



2021 SUMMER HAUTE ROUTE EQUIPMENT LIST

EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

You **MUST** bring all items listed on the clothing and equipment checklist below. The only exceptions are items listed as optional. This is very important and at the same time, you must keep your equipment weight to a minimum and please contact us with any questions you may have about the equipment or clothing on this list.

Body Wear

- Waterproof shell jacket
- Waterproof shell pants
- Down or insulated jacket
- Softshell jacket/windshirt
- Softshell climbing pants
- Base layer top x 2 and leggings x 1
- Underwear

Head Wear

- Sun hat
- Warm hat
- Bandana or Buff
- Sunglasses

Hand Wear

- Liner gloves
- Mountaineering gloves

Foot Wear

- Socks x 2–3 sets
- Mountaineering boots (can be rented locally)
- Snow gaiters

Packs & Bags

- Mountaineering pack—35–45 litres
- Small duffel/travel bag

Accessories

- Surgical style face mask
- Hand sanitiser
- Headlamp and spare batteries
- Water bottle—1 litre
- Sleeping bag liner (a requirement for all huts)
- Ear plugs
- Personal first aid kit and medications
- Sunscreen and lip balm
- Personal toiletries
- Wet wipes (*optional*)
- Camping towel (*optional*)
- Stuff sacks
- Camera and spare batteries (*optional*)
- Personal entertainment (*optional*)
- Additional snack food

Climbing Equipment

- Ice axe—57–66cm (can be rented locally)
- Crampons (can be rented locally)
- Lightweight climbing harness (can be rented locally)
- Belay device
- Locking carabiners x 2
- Collapsible trekking poles

Travel Gear

- Casual wear
- T-Shirt and shorts
- Passport, documents plus copies

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT INFORMATION GUIDE

The following information is a guide to assist you in securing the required clothing and equipment for climbing and trekking in the Alps in summer, along with recommended brands. You may have equipment that you have used which is different to what is on the list, so please read thoroughly and get back to us with any questions you may have.

Fabrics/Garment Designs/Garment Selection

Today there is a bewildering and ever-changing array of modern technical fabrics and garments on the market. Accordingly, suitable mountain attire can be derived from a wide variety of garments utilized in varying combinations. The clothing on our gear list can be creatively substituted according to your preferences but ensure your choices are functional and adequate. For example, a functional and often utilized garment that does not appear on our list is a vest.

A basic principle in selecting clothing and equipment is to minimize weight and bulk while still ensuring adequate warmth and functionality. It can be difficult to find a brand that has all the features you prefer which means you must make prudent compromises. In the description below and for certain items, we suggest brands and specific products that we have found to be suitable; this is by no means definitive. In some cases, there are multiple suitable brands on the market and hence we do not make specific suggestions.

Appropriate fabrics used in thermal underwear include polypropylene, silk and merino wool. The only cotton garment worn during the climb is your glacier shirt. Warmer insulating materials can be made from fleece, softshell or Primaloft. Varieties of fleece include Windstopper, Wind Pro, Power Shield, Windbloc, Power Dry and Power Stretch. Be aware that fleece garments that incorporate stretch fabric take longer to dry. Softshell garments integrate stretchy nylon fabrics to increase freedom of movement while also providing various degrees of wind and water-resistance in a 'softshell'. They are often lined with a microfleece for increased insulation. Synthetic insulation materials such as Primaloft are advantageous as they are warm even when damp, are water-resistant and quick-drying.

You can read Guy Cotter's thoughts on the ultimate lightweight layering system at: <http://adventureconsultantsblog.com/optimum-layering/>.

BODY WEAR

Waterproof Shell Jacket

Bring a non-insulated, fully waterproof shell jacket with a good hood and water-resistant zip closures. Mountaineering jackets are ideal, but general-purpose rainwear will also do the job perfectly well.

Your jacket should be easy to move in with your base and mid-layers on underneath, as well as providing a good overlap with your pants but should not be so long that it restricts access to your harness. Chest pockets are useful to things like snack bars and sunblock during the day. Pit zips allow for increased ventilation and cooling.

There are numerous waterproof/breathable fabrics on the market such as Gore-Tex, eVent, Futurelight, MemBrain, PreCip, Hyvent and Entrant etc. These fabrics can be expensive but last for years when well looked after.

