaranteed, we have developed our approach to give you a serious chance of attaining an ascent of this classic route.

The climbing on the Eiger's South Ridge begins with us crossing glaciated terrain to the start of the route. Once established on the ridge you will encounter technical snow and rock sections that we must move quickly over to achieve the route in one day. Near the top the route steepens and involves several pitches of harder climbing. We begin the climb in the dark making use of the headtorch as the climb is long and will take between seven to nine hours to reach the summit. Descent is also long and involving and will take between four to six hours to descend.



In order to get up this long route, prospective climbers must be confident in rock climbing in alpine boots to grade US4th Class/ Aus 12/ UK AD and be capable of moving at a steady pace for extended periods in technical terrain on snow and rock. We descend from the summit via the same route or the West Flank depending on conditions.

The final ascent is based on a 1:1 or a 1:2 ratio guiding ratio depending whether you are by yourself or with another climber. While some operators will clump you together with large groups during the early acclimatisation phase we feel there is much to be gained on warm-up routes that get you prepared for the upcoming rigours and technical challenges that you will face.

We programme the trip over 5 days/6 nights to include the necessary period of acclimatisation before making an ascent at this altitude. We consider it vital that you work closely with your guide throughout the week to develop the appropriate level of communication and trust to collectively make the ascent as a partnership of two people on a rope. Extra days can be added to the programme for additional acclimatisation and preparation days by signing up for a [2 day Europe Pre-Course and Acclimatisation program](#)

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## How the program works

Your guide will meet with you on the evening of your arrival in Chamonix (France) for equipment check and a briefing about the upcoming program and anticipated weather

conditions. You will start the training the following morning and take a lift to a high mountain region close to Chamonix where you will make ascents of appropriate training routes on the Aiguille de l'Index. This is the time where you get to practice climbing skills and start to acclimatise for the ascent of the Eiger in the final days of the program.

The following day you will ascend to the Aiguille de Midi to climb the Arete de Cosmiques (AD, 3,800m) which is a very enjoyable climb on mixed snow and rock. In addition to being a really good day out in the mountains, this will help to consolidate your acclimatisation and to get some good climbing under your belt to get you well prepared for the upcoming ascents. Once training has been completed you will travel with your guide to Switzerland and ascend to the Mönchjoch hut and climb a route on the Mönch en route.

The last training day is on the Jungfrau (4,158m) via the South East Ridge and return to the Mönchjoch hut to prepare for the Eiger ascent the next day.

The summit day will start well before dawn around 3am and you will be encouraged by your guide to move consistently to ensure you reach the summit in a reasonable timeframe. Depending on conditions the ascent will take between 7-9 hours and 4-6 hours to descend.

Whilst much of the rock we climb on during an ascent of the South Ridge is solid, the rock is loose in some places. Sections of snow and ice are intermittent and the climbing continuous. However, by being well prepared you will really enjoy this climb for its intensity without encountering extreme terrain.

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## **Itinerary:**

### **Please note, itinerary may change due to weather or climbing conditions**

- Day 0. Arrive Chamonix. Meet your guide in the evening for a briefing and equipment check. Hotel night. {Note: Due to guide commitments, in some instances the guide will meet you morning of day 1.}
- Day 1. Take La Flegère and Index lifts to 2,385m. Rock climbing revision and training. Traverse the peaks of Aiguille de l'Index and return via La Flegère lift. Hotel night.
- Day 2. To Aiguille de Midi lift and ascend the Arête des Cosmiques to the Midi AD (3800m). Hotel night.
- Day 3. Drive to Grindelwald in Switzerland. 3:30 hrs. Train to Jungfrauoch (2hrs) climb Mönch en route to the Mönchjoch hut. The South East Ridge (AD) of the Mönch is a delightful scramble, with an exposed knife edge crest to finish. Fine views extend out to both the Eiger and the Jungfrau from the top.
- Day 4. Climb the Jungfrau by the South East Ridge (PD+). This is a beautiful alpine ascent, though easier than the South Ridge of the Eiger, it is nevertheless a serious alpine climb on a beautiful mountain. The final slopes after the Rottalsattel can be difficult when icy and there is an atmosphere of grandeur throughout the ascent. Mönchjoch hut.

