



CHAMONIX ADVANCED MOUNTAINEERING COURSE



2024 COURSE NOTES





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2024 COURSE DETAILS

Dates: Available on demand

Duration: 5 days

Departure: ex Chamonix, France

Price: €4,480 for 1:1 guide to climber ratio
€2,590 for 1:2 guide to climber ratio

Traversing Aiguilles d'Entèves. Photo: Olivier Baron

Successful mountaineering at the top end is as much about judgment as it is about technical prowess. Our Chamonix Advanced Mountaineering course allows you to spend time with the specialists in the mountain environment and you will be able to accelerate your own pathway to bigger and better objectives.

This course will take you beyond the intermediate level and aims to have you leading safely on technical alpine terrain. The routes will typically be multi-pitch routes from PD to D in difficulty, but the grade and routes will depend on the level of your experience and confidence. There will be an emphasis on developing independence and self-sufficiency in the mountains. We will focus on safe decision making as much as technical skills.

Throughout the course, you will be coached by our excellent mountain guides with many years' experience, who will enable you to make the next major breakthrough in your mountaineering.

The course is run on a 1:1 or 1:2 ratio, which enables the guide to lead on some very technical ground, giving you first-hand insight on how ascents of this nature are undertaken. You will then be given the opportunity to lead on appropriate ground with supervision and coaching from your guide.

While building your independence and confidence we will introduce you to new areas and mountains and will change the venue to achieve this if needed.

SKILLS COVERED

- Refreshing rope work and basic skills
- Independent risk assessment
- Making steep ground safe
- Problem-solving in mountains
- Independent decision making

OUR GUIDES

Adventure Consultants guides are BMG, NZMGA and/or IFMGA-UIAGM qualified mountain guides. They are professional mountaineers and operate to the highest industry standards.



▲ Climbers near Aiguille d'Entrèves. Photo: Paolo Pieroni

Being a technically proficient climber alone is not enough to work with us; our standards demand that trip leaders are great guides with good people skills as well. You will find your guide friendly, approachable and focused on providing a safe and enjoyable trip in line with your objectives and comfort level.

Success with the highest margin of care is always a hallmark of our approach; promoting the realisation that even extreme pursuits such as high-altitude mountaineering can be undertaken safely.

Adventure Consultants only employs IFMGA qualified guides for European ascents and courses. Guides must undergo rigorous training and assessment on climbing skills, instructional skills, avalanche training and assessment, wilderness first aid, rescue training and much more to gain these qualifications. It takes many years to attain IFMGA status, which ensures you are getting a world-class professional service.

ITINERARY

NOTE: The itinerary may change if conditions are more suitable in another region, or factors such as the weather or lift service precludes access into this region.

DAY 0—SUNDAY

Arrive in Chamonix, check into your hotel.

DAY 1—MONDAY

Meet your guide at the hotel for a briefing and gear check. After organising any equipment hire, we take the Grands Montets lift to 3,300m/10,800ft where we tackle a short training climb, the North Face of the Petite Aiguille Verte (3,512m/11,522ft, AD-). This is a good venue to practice steep ice climbing techniques.

We descend to the valley for a short debrief, followed by dinner in town. Hotel night.

DAY 2—TUESDAY

We drive through the Mont Blanc Tunnel to Italy and take the Helbronner lift to the Col du Géant (3,356m/11,010ft). We trek around the Aiguilles Marbrées to the Col de Rochefort from where we traverse the Aiguilles Marbrées back to the Col du Géant (PD-). We stay at the large Torino Hut (3,375m/11,073ft) with its excellent Italian coffee.

DAY 3—WEDNESDAY

An early start and a traverse of the Aiguille d'Entrèves (3,604m/11,824ft), which is a spectacular exposed ridge and immensely enjoyable. This is a perfect warm-up for Dent du Géant tomorrow. We return back to Torino Hut in the afternoon to relax ahead of another alpine start.

DAY 4—THURSDAY

We cross the Col du Géant to climb the magnificent Dent du Géant (4,013m/13,166ft, AD) culminating in 200m/650ft of steep and exposed rock climbing. With a strong team, it is also possible to traverse the Arête de Rochefort before climbing the Dent du Géant and returning to Torino Hut.

DAY 5—FRIDAY

An early start for Col de Rochefort where you can plan and lead a traverse of Aiguilles Marbrées to the Col du Géant (PD), before descending to Chamonix. Hotel night.