Shell clothing should be seam-sealed during the manufacturing process or the garment will leak through the stitching. Shell clothing made of PVC or similar is waterproof but does not breath, which means you can become damp from the inside out as moisture cannot escape while you are moving. This style of waterproof shell is not suitable for mountaineering.

We recommend The North Face Summit L5 LT Futurelight, Arc'teryx Alpha AR, Montane Alpine Pro and the Rab Muztag GTX Jackets.

Waterproof Shell Pants

Your waterproof shell pants should allow good freedom of movement to enable you to lift your legs easily when worn with your softshell pants and base layer leggings during inclement weather.

Your shell pants should also have $\frac{3}{4}$ or full-length (preferred) zips down each leg to allow you to easily put them on and take them off while wearing your boots and/or crampons.

Bib/salopette styles are warmer as they extend above the lower back/kidney area giving a good overlap with your jacket.

We recommend The North Face Dryzzle Full-Zip, Arc'teryx Beta SL, Marmot PreCip Full Zip or the Rab Muztag GTX Pants.

Down or Synthetic Insulated Jacket

You will need a lightweight down or synthetic insulated jacket to stay warm in the high alps.

This jacket should have a full front zip for ventilation, zip-up pockets to prevent items from falling out while on the move and a hood is a worthy addition for extra warmth.

Down jackets that we recommend include The North Face Summit L3 Down, Patagonia Down Sweater and the Arc'teryx Thorium AR Hoodies and the Rab Electron Jacket.

Synthetic insulated jackets that we recommend include The North Face Summit L3 Ventrrix 2.0 Hoodie, and the Rab Xenon, Montane Prism and the Arc'teryx Nuclei FL Jackets.



Rab Muztag GTX Jacket



The North Face Dryzzle Full Zip Pants



Rab Xenon Jacket



Rab Torque Jacket



Marmot Scree Softshell Pants



Smartwool Merino 150 Base layer Quarter Zip

Softshell Jacket/Windshirt

These jackets are ideal for aerobic activity in light weather conditions. They are wind-resistant, water-repellent and highly breathable. They are used either alone or as an insulating layer under a waterproof shell jacket and models with a hood are best.

Softshell jackets we recommend include the Arc'teryx Gamma LT and Outdoor Research Ferrosi Hoodies, as well as the Montane Dyno Stretch and the Rab Torque Jackets.

Windshirts we recommend include the Marmot Ether Hoody and the Rab Vapour-rise Alpine Jacket.

Softshell Climbing Pants

Softshell pants which are made from stretchy, comfortable, wind-resistant and water-repellent materials that are also highly breathable. They are the perfect active layer for your legs. Your pants should fit comfortably with or without your base-layer leggings.

Please note that while softshell pants shed light rain and snow, and will dry quickly when they get wet, but they do not replace your Gore-Tex shell pants, which will still be needed if the weather turns bad.

We recommend The North Face Summit L4 Soft Shell Lightweight, Arc'teryx Gamma LT, Marmot Scree, Rab Vector and the Montane Terra Mission Pants.

Base Layer Top x 2 & Leggings x 1

Base layers must be made from materials such as merino wool or polyester. Please, no cotton!

Tops should have long sleeves and a high neck with a zip. This allows for better temperature control and sun protection than crew neck styles.

Base layer leggings should fit snugly without constriction. These can be worn as a single layer on hot days or under your shell or softshell pants when additional warmth is required.

We recommend Icebreaker, The North Face Warm, Rab Forge and Pulse, Earth Sea Ski First Layer and Merino, Montane Primino and Smartwool Base Layer Ranges.

Underwear

Bring enough changes of underwear to keep you feeling fresh. We recommend treated polyester or merino underwear instead of cotton as they wick away sweat from your skin, working alongside your thermal, fleece and shell layers to keep you dry. They also dry extremely quickly when washed. However, most people use their normal underwear.

We recommend the Icebreaker, Smartwool, Patagonia Capilene, Earth Sea Sky Merino, Montane Primino and the Rab Forge Underwear Ranges.



The North Face Bones Beanie



Julbo Explorer 2.0 Sunglasses



Rab Stretch Knit Gloves

HEAD WEAR

Sun Hat

A wide-brimmed soft hat or baseball cap in conjunction with a bandana to protect you from the sun.

We recommend The North Face Adventure Consultants Branded Caps, available from our office.

