

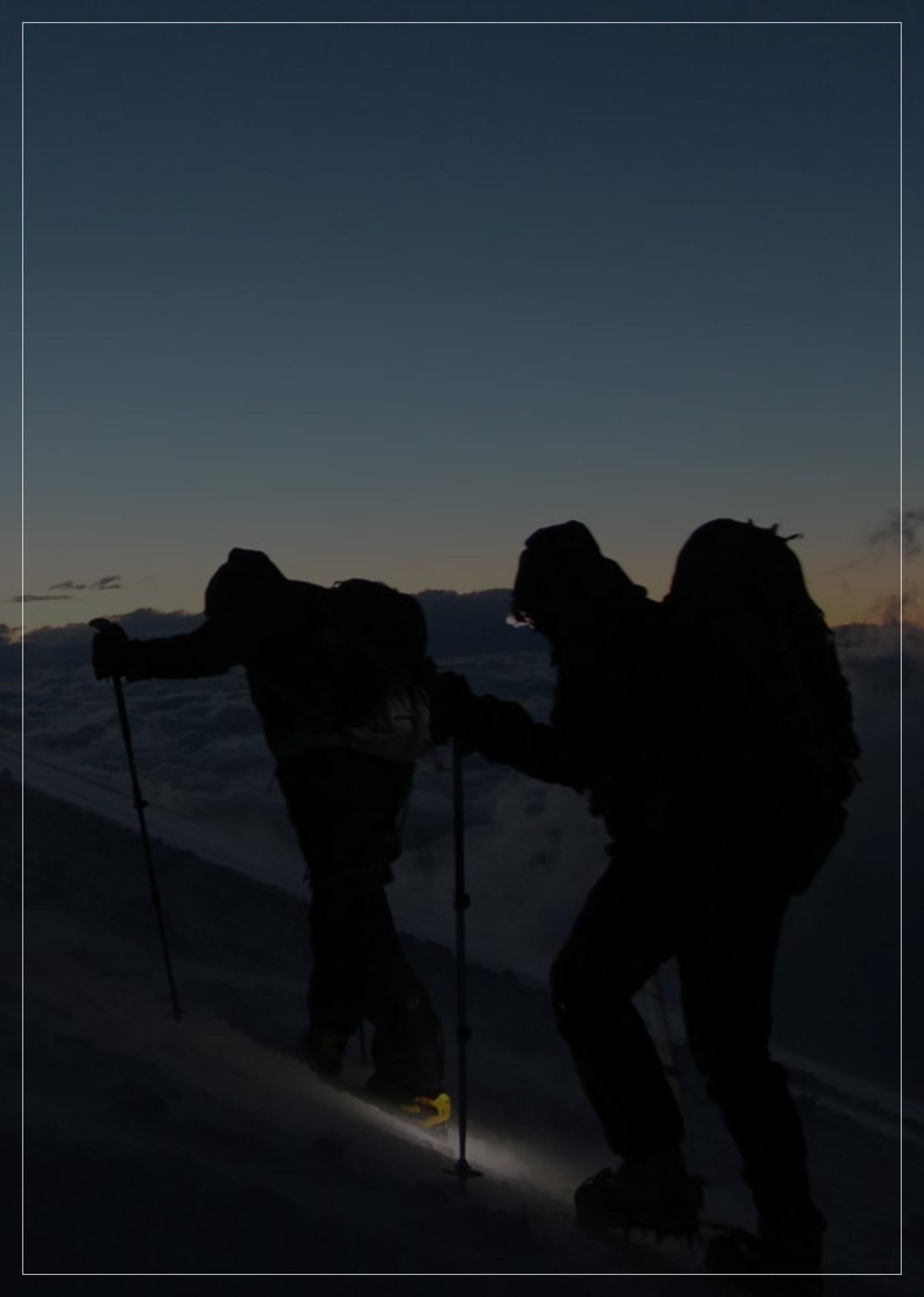


# ELBRUS - TRIP 2

5,642M / 18,510FT



**2021 EXPEDITION TRIP NOTES**





# ELBRUS – TRIP 2 TRIP NOTES

## 2021 EXPEDITION DETAILS

**Dates:** July 19–29, 2021  
**Duration:** 11 days  
**Departure:** ex Moscow, Russia  
**Price:** €4,400 per person

▲ An Elbrus team acclimatising on the lower mountain. *Photo: Mike Roberts*

The Adventure Consultants Mount Elbrus Trip 2 Expedition features a night in Moscow upon arrival into the country and an efficient departure from Russia a couple of days after summiting Elbrus. On completion of the acclimatisation hikes and climbs, we ascend Elbrus from the Baksan Valley before taking a short drive to Mineralnye Vody International airport to depart.