DAY 6—SATURDAY

Breakfast, a chance to exchange photos and depart.



Climb Dent du Géant. Photo: Paolo Pieroni

CLASS SIZE

This course is offered on a 1:1 and 1:2 guide to climber ratio. This offers you focused attention to ensure consistency across the programme. Whilst other operators combine you with large groups on training days we know your safety will be better protected and learning progressions enhanced in this way.

ACCESS TO THE MOUNTAINS

All lifts and cable cars on the programme are included in the course cost. If a change forces us to use additional lifts due to weather or other logistical reasons, your guide will consult with the group first. In some cases, this may be an additional expense to you.

CLIMBING SEASON

We operate in the Alps mid-June to mid-September and other times as conditions allow. In June and early July, we can expect more snow cover on the routes and as temperatures warm up into the summer months from mid-July, we traditionally experience more settled weather and warmer temperatures.

WEATHER

Europe has a continental climate which in general encourages more stable weather. However, the weather in the high mountains can be changeable and at times very severe. It is possible that weather conditions may thwart our programme. However, due to the length of the course and our focus on the forecasts, we can often change our itinerary slightly to work around frontal weather systems.

EQUIPMENT

Climbing in the European Alps requires high-quality clothing and equipment due to the extremes of weather conditions.

Our focus is on having the essential clothing and equipment to keep you warm and comfortable while climbing.

You will be sent an equipment checklist on confirmation of your booking and your guide will go through this with you at the start of your trip. You can rent technical equipment for the course but you must provide your own mountaineering clothing. Actual equipment taken may vary subject to seasonal weather and route conditions.

Group equipment including ropes and technical hardware will be provided by your guide.

COMMUNICATION & MESSAGES

Our guides are in cell phone communication with our operations base throughout the trip. This assists us with schedule and weather forecast updates, lift and accommodation co-ordination and safety backup. Your own mobile phone should work in the region though you should check with your service provider first.

FITNESS & HEALTH

To make the most of your climbing experience we encourage you to work on your fitness prior to the trip. You will find that training on hills with a +10kg/22lb pack on is the best preparation for the mountains, with the aim of building your endurance. Your guide will be attuned to your fitness levels and will regulate the pace accordingly.

Our registration form requests you to advise us of any medical problems you may have and any medications you may take. Any information you supply will be treated as confidential.

FOOD

Adventure Consultants will provide breakfasts for the duration of the course. You will be responsible for your lunches and snacks each day, plus evening meals on nights spent in Chamonix. This allows you to experience the exciting culinary options available in Chamonix, as there are many good restaurants and bars within close walking distance. Any additional food, beverages or meals you purchase that are not mentioned in the inclusions will be at your own expense.

You should bring a selection of your favourite snack food and hydration drinks with you to ensure you are fuelled by your preferred brands, as well as money for lunches and snacks whilst in the mountains. Actual amounts depend on your consumption but two per day in addition to your lunch would seem reasonable.

If you have any special dietary requirements, please advise us at the time of registration. If your dietary requirements are especially strict you are advised to bring a sufficient supply of your required food types with you to ensure you are provided for.



▲ Focus on problem solving and decision making. Photo: Paolo Pieroni



▲ Add on an ascent of Mont Blanc to your course. Photo: Paolo Pieroni



▲ Climb a range of technical terrain throughout the course. Photo: JB Chandesris

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is provided on a twin share B&B basis from the evening of Day 0 to morning of Day 6 after breakfast. Accommodation in the mountains is in alpine huts in shared bunk rooms or dormitory rooms. Blankets are provided and no sleeping bag will be required.

There is no single supplement (or private rooms) available in the mountain huts but we can arrange this for you at an additional cost for the three Chamonix hotel nights. Please enquire about costs at the time of booking.

TRAVEL TO CHAMONIX

We commence our Advanced Mountaineering Course from Chamonix in France. The closest international airport is in Geneva, just over the border in Switzerland. Regular shuttles operate up to Chamonix and the trip takes about 1.5 hours. Your shuttle driver will drop you at our accommodation. At the completion of the course, the shuttle can take you back to the airport. The shuttle transfers are at your own cost but we can help arrange this for you.