Warm Hat

Your hat can be wool, merino, Windstopper or fleece. It should extend over the ears and be snug enough not to fly off in a strong wind.

We recommend The North Face Bones or the Rab Logo Beanies.

Bandana or Buff

A fleece, merino wool or silk neck gaiter, neck warmer or Buff is a great idea for added warmth and sun protection. A Buff makes a good face mask in windy cold weather and can replace a balaclava when used with a warm hat.

We recommend the Adventure Consultants Branded Buff, available from our office.

Sunglasses

Bring sunglasses with good lenses and side-protection. The lens should be dark enough to withstand the intense reflection from the snow and MUST filter 100% of UVA, B and C radiation. Snow reflects up to 85% of solar radiation and the UV index increases 10% with every 1,000m gain in altitude, so it is of utmost importance that you protect your eyes. We recommend photochromic or category 4 polarised lenses with an anti-fog coating.

If you wear prescription glasses, we recommend you get prescription sunglasses with the above specs.

If you wear contact lenses, bring a pair of prescription glacier glasses as a backup.

Leashes are essential and nose guards are optional.

We recommend Julbo, Smith, Bollé, Oakley and Adidas Sunglasses.

HAND WEAR

Liner Gloves

These very thin, lightweight finger gloves form a base layer and are worn whenever climbing. On hot days, they protect against sunburn and can be worn under heavier gloves or mittens on colder days.

Ensure the gloves fit closely to allow you to handle ropes and carabiners easily. Wearing liner gloves will prevent cold injuries in situations requiring full finger dexterity. They can also be worn doubled up and should fit underneath your other glove combinations.

We recommend Budget Polypropylene Gloves, available from most hardware or safety stores, Black Diamond Lightweight Fleece or the Rab Stretch Knit Liner Gloves.

Mountaineering Gloves

Gloves with removable insulated liners are extremely versatile as you can wear them with or without the liners depending on the temperature.

A good model will have abrasion-resistant palms, shaped fingers, a waterproof outer and an insulating removable liner. Cheaper models are not waterproof, so it's worth investing in a good quality pair.

Please ensure that you can fit your liner gloves underneath your mountaineering gloves.

Mountaineering gloves are not as warm as expedition mitts but have the advantage of being more dexterous. Because of the time that you will spend dealing with ropes and equipment, the dexterity your gloves provide will be extremely useful.

We recommend that you attach wrist loops to your gloves to prevent them from being dropped or blown away by the wind when you take them off.

We recommend the Black Diamond Guide and the Outdoor Research Alti Gloves.

FOOT WEAR

Socks x 2–3 Sets

Have at least two pairs of socks with you for the trip. Socks made from wool or a mix of fibres with good thermal properties are the best choice.

Various combinations suit different people and some people prefer to wear just one pair of socks in their boots, while others wear two; a thicker pair over a thin liner sock.

Try your socks out with your boots before your trip to ensure a good fit as this will help minimise cold toes while you are trekking in the snow.

We recommend Smartwool, Bridgedale, Darn Tough and Thorlos Socks.

Mountaineering Boots

A crampon compatible, single leather or synthetic mountaineering boot with a $\frac{3}{4}$ or full shank is ideal for use on the Summer Haute Route.

Your boots are perhaps the single most important piece of equipment and can make or break a trip depending on whether they fit well or not, so please ensure your boots are of high quality and fit your feet well.

We recommend the La Sportiva Trango Cube, Scarpa Ribelle HD, Lowa Alpine Pro GTX, Garmont Tower LX GTX and the Salewa Raven 3 GTX Summer Mountaineering Boots.

Snow Gaiters

Calf-length gaiters with a velcro or zip closure at the front keep the snow out and prevent you snagging your trousers with your crampons. They need a good tie-down system underneath the in-step to stop them from creeping up at the heel.

We recommend the Sea to Summit Alpine eVent Gaiters or the Rab Latok Extreme Gaiters.



Black Diamond Guide Gloves



Scarpa Ribelle HD Mountaineering Boot



Sea to Summit Alpine eVent Gaiter

PACKS & BAGS

Small Duffel/Travel Bag

This is for storing clothing and items left in town, while you are out climbing. Bring a lock and if you're good at losing keys, make sure to buy a combination lock and set to an easy to remember the number!

We recommend The North Face Base Camp and Osprey Transporter Duffels.

