



MONT BLANC ADD ON

4,807M / 15,771FT

2020 TRIP NOTES





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2020 TRIP DETAILS

Dates: Available on demand
June to September

Duration: 3 days

Departure: ex Chamonix, France

Price: €2,550 1:1 guide to climber ratio
€1,550 each 1:2 guide to climber ratio

▲ Just a few more steps to the summit! Photo: Olivier Baron

Our Mont Blanc Add On is aimed at course and ascent participants who are looking to make the most of their acclimatisation by joining a guided ascent of Mont Blanc. The ascent is programmed to run over 3 days directly following the end of your trip, and for course participants, offers to the opportunity to make the most of newly acquired skills.

We approach Mont Blanc from either the North West via the Goûter Route or the North via the Cosmiques Route. The Cosmiques Route traverses the lesser peaks of Mont Blanc du Tacul and Mont Maudit on the way to the summit. The choice of which route is taken will depend on group size and snow and weather conditions at the time.

On the Goûter Route, we begin the approach by tram and railway, then walk up to the Tête Rousse Hut which takes 3–5 hours. The summit day begins early and the climb takes around 7–8 hours over snow domes and a superb snow ridge to the summit.

The Cosmiques Route is slightly more difficult and therefore guided only as a 1:1 option. This route takes around 6–7 hours to the summit from the Cosmiques Hut and features snow basins followed by some short steeper sections as you ascend the peaks of the Tacul and the Maudit. After the

Maudit is passed, you climb a large snow dome to Mont Blanc's summit, the highest point in the Alps. You will have the undivided attention of your guide throughout the duration of your trip, who will be willing to help you revise technical skills throughout the programme.

ABOUT THE CLIMB

You will finish your initial Adventure Consultants course or ascent and start the Mont Blanc Add On in Chamonix. You will be met in the morning of Day 1 by your guide, who will brief you on the upcoming journey and help you sort equipment for the trip. Your initial course or ascent will have provided vital preparation for attempting Mont Blanc by offering a decent level of acclimatisation. Technically speaking, Mont Blanc is not especially difficult but it is very physically demanding and requires a good level of fitness.



▲ Celebrating on the summit of Mont Blanc. Photo: Don Rasmussen



▲ Climbing high above the cloud. Photo: Andrew Wexler



▲ Looking back up towards the summit. Photo: JB Chandesris

We operate the Mont Blanc Add On at a ratio of one guide to one or two climbers. This means you can come by yourself or bring a friend for the 1:2 guided ascent option. You benefit from the higher degree of personal tuition from your guide and your skills will be accelerated because of this. Please note we avoid putting climbers together for the 1:2 trip who do not know each other as this can reduce your chances of a successful ascent when one out of the two has to turn back due to fitness or incompatibility issues.

NOTE: The programme can change due to weather and climbing conditions.

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. Being a technically proficient climber alone is not enough to work with us; our standards demand that trip leaders are great guides 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 and this is the only certification that is recognised in the French Alps. In order to gain these qualifications guides must undergo rigorous training and assessment on climbing skills, instructional skills avalanche training and assessment, wilderness first aid, rescue training and much more. The qualification takes many years to attain and ensures you are getting a world-class professional service.

ITINERARY

DAY 1

Take the Bellevue Lift and Mont Blanc Tramway (2,380m/7,800ft) and hike up to Tête Rousse Hut (3,187m/10,377ft, 4 hours) or take the Aiguille du Midi Lift and trek to Cosmiques Hut (3,613m/11,854ft, 1 hour) with the route selection done by your guide and our team, according to the conditions and season.



▲ Approaching Goûter Hut. Photo: Olivier Baron

DAY 2

Very early start for the climb of Mont Blanc (4,807m/15,771ft, 7–8 hours) and descend to Goûter (3,863m/12,673ft), Tête Rousse or Cosmiques Hut (4–5 hrs). Sometimes it will be possible to descend to Chamonix the same day.

DAY 3

Descend to Les Houches, transfer to Chamonix. Debrief and hotel night.

DAY 4

Breakfast and departure.

THE ADVANTAGES OF CLIMBING WITH ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS

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.

CLIMBING SEASON

We operate on Mont Blanc in the summer months, June to 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 an attempt on the summit of Mont Blanc in the time allotted. However, due to the length of the trip and our focus on the forecasts, we can often change our itinerary to work around frontal systems. Should the weather not allow a summit attempt within the time frame, it is sometimes possible to engage the guide for additional days depending on their availability.

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 during the climb.

