



European Ascents Programme 2012

Mont Blanc 15,771ft / 4,807m

Matterhorn 14,692ft / 4,478m

Eiger 13,025ft / 3,970m

Trip Notes

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Our internationally qualified guides from New Zealand work in Europe during New Zealand's off season which allows Adventure Consultants to offer you the three classic European summits at competitive rates.

Mont Blanc, in the French/Italian Alps, dominates the Chamonix valley with its white majestic dome. Some say it is the most visited natural attraction in the world. Mount Blanc is Europe's highest peak; political Europe that is, since Elbrus, in the Ukraine, is higher.

The Eiger is a very beautiful and dramatic mountain. We climb it via the Mittellegi Ridge and descend by the West Flank. This route is exposed and requires a good standard of climbing on mixed ground.

The Matterhorn is perhaps the most magnificent and well-known peak in the Alps. It was first climbed in 1865 by Edward Whymper via the famous Hornli Ridge, the route that we take to the summit.

History

The European Alps are full of climbing history. It is the birthplace of mountaineering and its rich heritage adds to the superb facilities (catered huts and lift systems) catering for mountaineers not seen elsewhere.



Mont Blanc

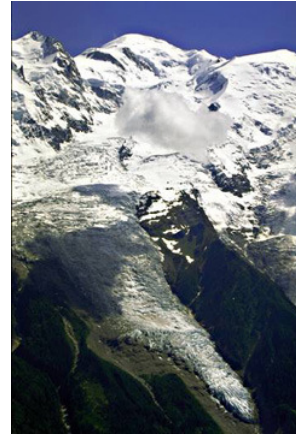
As the highest peak in Western Europe, Mont Blanc (4807m) needs little introduction. Its scale and grandeur set it apart from other alpine mountains.

The ascent of Mont Blanc is not technically difficult but is physically demanding and requires a good level of fitness.

We have two options:

- **6 day Mont Blanc Course & Guided Ascent**
- **5 day Mont Blanc Guided Ascent.**

Our 6 day Mont Blanc course and ascent is designed to give you a thorough grounding in general mountaineering techniques including crampon and ice axe use, which you'll be given ample chance to practice during the week.



In order to aid acclimatisation we explore some of the wild and spectacular terrain of the Mont Blanc massif, climbing several other local peaks and spending some nights in high mountain huts, thus helping to ensure that your ascent of Mont Blanc is successful, safe and enjoyable.

Our 5 day guided ascent allows time to acclimatise and achieve the ascent for those who do not need an additional skills refresher day. We travel to the Gran Paradiso region in nearby Italy for the first two days and then have three days available for the climb ex Chamonix.

The Matterhorn

Perhaps the most famous peak in the world after Everest, the Matterhorn is a superb summit demanding fitness, determination and a level of competence on both rock and ice.



Weather and conditions have to be favourable for a safe ascent of this serious peak, and although success cannot be guaranteed, we believe our approach gives the best chance possible within a week of alpine climbing. This is because it offers more flexibility on the choice of summit day and the chance to work closely with your guide throughout the week.

This climb is based entirely on a 1:1 guiding ratio. Taking into account your previous experience, acclimatisation and the expected weather pattern, your guide will plan any preparation required and decide the best day for a summit attempt, which would normally be via the Hornli Ridge.

Although this is the standard route on the mountain, its difficulties must not be underestimated as it is long and demands constant concentration. Whilst the rock on the ridge itself is good, the first part of the route follows the east face, slightly to the left of the ridge and here the rock is slabby and loose.

Because of the nature of the climb preparation days with your guide before the ascent are essential (unless you have previous climbing experience). This is catered for in our six day programme.

The Eiger

Thanks to its formidable North Wall, the Eiger (Ogre) is a world-famous summit and one of our three 'Grand Slam' peaks. All routes on the mountain are demanding and serious. It retains the mystique from the early 1930s of being the last great problem in the Alps.



Forming the left edge of the North Face, the Mittellegi Ridge rises in imposing steps and towers to a knife-edge snow crest leading to the summit. More technical than the Matterhorn, even with sections of fixed rope, it was the last of the great Oberland ridges to be climbed (1921).

As you climb the ridge looking down to your left you see majestic glaciers and on the right you see the green meadows of Grindelwald. On the descent we get to look into the famous North Face, climbed by four talented Austrian/German mountaineers in 1938.

The Eiger is more exposed and less commonly travelled than the Matterhorn. There are fixed ropes in the more difficult sections and the summit ridge has snow and ice pitches towards the top.

The level of experience required

To climb in Europe you need to be physically fit, have strong mental stamina and be capable of strenuous exercise for several days duration. Summit days will start well before dawn, but there is enough time between peaks for some later starts and relaxed evenings enjoying the classic European culture.



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 days are the most physically demanding of the days and can entail 1000m or 3,300 ft ascent at altitude. These rewarding and photogenic days typically take between twelve and fourteen hours.

These climbs are suitable for people wanting to learn and practice general mountaineering skills while climbing classic and challenging peaks. Though not essential, some rock climbing or scrambling experience is desirable and prior use of ice axe and crampons advantageous.

Costs for European Alps Guided Ascents programmes

Mont Blanc, 5 days / 6 nights

The cost for the five day **1:2 Mont Blanc Guided Ascent** is **EUR€1,850**

The cost for the five day **1:1 Mont Blanc Guided Ascent** is **EUR€2,995**

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

Mont Blanc Course & Ascent, 6 days / 7 nights

The cost for the six day **1:1 Mont Blanc Course & Guided Ascent** is **EUR€3,200**

The cost for the six day **1:2 Mont Blanc Course & Guided Ascent** is **EUR€1,990**

This includes: all expenses for the guide and yourself – meals (except dinners whilst in Chamonix), lodging for 7 nights, lifts, hut fees, transport ex Chamonix.

Matterhorn, 5 days / 6 nights

The cost for the five day **1:1 Matterhorn** Guided Ascent ex Zermat is **EUR€3,500**.

The cost for the five day **1:1 Matterhorn** Guided Ascent ex Chamonix is **EUR€3,150**.

The cost for the five day **Matterhorn** Guided Ascent for 2 people ex Chamonix is **EUR€2,500, with 1:1 guiding on the ascent.**

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

Eiger, 5 days / 6 nights

The cost for the five day **1:1 Eiger** Guided Ascent ex Grindelwald is **EUR€3,500**.

The cost for the five day **1:1 Eiger** Guided Ascent ex Chamonix is **EUR€3,150**.

The cost for the five day **Eiger** Guided Ascent for 2 people ex Chamonix is **EUR€2,500, with 1:1 guiding on the ascent.**

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

Guided Ascent Dates

Mont Blanc: By arrangement between May and October

Matterhorn: By arrangement between July and September

Eiger: By arrangement between July and September

Team Membership

The number of guides is determined by the peak climbed, the ratio of guides to climbers is **1:1** or **1:2** for **Mt Blanc**, and **1:1** for the **Matterhorn and Eiger**.

You will find the Adventure Consultants Mountain Guides companionable and strong guides with considerable power and willingness to see you achieve your goals.

Equipment List

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

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

Swift Address:	BKNZNZ22
Beneficiary's Account Number:	1000-594771-0002
Beneficiary's Account Name:	Adventure Consultants Limited
Beneficiary's Address:	58 McDougall Street, Wanaka, New Zealand
Account Type:	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).**

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.

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.

How to book a European Alps Guided Ascent

If you would like to book a Guided Ascent of Mont Blanc, the Matterhorn or 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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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 perform to IFMGA standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.