## ELBRUS OPTIONS

Adventure Consultants offers three options for climbing Elbrus. Trip 1 is 14 days in duration and starts in St Petersburg and finishes in Moscow. Trip 2 is 11 days and starts in Moscow and finishes in Mineralnye Vody and Trip 3 is 10 days and starts and finishes in Mineralnye Vody. These notes outline information relevant to Trip 2. Please see our website for further information on Trips 1 and 3.

## HOW THE EXPEDITION OPERATES

Mount Elbrus is a giant dormant volcano which separates Europe from Asia in Russia's Caucasus Range. We begin the trip in Moscow and fly south to Mineralnye Vody on the edge of the Caucasus. This is followed by a short drive through the beautiful tree-covered valleys into the mountains themselves. We base ourselves from hotels in the

Baksan Valley and partake in daily acclimatisation hikes with good food to help us enjoy the region.

After several days we move into the high mountain huts for more training followed by the ascent itself. We have included contingency days to allow for inclement weather and our proven ascent program assures a very high chance of success.

We stay in hotels and comfortable mountain lodges to avoid the need for tents so you can simply bring along a sleeping bag and enjoy the climb!

Attaining a relatively high elevation at 5,642m or 18,506 feet, Elbrus certainly demands respect for its altitude and we deliberately focus on climbing high each day and sleeping low to facilitate effective acclimatisation.

Once the climb is finished we'll return to the valley floor for celebrations, and then return to Mineralnye Vody.



▲ Elbrus' shadow breaks across the Caucasus at dawn. Photo: Mike Roberts.

## PREREQUISITE SKILLS

As with any foray to high altitude, it is imperative that expedition members are fit and strong and in good health.

The skills necessary for the climb are relatively straightforward, with the initial 1,000m/3,300ft involving moderate snow climbing of 20–30 degrees. Higher up, the slope steepens to 35 degrees in spots and can be icy if the wind has scoured the upper mountain, so good crampon technique is important. We do recommend that you join an introductory mountaineering instruction course prior to the expedition, but it is not essential, as there are opportunities to practice and review the requisite snowcraft skills prior to the final ascent, which makes an ascent of Elbrus a great option for any fit mountain enthusiast.

## TEAM SIZE

The team will have a minimum size of 6 members and 2 guides and a maximum size of 12 members and 3 guides.

## ITINERARY

**Trip 2:** July 19–29, 2021

- Day 1 Arrive Moscow, Russia. Team meeting, welcome dinner and gear check.
- Day 2 2-hour flight to Mineralnye Vody (Caucasus). 3-hour bus ride to a hotel in the Baksan Valley. Overnight stay in hotel.
- Day 3 Acclimatisation ascent (using ski lifts) of Cheget Mountain (3,600m/11,800ft). Overnight stay in the hotel.

- Day 4 4WD outing to a local waterfall (2,700m/8,850ft), acclimatisation hike to Ice Camp (3,700m/12,100ft). Return to the hotel.
- Day 5 Ride ski lifts for an acclimatisation hike. Overnight stay in the newly renovated Heart of Elbrus Hut (3,900m/12,800ft) on the slopes of Elbrus.
- Day 6 Acclimatisation hike to the Obelisk (4,100m/13,450ft), return to the hut.
- Day 7 Acclimatisation hike to Pastukhov Rocks (4,600m/15,100ft), return to the hut.
- Day 8 Summit day. Leave the hut about 3am for the climb of Elbrus' west summit (5,642m/18,510ft). Overnight in the hut.
- Day 9 Reserve day for climbing Elbrus. Overnight in the hut.
- Day 10 Spare summit day, descend to the valley and return to the hotel.
- Day 11 Drive to Mineralnye Vody, trip ends, depart for home.

**NOTE:** We have a longer 14-day Elbrus ascent starting in St Petersburg and finishing in Moscow, which includes sightseeing in both cities. See our Elbrus Trip 1, July, 5–18, 2021. We also have a shorter 10-day Elbrus Trip 3 initiating and concluding in Mineralnye Vody August 7–16 2021.

## THE ADVANTAGES OF CLIMBING WITH ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to high altitude expedition 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.



▲ Views of the Elbrus gondola and Caucasus mountains from outside Heart of Elbrus Hut. Photo: Mike Roberts



▲ Returning to Heart of Elbrus Hut. Photo: Mike Roberts



▲ Descending through flower fields on an acclimatisation hike. Photo: Mike Roberts

We employ strong and specialised Expedition Leaders and support staff, who are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, the best back-up and support available. This includes nutritious and ample quantities of food, comfortable facilities, reliable communications systems and the necessary medical back up.