INSURANCE

We strongly recommend that you take out Trip Cancellation Insurance and Travel Insurance, as well as Medical and Rescue Insurance to protect yourself in the event of injury or mishap prior to or during your trip.

While our focus is on safety and our track record supports this, the mountains do have hazards and there is the potential for mishap. If you were injured whilst on the trip, there is a very efficient rescue service nearby.

PRE-COURSE ACCLIMATISATION PROGRAMME

It is good to spend a few days at altitude before your trip to assist with acclimatisation. Our climbers regularly attend our Pre-Course Acclimatisation Programme in Chamonix prior to their scheduled course. This 2-day programme takes you on day climbs to high elevations on peaks that are easily accessible from Chamonix. This kickstarts your acclimatisation and gets you out climbing before the main programme begins. By enhancing your acclimatisation and fine tuning your skills before the Chamonix Advanced Mountaineering Course programme begins, you experience more enjoyment from the climb and enjoy a greater success rate.

MONT BLANC ADD ON

Utilise your acclimatisation and climbing skills to join one of our guides for a quick ascent of Mont Blanc



▲ Five full days of climbing and instruction. Photo: Victor Saunders



▲ Stay in classic, European style, catered alpine huts. Photo: JB Chandesris



▲ High on Aiguille d'Entrèves. Photo: Guy Cotter



▲ Climbers converge at the Cosmiques Arête. Photo: Victor Saunders

directly following your instruction course. This 3-day programme is available only to course participants.

PRICES

€4,480 1:1 guide to climber ratio

€2,590 per person 1:2 guide to climber ratio

The cost includes:

- Qualified mountain guide
- Lifts
- Mountain huts
- 3 nights hotel B&B on twin share basis
- Transport during course dates as per schedule
- Ropes and group technical equipment
- Breakfast and evening meals during mountain component of course

The cost **does not** include:

- Any lift, hut, hotel or transport costs additional to the programme due to weather or logistics
- Personal equipment and clothing
- Evening meals during hotel nights in Chamonix
- Lunches
- Extra additional meals, snacks or drinks
- Insurance

- Transport to and from Chamonix
- Gratuities

PRE-COURSE ACCLIMATISATION

€1,090 per person at a 1:2 guide to climber ratio

€1,890 per person at a 1:1 guide to climber ratio

The trip price includes the hotel on your arrival day. The hotel on the second night would be included as Day 0 on the Chamonix Advanced Mountaineering Course programme to follow. Note this programme is designed to immediately precede the Chamonix Advanced Mountaineering Course with no rest day in between.

MONT BLANC ADD ON

€1,720 per person at a 1:2 guide to climber ratio

€2,850 per person at a 1:1 guide to climber ratio

For further information on the Mont Blanc Add On please contact our office.

All prices are subject to change without notice.

PAYMENT

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following Euro bank account:

Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
42 Willis Street
Spark Central
Wellington
New Zealand

for the account of Adventure Consultants Limited

Account Number: 1000-594771-0002

Account Type: Euros

Swift Address: BKNZ22

NOTE: All bank charges are for the remitter's account.

We can also payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard, and Amex), plus a 3% transaction fee.

DEPOSIT

To confirm place on this course, we require a completed registration form with a deposit of €500.

BALANCE

The balance payment is due 60 days prior to the course start date.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

Once you have paid your deposit your trip is confirmed, subject to payment of the balance of fees owing 60 days prior to your trip commencement date. A climber may then cancel their participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 60 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
- For cancellations made within 60 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the full fee.
- For cancellations made within 30 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 75% of the full fee.
- For cancellations within 15 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

We recommend you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent if you wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons.

HOW TO JOIN THIS TRIP

If you would like to join one of our courses please complete our online booking form and forward your deposit payment at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/climbing-schools/climbing-school-europe/chamonix-advanced-mountaineering-course/book-now>.

CONTACT US

If you require more information, please contact us at:

Adventure Consultants Ltd
5/12 Frederick Street
PO Box 739
Wanaka, 9343
New Zealand

Phone: + 64 3 443 8711

Email: info@adventure.co.nz

Web: www.adventureconsultants.com



• Climb a variety of alpine rock and snow and ice routes. Photo: Olivier Baron



Mont Blanc from Aiguille de Rochefort. Photo: Paolo Pieroni



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 is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their 'Revitalise a Village' programmes.

Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA/UIAGM standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.

