

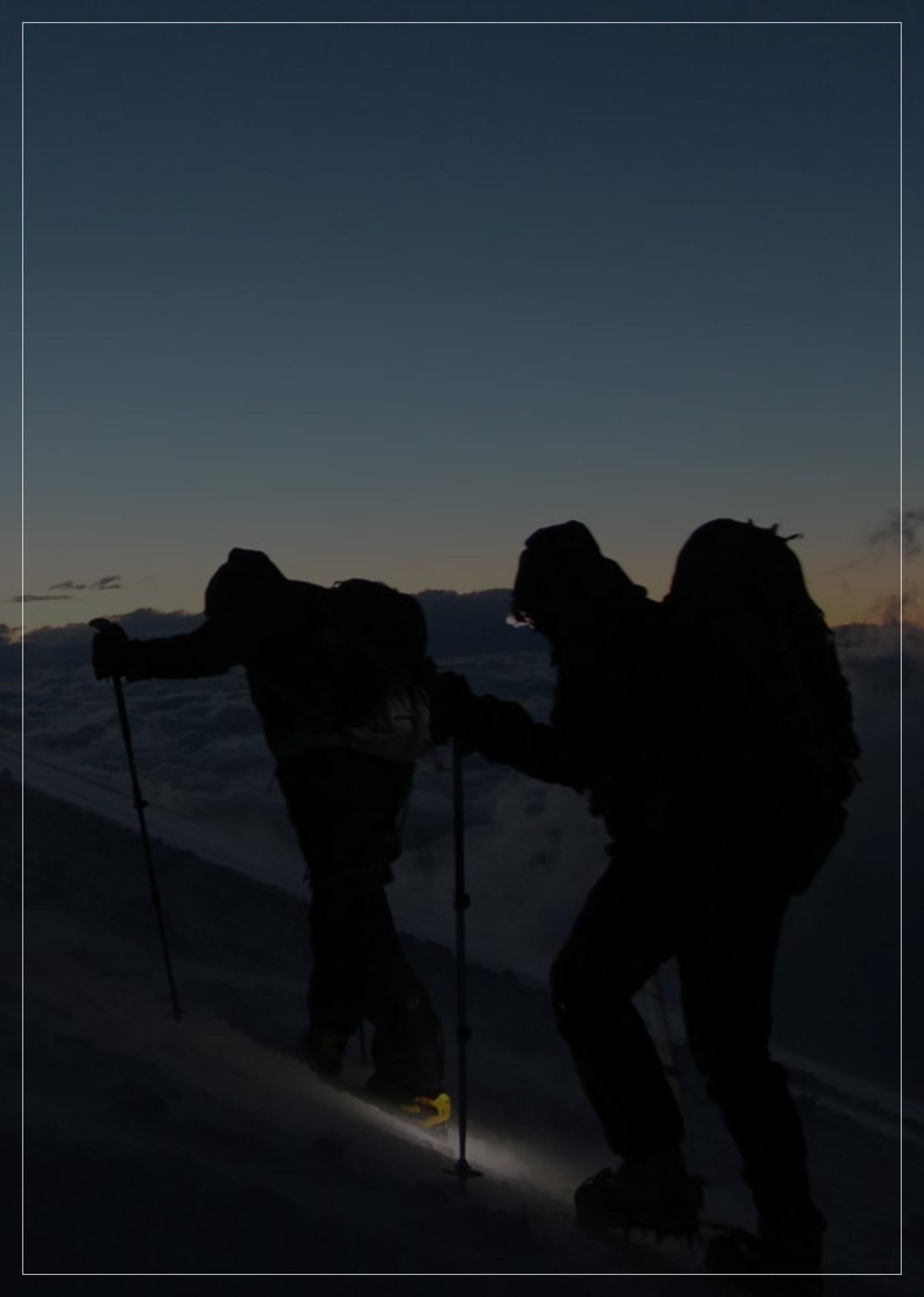


ELBRUS - TRIP 3

5,642M / 18,510FT



2021 EXPEDITION TRIP NOTES





ELBRUS – TRIP 3 TRIP NOTES

2021 EXPEDITION DETAILS

Dates: August 7–16, 2021

Duration: 10 days

Departure: ex Mineralnye Vody, Russia

Price: €4,200 per person

▲ Summit day morning high on Elbrus. Photo: Viktor Yanchenko

The Adventure Consultants Mount Elbrus Trip 3 is our shortest Elbrus itinerary. The expedition arrives and departs through Mineralnye Vody and ascends the mountain in a rapid time frame without compromising summit opportunities. On completion of our acclimatisation, we ascend Elbrus from the Baksan Valley before 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 3. Please see our website for further information on Trips 1 and 2.