Many of our expedition members 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 safe and successful.

## FOOD

Food will be of the highest standard possible, given the remoteness of the situation. If you have any special dietary requirements, please advise us at the time of registration. For special diets such as vegan and gluten/dairy free, we will call you to discuss your needs and how this will work on the expedition in Russia.

## MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Expedition members will be provided with pre-trip medical advice and a medical questionnaire and asked to visit their family physician and receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted only by the expedition leader and our medical adviser and treated with full confidentiality.

## DOCUMENTATION & PHOTOGRAPHS

Expedition members will need to provide 3 passport photographs for the permit and a photocopy of their passport biodata page.

## VISAS

Almost all foreign travellers to Russia require a visa. The process begins at the balance payment date for your expedition, when your trip has been paid for and confirmed and we have received your flight details. We will then be able to provide an invitation letter and the support documentation necessary to procure your Russian visa.



▲ A waterfall on one of the acclimatisation hikes. Photo: Andrew Wexler



▲ Hanging out in one of Heart of Elbrus Hut's bunkrooms. Photo: Mike Roberts



▲ Self arrest practice outside Heart of Elbrus Hut. Photo: Mike Roberts

The visa process normally takes about 4 weeks, although it has been known to take up to 10 weeks. You can begin the visa process up to 3 months in advance so we advise that you submit your application as soon as you have received the relevant documentation from our office.

Please note that you will need to send your passport to your nearest Russian embassy along with the necessary paperwork. Your travel agent or a visa processing service should be able to assist you with this process.

## EQUIPMENT

Adventure Consultants will supply all group gear (e.g., ropes, stoves, food) whilst expedition members are to provide their own personal clothing and equipment. A comprehensive equipment list will be provided to expedition members upon confirmation of your participation.

## COMMUNICATIONS & INSURANCE

To safeguard members of the expedition we will be carrying a satellite telephone.

We require expedition members to carry additional insurance for evacuation and repatriation as well as normal travel medical expenses. Contact us for expedition insurance advice.

## EXPEDITION FEE

The cost of the 11-day Elbrus expedition is €4,400 per person ex Moscow, Russia.

The expedition fee includes:

- Adventure Consultants mountain guides
- All expedition organisational requirements
- Hotel in Moscow, one night at the trip start
- Breakfast in Moscow
- All hotels, lodging and food while on the expedition after departing Moscow until after breakfast on final day departing Baksan Valley for Mineralnye Vody, according to the itinerary
- Group climbing equipment, food and fuel in Elbrus region
- Transfers from hotel to airport for Mineralnye Vody flight
- Flight from Moscow to Mineralnye Vody
- Return transport Mineralnye Vody to Elbrus region
- Snowcat lift up and chairlift transport fees



▲ Climbers above the saddle between the East and West Peaks of Elbrus. Photo: Andrew Wexler

The expedition **does not** include:

- Airport transfer from international airport to hotel
- Lunch and dinner while in Moscow
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Entry visa for Russia
- Climbing/travel/trip cancellation insurance or rescue costs
- International travel costs into Moscow, Russia and out of Mineralnye Vody, Russia
- Excess baggage charges over 20kg allowance on domestic flights
- Spending on personal items such as gifts, alcohol/bottled drinks and laundry, etc.
- Snowcat or skidoo lift down fees (if you choose not to walk down)
- Hotel costs and meals in the Baksan Valley if you descend early from the mountain
- Meals in Mineralnye Vody upon return from the Elbrus region
- Gratuities for guides

## PAYMENT DETAILS

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:** BKNZNZ22

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

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

### DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of €500 is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

### BALANCE

The balance of €3,900 is payable 90 days prior to trip start date.



▲ Climbers approaching the summit of Elbrus (5,642m). Photo: Mike Roberts



▲ Happy climbers on the summit of Elbrus! Photo: Mike Roberts



▲ Views of the Caucasus Mountains at dawn. Photo: Andrew Wexler



▲ The Moskva River and Kremlin. Photo: Mike Roberts

## CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

An expedition member may then cancel their participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 90 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
- For cancellations made within 90 days of the trip commencement date, we reserve the right to retain 50% of the balance payment fee.
- For cancellations within 60 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 if you wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons.

## HOW TO JOIN THIS EXPEDITION

If you would like to join one of our 2021 Elbrus Expeditions, please complete our online booking form and forward your deposit payment at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/seven-summits/elbrus/book-now>.

## CONTACT US

If you require more information, please contact us at:

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▲ The stunning twin peaks of Mount Ushba at dawn from Elbrus. *Photo: Andrew Wexler*



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.