Mountaineering Pack—35–45 Litres

There are many models available which are suitable. The required features include a volume of around 35–45 litres with crampon and ice axe attachment points and compression straps to adjust the capacity when the pack is not full. Avoid trekking style packs with bulky side pockets.

We recommend the Osprey Mutant 38, Arc'teryx Alpha AR 35, Deuter Guide 44+, Patagonia Ascensionist 40, Montane Fast Mountain 40, Black Diamond Speed 40 and Blue Ice Warthog 45L Packs.

ACCESSORIES

Surgical Style Face Mask

This is a requirement while travelling anywhere that you cannot self distance. A mask is required at all mountain huts in the European Alps while COVID-19 restrictions are in place.

Hand Sanitiser

This is a requirement at all mountain huts in the European Alps while COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Remember that golden rule—wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands!

Headlamp and Spare Batteries

Headlamps are more versatile than hand torches as they allow you to keep your hands free. High-output LED headlamps are superb as they provide an excellent level of lighting and are also very lightweight. We recommend hybrid headlamps that run on both AAA or AA disposable batteries and rechargeable batteries.

Bring two NEW sets of lithium or alkaline batteries for the trip.

We recommend the Petzl Actik Core, LED Lenser MH5 and Black Diamond Storm 375 Headlamps.

Water Bottle—1 Litre

Wide-mouthed plastic bottles are a versatile option. Bladder style hydration systems are good in theory but can often freeze and are easily punctured. Metal bottles are not suitable due to the cold air temperatures. Narrow-mouthed bottles are difficult to fill and clean.

We recommend the Nalgene 1 Litre and 500ml Wide Mouth Bottles.



Arc'teryx Alpha AR 35 Mountaineering Pack



Petzl Actik Core Headlamp



Sea to Summit Silk Sleeping Bag Liner



Lip Balm & Sunscreen



Sea to Summit Tek Towel



Sea to Summit Stuff Sacks

Sleeping Bag Liner (A Requirement For All Huts)

These are for use in conjunction with the blankets supplied in the huts.

Ear Plugs

A handy way to get a night's sleep when sharing a room with a snorer!

Personal First Aid Kit and Medications

You should always carry a basic first aid kit including blister tape, second skin, gauze pads, crepe bandage and painkillers.

Include any personal medication that you may require and be sure to inform our office and your guide, if you are on prescription medicine.

Store your first aid kit in a waterproof container, if possible and if you do not have one of these, a plastic bag inside a nylon stuff sack usually works well.

Sunscreen and Lip Balm

Conditions in the mountains can be extreme, so you will need a bottle or tube of SPF 50 sunscreen.

Lip balm (with SPF 15 or higher) is also worth carrying in your pocket for application during the day.

Sunscreen loses SPF rating over time and we strongly recommend bringing brand-new sunscreen.

Personal Toiletries

Bring a small toilet kit—flannel, some soap, toothpaste and toothbrush. Keep it light and do not bring anything that isn't absolutely necessary.

Wet Wipes (Optional)

Baby Wipes or similar pre-moistened cloth wipes for personal hygiene. These antibacterial wipes are excellent for cleaning hands and other hygiene issues, whilst away from civilisation. Just a few in a small ziplock bags will suffice.

Camping Towel (Optional)

Bring a small fast drying camp towel to use in conjunction with your toiletries.

We recommend Sea to Summit Tek and Drillite Camping Towels.

Stuff Sacks

Lightweight nylon bags with draw cords to store spare clothes and so on are very useful for organising gear in your pack or when you're in a hut. We suggest bringing 2–3 small or medium sized sacks.

We recommend the Sea to Summit Stuff Sacks and Dry Bags.



GU Energy Gels & Hydration Tabs



Petzl Summit Evo Ice Axe



Grivel G12 New-Matic Crampons

Camera and Spare Batteries (Optional)

Bring along your choice of either an SLR or fully automatic camera. We recommend using a camera with replaceable batteries, NOT rechargeable, as this allows you to have spare fresh batteries for summit day. Be aware that batteries can be a problem with cold temperatures, so it is a good idea to bring a spare set or two.

Spare batteries should be only carried in carry-on luggage when travelling, as they are likely to be confiscated if carried in your checked luggage.

Don't forget to bring extra memory cards!

Personal Entertainment (Optional)

Feel free to bring your phone, MP3 player, Kindle or a good book for any downtime.

