



Haute Route Ski-Tour 2012

Trip Notes

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The Swiss Haute Route passes through some of the most spectacular scenery in the Western Alps, finishing with the long descent beneath the North Face of the Matterhorn. Skiing rarely gets more scenic than that. In addition there is the possibility of climbing three fine skiable mountains en route, the Rosa Blanche 3,336m, the Pigne d'Arolla 3,796m and the Tete de Valpelline 3,802m.

There are a number of excellent Haute Route variants. Some are more logical than other, we prefer this one because you keep to skis and snow for the entire tour. (Other variants have a road transport section) and the Zermatt - Saas Fee stage can be used as a spare day in case of bad weather.

You will need to be a confident off-piste skier for this excellent tour, as well as having a good background level of fitness. Though the days will be relatively short (up to six hours long) you will cover high altitude ground and will need a good background-level of aerobic fitness.

Throughout the week you will climb and ski under the supervision of our excellent mountain guides. This will allow you to learn with confidence while taking in the grandeur of your surroundings.

The huts are typical high altitude huts, rustic but warm and with good wholesome Swiss food to finish each day.

History

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

Tour Programme – Overview

Day 0. Sat Arrive / possible to meet in Verbier/le Chable

Day 1. Sun. Meet in Verbier, off-piste/ski tour revision > Montfort hut [ski lifts]

Day 2. Mon. Traverse (and climb) Rosa Blanche > Plaflueri hut

Day 3. Tue. Traverse (Pas de Chat) Lac de Dix > Dix Hut

Day 4. Wed Traverse Pigne d'Arolla > Vignettes Hut

Day 5. Thu. Traverse 3 cols to Zermatt > Hotel (ski lift to Zermatt if dry or late season)

Haute Route Tour Programme

Saturday

The team meets at 20:30 hrs in Verbier. Your guide will go over the activities for the week and answer last minute questions. Arrange last minute hiring of equipment.

Sunday (alternative meeting/briefing point)

The team meets at 8:30 in Verbier. This day is used for revising off-piste and ski touring techniques. We will have a chance to make last minute changes to equipment as well as enjoying the excellent off-piste runs for which Verbier is famous. We will end the day in the Cabane du Mont Fort, to give us an early start the next day.

Monday

We make an early start from the hut 2457m, and climb gently crossing the col de la Chaux 2940m and then the lovely Col de Momin 3004m which suddenly lets us out onto a galcial plateau below the Rosa Blanche 3336m. In good weather we will have a chance to climb this excellent mountain before descending to the Cabane du Plafleuri 2624m (excellent skiing). T

Tuesday

From the hut we climb 150m up to the Col des Roux, before traversing the 5 km long western shore of the frozen Lac des Dix till we can pick our way through the Pas de Chat and climb 600m gently up to the Cabane des Dix 2928m. Good food.

Wednesday

Another big day today, we climb the glacier de Cheilon, the Serpentine and then the Pigne d'Arolla 3796m. The sibsequent ski down to the Cbane des Vignettes 3160m can be, and often is, filled with champagne powder. This is a spectacular day with excellent views, but the following day is even better!

Thursday

Making an Alpine start again, we slide down to the Col de Chermontane 3053m, then cross in (hopefully) quick succession, the Col d'Eveque 3392m, Col du Mont Brule 3213m, and Col de Valpelline 3568m. Each of which has a fine ski descent after the climb. Now we have the chance to climb the Tete de Valpelline 3802m (about an hour extra) before skiing under the spectacular North Face of the Matterhorn, and then on down to Zermatt 1614m, hotel,

showers and a well-deserved beer or two or a refreshing cup of tea! This is one of the most special and scenic ski touring days in the world.

Variations – add another day and night to the Ski Tour

Friday

After an early breakfast we take the Gornergart railway and cable car to the Stockhorn 3405m, which allows us to ski down to 3100m on the Findelgletscher before climbing gently up to the steep Adlerpass 3789m which is sandwiched between the 4000m summits of the Rimpfischhorn and the Strahlhorn. This pass is the gateway to Saas Fee. On this day we will have skied under three 4000m peaks. The tour will end with yet another day in paradise.

Alternatively, it is also possible to finish the day in Zermatt with some of the best lift-based off-piste skiing in the Alps, you can descend into Cervina, ski the excellent Schwarztor Glacier, or climb and ski down a 4000m peak, the Breithorn 4164m, which is easily accessible from the Kliene Matterhorn lift.