Day 5. We will complete the climb of the Eiger by the South Ridge (AD). The climb is in three parts, a glacier travel section to reach the South Eigerjoch (1.5 hrs) , an intricate and sometimes very delicate ridge traverse to the north Eigerjoch (2 hrs) and the final bastion of the South Ridge of the Eiger. Return to the Jungfrauoch and descend to Grindelwald. Return to Chamonix for a well deserved Hotel night.

Day 6. Depart Chamonix after breakfast

**Note:** We can also initiate the program in Zermatt, Switzerland where we acclimatise on appropriate local peaks prior to climbing the Eiger. For an alternative route on the Eiger, albeit more difficult, we can ascend via the Mittellegi Ridge. Please contact us for alternative itineraries and pricing.

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### **The level of experience required**

To climb the Eiger's South Ridge you need to be physically fit, have strong mental stamina and be capable of strenuous exercise for several days duration. Prospective climbers must be competent in rock and alpine climbing practices and be aware that your ability to succeed will be determined, more by your current condition and capability, than previous ascents you may have made in the past.

In order to get up this long route, prospective climbers must be confident in rock climbing in alpine boots to grade US 5.5/ Aus 13/ UK D and be capable of moving at a steady pace for extended periods in technical terrain on snow and rock.

In your build-up to the climb it would be appropriate to be rock climbing regularly as well as training on hills for overall fitness. Your climbing history will include ascents of technical alpine routes and you will be current with use of rope skills and snow and ice climbing techniques.

Even climbing at the moderate altitudes in Europe has a definite physical affect on people. Most climbers notice a lower performance rate than normal. Summit day is physically demanding and a dedicated training program is essential to enhance your chance of success.

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### **Costs for Eiger South Ridge Guided Ascent**

#### **5 days / 6 nights**

The cost for the 1:1 **Eiger** Guided Ascent South Ridge ex Chamonix is **EUR€3,450**.

The cost for the 1:2 **Eiger** Guided Ascent South Ridge ex Chamonix is **EUR€2,500**.

This includes: all expenses for the guide and yourself – meals (except dinners while in Hotels), lodging for 6 nights, lifts, hut fees, transport ex Chamonix, France.

**NOTE:** We also run the program based from Lauterbrun, Switzerland, please enquire for costs and itinerary. In addition to the South Ridge we have a Mittellegi Ridge option for experienced climbers wanting to attempt a more challenging route.

## Guided Ascent Dates

Eiger: By arrangement between July and September

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## Equipment List

Climbers will be sent a list detailing all necessary individual clothing and equipment to be provided.

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## Payments

In order to confirm a guide and your trip, we require a completed Registration Form and a non-refundable deposit of EUR €500. The balance of payment is then due 90 days prior to the start date.

Download the registration form from our website or use our online booking form at:  
<http://www.adventureconsultants.com/adventure/BookingForm/>

Following is the EURO bank information for **Adventure Consultants Ltd.**, 58 McDougall Street, Wanaka, New Zealand, Ph +64 3 443 8711. All deposits and final payments for European trips should be sent by telegraphic transfer to this account unless advised otherwise.

### **Bank Name and Address:**

Bank of New Zealand - Offshore Branch  
1 Willis Street, Wellington, New Zealand

<b>Swift Address:</b>	BKNZNZ22
<b>Beneficiary's Account Number:</b>	1000-594771-0002
<b>Beneficiary's Account Name:</b>	Adventure Consultants Limited
<b>Beneficiary's Address:</b>	58 McDougall Street, Wanaka, New Zealand
<b>Account Type:</b>	Euro Dollars

Please request that **all charges are for the remitter's account.**

*Please contact us if you have any problems sending moneys to this account.*

We can accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card – **Visa, Mastercard, Amex.**

**\*\*Please note: In order to reserve a guide we recommend that you book well in advance. This especially applies to the high season period (mid July to end of August).**

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## Cancellation & Refund Policy

Once you have paid your deposit your trip is confirmed, subject to payment of the balance of fees owing 90 days prior to your trip commencement date. A climber may then cancel his/her participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 90 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
- For cancellations made within 89-60 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the full fee.
- For cancellations within 59 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.
- We strongly recommend you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent.

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## The advantages of climbing with us

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 Mountain 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 expeditions and guided ascents safe and successful.

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## How to book a European Alps Guided Ascent

If you would like to book a Guided Ascent of the Eiger please request an Application Form and forward it along with your climbing résumé and the deposit for the trip. You can also use our online booking form at

<http://www.adventureconsultants.com/adventure/BookingForm/>

If you require more information please contact us at;

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