Additional Snack Food

Bring any of your favourite snacks and we recommend that you bring at least 4 energy gel sachets for instant carbohydrate replacement. You may also wish to bring electrolyte powder to mix in your water bottles.

CLIMBING EQUIPMENT

Ice Axe—57–66cm

For general alpine climbing, you will need a straight shafted axe between 57–66cm long, depending on your height. A longer axe is more helpful on the moderate ground and even the most difficult climbs have approaches and descents for which this is helpful. Short axes with curved shafts and moulded handgrips are fine on hard technical ice climbs, but not suited for the majority of alpine climbing.

The head of the axe should be comfortable to hold when using the axe as a walking stick and not have any protrusions which will dig into your hand.

The pick can be a normal downward curve or a 'reverse curve'. Reverse curve picks hold better on steep ice but they are more difficult to self-arrest with. Some ice axes come with replaceable picks, so it pays to check that the bolts are tight before each climb.

An adze is still used a lot for chopping steps in the ice and snow, so ensure that the adze has a good angle to do so. Some adzes, particularly on technical axes are designed for climbing steep unconsolidated snow and are too drooped to chop steps easily. Avoid this type of adze for general use.

Ice axe shafts are made from metal, fibreglass or wood and some have rubber handgrips. A rubber grip at the base of the shaft makes it easier to hold when self-arresting or climbing steeper ground, as well as keeping your hand warmer. The shaft must be smooth enough to be forced into the snow and should not have protrusions which can get caught up on a crusty snow surface.

The spike at the bottom of the tool should be sharp enough to penetrate hard snow. A wrist loop is needed for support when climbing on steeper ground. The correct length allows you to hold the bottom of the shaft with the sling tight.

We recommend the Petzl Summit Evo, Grivel Air Tech Evo G-Bone, Blue Ice Bluebird and the Black Diamond Venom Ice Axes.

Crampons

Steel crampons with a toe harness and heel bail are best as they fit a variety of boots and are easy to put on in the cold. Ensure your crampons are fitted with 'anti-balling' plates and avoid technical ice climbing crampons with vertical front points.

Please check that the set-up is secure on your boots and that the fastening strap is long enough. Do not cut or trim your crampon straps under any circumstances.

We recommend the Petzl Vasak Leverlock Universel, Grivel G12 New-Matic and the Black Diamond Sabretooth Clip Crampons.

Lightweight Climbing Harness

Bring a lightweight alpine climbing harness as heavy, padded harnesses are not necessary. Your harness must have gear loops, adjustable leg loops and waistband large enough to fit over all your clothing layers. The waistband and leg loops should be able to completely separate.

We strongly recommend newer models with a belay loop and buckles that do not require you to "doubling back" your waist belt.

We recommend the Black Diamond Couloir, Blue Ice Choucas Pro, Edelrid Huascarán, Petzl Altitude and Mammut Zephir Altitude Harnesses.

Belay Device

Bring a tubular or small figure 8 belay device for rappelling. It must be able to accommodate ropes of different thickness.

We recommend the Black Diamond ATC-XP or the Petzl Verso Belay Devices.

Locking Carabiners x 2

Bring two lightweight locking carabiners which have either a 'screw gate' or 'twist lock' gates. Do not get the ball lock type! Whichever you choose, please practice with them with your gloves on at home.

We recommend the Petzl and Black Diamond Carabiners.

Collapsible Trekking Poles

Compulsory as these are great for walking on snow or to save the knees on long days. Snow baskets are a worthy addition for when walking through deep snow.

We recommend Leki and Black Diamond Trekking and Ski Poles.



Mammut Zephir Altitude Climbing Harness



Petzl Verso Belay Device



Black Diamond Expedition Ski Poles

TRAVEL GEAR

Casual Wear

Bring a selection of casual clothes to wear on the inbetween days, when not in the mountains and at the end of the trip.

T-Shirt and Shorts

Cool clothing to wear when doing activities in the valley e.g. when trekking or rock climbing.

Passports, Documents and Copies

You will be in at least two countries when on the Summer Haute Route.

NOTE: If you found you have forgotten anything when you arrive in Chamonix, do not worry as there are plenty of stores that specialise in mountaineering equipment. Your guide will be happy to help you with any purchases you would like to make. If you have any questions, please ask.