French Haute Route: Chamonix to Verbier variation.

Day 0 Arrive Chamonix, Hotel night.

Day 1

Meet after breakfast in Chamonix, check gear and organize last minute hiring of gear. Off-piste skiing and practice climbing with skins. Return to hotel.

Day 2

Early morning start, take first lift to Grands Montets (3200m) and enjoy a delightful 600m ski down to the Argentiere Glacier. There we stick the skins to our skis for the first big climb of the tour. 700m of gentle zig-zagging up to the col du Chardonnet (3323m) lead to an exciting rappel descent to the Saleina Glacier. A short ski traverse leads to the next col and an easy climb (skins again) to the Fenêtre de Saleina, 3261m and the Trient Glacier, from where a gentle ski brings us to the remote Trient hut (3170m). The skins go back on again for the 100m climb up to the hut.

Day 3

From the Trient hut we ski down to the right bank of the Trient Glacier to 2750m. We climb 50m steeply up to the col des Ecandies (2796m). In good conditions there is a superb 1000m powder descent into the Arpette valley to join the piste and the picturesque little town of Champex (1500m). Here we take road transport to Verbier, join the Verbier lift system, and ski over to the Montfort hut (or stay at a Hotel if finishing in Verbier). Here we join our Swiss Haute Route itinerary.

Classic Verbier to Zermatt route then continues;

Day 4 to Plafleuri hut

Day 5 to Dix hut

Day 6 to Vignettes hut

Day 7 to Zermatt

The level of experience required

To ski tour in the European Alps you need to be physically fit, have strong mental stamina and be capable of strenuous exercise for several days duration. Most days will start well before dawn, but there is usually some scope for some later starts and relaxed evenings enjoying the classic European culture.



Even skiing and climbing at the moderate altitudes in Europe has a definite physical effect on people. Most climbers and skiers notice a lower performance rate than normal. Summit days and touring 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 around six hours.

The Haute Route ski tour is suitable for people wanting to learn and practice general ski-mountaineering skills while touring over classic and challenging passes. Though not essential, some climbing experience is desirable and prior use of ice axe and crampons advantageous.

Costs for Haute Route Ski Tour Programmes

'The Highlight Tour' - Verbier to Zermatt, 5 days / 6 nights

The cost for the five day **1:4 Verbier to Zermatt Haute Route** is **EUR€1,690 each**

The cost for the five day **1:1 Verbier to Zermatt Haute Route** is **EUR€4,350**

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

Add another day - Verbier to Saas Fee, 6 days / 7 nights

The cost for the six day **1:4 Verbier to Saas Fee Haute Route** is **EUR€1,995 each**

The cost for the six day **1:1 Verbier to Saas Fee Haute Route** is **EUR€4,990**

This includes: all expenses for the guide and yourself – meals (except dinners whilst in Verbier, Zermatt & Saas Fee), lodging for 7 nights, lifts, hut fees.

Chamonix to Verbier, 3 days / 4 nights

The cost for the three day **1:4 Chamonix to Verbier Haute Route** is **EUR€1,120 each**

The cost for the three day **1:1 Chamonix to Verbier Haute Route** is **EUR€2,390**

This includes: all expenses for the guide and yourself – meals (except for dinners in Chamonix and Verbier), lodging for 4 nights, lifts, hut fees.

Chamonix to Zermatt, 7 days / 8 nights

The cost for the seven day **1:4 Chamonix to Zermatt Haute Route** is **EUR€2,050 each**

The cost for the seven day **1:1 Chamonix to Zermatt Haute Route** is **EUR€4,990**

This includes: all expenses for the guide and yourself – meals (except dinners whilst in Chamonix and Zermatt), lodging for 8 nights, lifts, hut fees.

Guided Haute Route Dates

Mid March to end of April, annually, is the best time to do the Haute Route.

Team Membership

The number of guides is determined by the size of the group, the ratio of guides to climbers is **1:4** or **1:6** depending on the skill level of the group.

You will find the Adventure Consultants Mountain & Ski Guides companionable and strong guides with considerable power and willingness to see you enjoy your journey through the Alps on skis.

Equipment List

Haute Route skiers 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-March to end of April).**

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 and ski touring 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 your European Alps Haute Route Ski Tour

If you would like to book a Haute Route Ski Tour please request an Application Form and forward it along with your skiing/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.



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