HOW THE EXPEDITION OPERATES

Mount Elbrus is a giant dormant volcano which separates Europe from Asia in Russia's Caucasus Range. We begin and finish the trip in Mineralnye Vody, an international airport close to the Elbrus region on the edge of the Caucasus. From here we take a short drive through the beautiful tree-covered

valleys below Elbrus. We base ourselves from hotels in the Baksan Valley for a few days while we partake in daily acclimatisation hikes with good food.

At the completion of the acclimatization phase, we move into the high mountain huts for more altitude training followed by the ascent itself.

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

Attaining a relatively high elevation at 5,642m/ 18,506ft, 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 before returning to Mineralnye Vody.



Acclimatisation hikes in the Terskol Valley. 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 recommend 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 of 6 members and 2 guides and a maximum of 12 members and 3 guides.

ITINERARY

Trip 3: August 7–16, 2021

- Day 1 Arrive Mineralnye Vody airport and transfer to Pyatigorsk. Team meeting, welcome dinner and gear check.
- Day 2 Drive to Elbrus region (Caucasus). 3-hour bus ride to a hotel in the Baksan Valley.
- 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/8,860ft), 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 (4,800m/15,750ft), 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, descend to the valley and return to the hotel.
- Day 10 Drive to Mineralnye Vody, trip ends, depart for home.

NOTE: We have a longer 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 an 11-day Elbrus Trip 2 initiating in Moscow and concluding in Mineralnye Vody between July 19–29 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.



▲ Snowcats on the lower mountain. Photo: Dean Staples.



▲ Last push for the top. Photo: Dean Staples



▲ Summit bid under clear skies. Photo: Dean Staples

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.



▲ Day break in the Caucasus. Photo: Andrew Wexler



▲ Reflecting on the summit. Photo: Dean Staples



▲ A cascading waterfall on one of the acclimatisation hikes. Photo: JB Chandesris

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 10-day Elbrus expedition is €4,200 per person ex Mineralnye Vody, Russia.

The expedition fee includes:

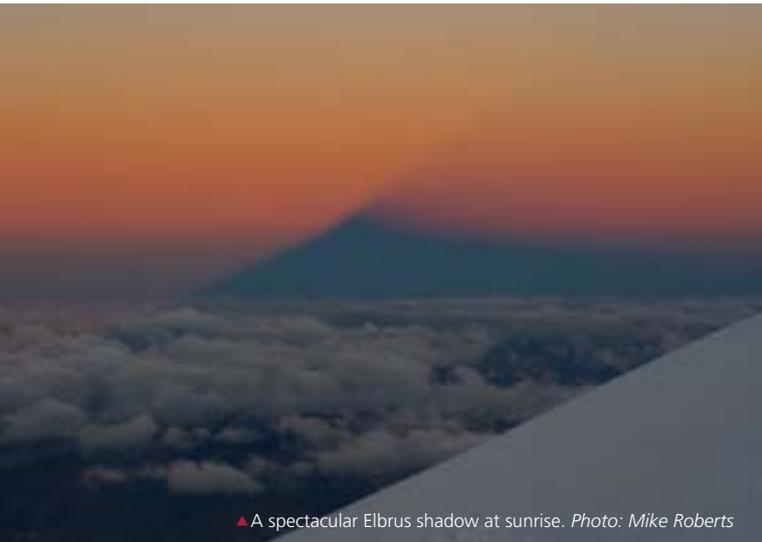
- Adventure Consultants mountain guides
- All expedition organisational requirements
- One night hotel in Pyatigorsk
- Breakfast in Pyatigorsk
- All hotel, lodging and food while on the expedition including breakfast before return to Mineralnye Vody for departure flights on day 10, according to the itinerary
- Group climbing equipment
- Transfers from airport on arrival into Mineralnye Vody to Pyatigorsk and Elbrus region and back to Mineralnye Vody airport for return flight, as per the itinerary
- Snowcat lift up and chairlift transport fees



▲ Acclimatising in the Terskol Valley with glacier views. Photo: JB Chandesris



▲ Self-arrest practice before the climb. Photo: Mike Roberts



▲ A spectacular Elbrus shadow at sunrise. Photo: Mike Roberts



▲ Summit success. Photo: Mike Roberts

The expedition **does not** include:

- Airfares to Mineralnye Vody, Russia
- Entry visa for Russia
- Lunch and dinner while in Pyatigorsk, Day 1
- Meals after breakfast departure day
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Climbing/travel/cancellation insurance or rescue costs
- Spending on personal items such as gifts, alcohol/bottled drinks, laundry etc.
- Snowcat or skidoo lift down fees (if you choose not to walk down)
- Hotel costs and meals if you descend early from the mountain
- 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 €3,700 is payable 90 days prior to trip start date.



▲ Elated to be on top. 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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▲ Ascending under the first rays of light to touch the mountain. 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.