You will be sent an equipment checklist upon confirmation of your booking. Your guide will go through this with you at the beginning of your trip. It is possible to rent technical equipment but you must provide your own mountaineering clothing



A spectacular view from the summit. Photo: Olivier Baron

as per the equipment list. 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 weather forecast updates, lift and accommodation coordination and safety backup.

Your own mobile phone should work in the region though you may want to check with your service provider first.

FITNESS & HEALTH

To make the most of your climbing experience, you must train in the months leading up to your trip. Summit day on Mont Blanc is 10–12 hours long and gains over 1,500m/5,000ft in elevation. Combine these factors with an altitude of over 4,000m/13,000ft and the need to arrive with a good level of cardiovascular fitness is even more vital.

By adopting a programme of running, cycling and/or hill walking in the months leading up to your climb you will greatly increase your chance of success. Build up your training until you are able to hike on consecutive days for at least 8 hours whilst carrying a 10kg/22lb pack, incorporating the elevation gain of over 1,500m/5,000ft which is required on summit day. Your guide will be attuned to your fitness levels and will regulate the pace accordingly; however, it is essential that you arrive physically prepared to succeed on this mountain.

Our registration form requests that you advise us of any medical problems you may have and of any medication you are taking. Any information you supply will be treated as confidential.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is provided on a twin share B&B basis from Day 1 of the trip through to the morning of Day 4 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, although you will require a 'sleeping sheet' for personal hygiene under the provided blankets.



Tackling the route from Goûter to Tête Rousse Hut. Photo: Paolo Pieroni



Sensational summit selfies! Photo: JB Chandesris



Sunrise colours the snow. Photo: Andrew Wexler

There are no single supplements or private rooms available in the mountain huts but we can arrange this for you in Chamonix. We can also arrange an upgrade to four or five-star hotel accommodation—ask about the hotel options if interested.

FOOD

Adventure Consultants will provide breakfasts for the duration of the trip and evening meals on the hut nights while the trip is running. This is from breakfast on Day 1 until breakfast on your departure day. You will be responsible for your own lunch and snacks each day, plus evening meals on non-mountain nights in Chamonix. This allows you to experience the exciting culinary options available in Chamonix, as there are many restaurants and bars within close walking distance that provide a variety of foods to suit your tastes. Any additional food, bottled water, 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 for by your preferred brands,

as well as money for lunches and snacks whilst in the mountains. Actual amounts depend on your consumption but while you are climbing it's generally not possible to have a normal sized lunch, so you rely on snacks during the day and are able to take a late lunch once you arrive back at the hut.

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.

TRAVEL TO CHAMONIX

We start and finish our Mont Blanc Add On in Chamonix, France. The closest international airport is in Geneva, just over the border in Switzerland. Regular shuttles operate between Geneva airport and Chamonix and the trip takes about 1½ hours. At the completion of the trip, your shuttle can pick you up from your accommodation to take you back to the airport. The shuttle transfers are at your own cost but we can help arrange this for you.



▲ Approaching the top of Dôme de Goûter. Photo: Paolo Pieroni

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.

PRICE

The cost for the Mont Blanc Add On ex Chamonix, France is:

- € 2,550 for a 1:1 guide to climber ratio
- € 1,550 per person for a 1:2 guide to climber ratio

All prices are subject to change without notice.

The cost includes:

- Qualified mountain guide
- Group technical equipment
- Lifts as per the scheduled itinerary
- Huts as per the scheduled itinerary
- Transport as per the scheduled itinerary
- Hotel B&B (3 stars) during trip dates as per schedule
- Breakfast and dinner during mountain component of the trip

The cost **does not** include:

- Any lift, hut, hotel or transport costs additional to the programme due to weather or logistics (any changes will be actioned only after you have been consulted by your guide)
- Personal mountaineering clothing and equipment as per lists supplied
- Evening meals during hotel nights in Chamonix
- Lunches
- Extra additional meals, snacks or drinks purchased from huts or hotels
- Insurance for travel and climbing in Europe
- Transport to and from Chamonix (although we can arrange it for you)
- Gratuity

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: BKNZ NZ22

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

To confirm place on one of our Mont Blanc Add On, we require a completed registration form with a deposit of €500 per person.



▲ A group of climbers descend from a successful summit. Photo: Olivier Baron

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 2020 Mont Blanc Add Ons, please complete our online booking form and forward your deposit payment at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/climbing-schools/climbing-school-europe/3-day-mont-blanc-ascent-add-on/book-now>.

CONTACT US

If you require more information, please contact us at:

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▲Alpenglow on Mont Blanc Tacul. Photo: Greg Hodges



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.

