



## **Matterhorn Guided Ascent 2012 Hörnli Ridge**

**Ex Zermatt, Switzerland**

**Matterhorn 14,692ft / 4,478m**

### **Trip Notes**

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The Matterhorn is undeniably the most magnificent and well known peak in the Alps. Its bold pyramidal shape evokes emotions of wonderment and even fear in those who view it for the first time as its four distinct faces stand omnipotent and menacing over the green meadows below. Separated by sharp ridges, the four faces are orientated to the four points of the compass, the northern aspects within Switzerland while the southern side lies in Italy.

We ascend via the Hörnli Ridge that separates the North and East faces via a long and technical route requiring the utmost attention from climbers. The steep rock ridge is very involving and a successful attempt requires a rapid rate of ascent and full concentration by a fit party. The steep North and East faces drop away spectacularly on either side and the sense of exposure is dramatic.

With its formidable history and the magnificent grandeur of its architecture, the Hörnli Ridge on the Matterhorn is a climb that is definitely worth aspiring to.

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### **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.



The Hörnli Ridge is the route by which the Matterhorn's first ascent was made in 1865 by the tenacious Englishman Edward Whymper after many attempts on the mountain. In what became the most famous alpine calamity of all time, the group suffered a terrible tragedy on the descent when a rope broke resulting in the loss of four of the party.

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## About the Climb



An ascent of the Matterhorn is a superb summit demanding fitness, determination and a level of competence on both rock and ice.

The summit day will start well before dawn, around 4am, 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 4-6 hours and an equal length of time to descend.

Whilst much of the rock on the Hörnli Ridge 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.

Though it looks narrow from a distance, the Hörnli Ridge is broad and featured when climbing. There are many scrambling sections as well as some steep climbing pitches. The last 200 meters need crampons and axe. At 1040m of climbing it is a long and tiring day and will take at least as long to descend as to climb.

Stopping on descent at the Hörnli hut for a tea break, we continue down to the more comfortable hotel at Schwartzsee.

If you arrive well prepared you will really enjoy this climb for it's intensity without encountering extreme terrain.

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## How the Program works

Your guide will meet with you on the evening of your arrival in Zermatt (Switzerland) 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 Zermatt where you will make ascents of interesting and challenging training routes. This is the time where you get to practice climbing skills and become acclimatised for the ascent of the Matterhorn in the final days of the program.

We have purposely included some classic ascents in your training program, not only to help you focus on the skills for the climb ahead, but to enable you to get some other fantastic routes under your belt as well!

We ascend to the Hörnli hut on the lower part of the Matterhorn's Hörnli ridge to prepare for the ascent the following morning.



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 ascent is based entirely on a 1:1 guiding ratio. 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 program 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 our [2 day Europe Pre-Course and Acclimatisation program](#)

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### **Itinerary:**

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

#### **Zermatt start**

Day 0. Arrive Zermatt. Meet your guide in the evening and briefing / meeting. Hotel night. {Note: Due to guide commitments, in some instances the guide will meet you morning of day 1}

Day 1. Gornergrat rail and technical rock training on Riffelhorn 2927m (multipitch climbs to grade 5c/US5.9/Aus 17) Hotel night.

Day 2. Cable-car to Klien Matterhorn. Climb Pollux 4092m by SW Ridge (PD+). Stay Ayas Hut.

Day 3. Climb East Ridge of Breithorn 4164m (AD) descend by normal route to Kleine Matterhorn and cable-car to Zermatt. Hotel night

Day 4. Cable-car to Schwarzsee and walk to Hörnli Hut.

Day 5. 3am start for Matterhorn 4477m. via the Hörnli Ridge (AD) After descent back to Hörnli hut, we continue down to the more comfortable hotel at Schwartzsee. Hotel night.

Day 6. Depart Zermatt after breakfast.



**Note:** We can also initiate the program in Chamonix, France, where we acclimatise on appropriate local peaks prior to travelling to Switzerland to climb the Matterhorn. For an alternative route on the Matterhorn, although a bit harder and longer, we can also traverse

the Matterhorn up the Lion (Italian) Ridge and down the Hörnli. Please contact us for alternative itineraries and pricing.

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

To climb the Matterhorn you need to be fit, have strong physical and 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. You will need to be proficient in snow/ice techniques and cramponing.

In order to get up this long route, prospective climbers must be confident in rock climbing in alpine boots to grade US 5.8/ Aus 16/ UK 5 and be capable of moving at a steady pace for extended periods in technical terrain on snow and rock. It is imperative you have a high degree of cardiovascular fitness to cope with the strains of the climb and the altitude.

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 effect 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 European Alps Guided Ascents programmes**

#### **Matterhorn, 5 days / 6 nights**

The cost for the 1:1 **Matterhorn** Guided Ascent ex Switzerland is **EUR€4,300**

Price includes: all expenses for the guide and yourself – meals (except for dinners on Hotel nights and extra drinks/meals in huts), lodging for 6 nights, lifts, hut fees.

**Note:** We recommend that to aid acclimatisation and to increase your enjoyment and performance on the ascent of the Matterhorn, that you extend your program by also signing up for the [2 day Europe Pre-Course and Acclimatisation program](#) to give you the best possible start to your ascent.

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### **Guided Ascent Dates**

Matterhorn: By arrangement between July and September

## 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 Matterhorn 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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