



Trip Highlights

- Climb the highest mountain in Western Europe
- Climb in 3 different countries
- Discover the challenge and excitement of Mountaineering

Dates:

18-25 June

3 - 10 September

10-17 September

24 September—1 October

Price: €2100



Detailed Itinerary.

Day 1: Travel from Ireland/UK to Chamonix

This trip begins and ends at the White Chalet in Argentiere in the Chamonix valley. Your Guide will meet you before dinner to brief you on the itinerary for the week ahead. (Let us know if you need a transfer from the airport and we can book one for you)

Day 2: The guides will come to collect you at about 8.30 and drive 1 hr to Champex in Switzerland. From here you'll get a short lift up to 2188m then climb your way to Cabane D'Orny(2811m) where you will stay the night. Once you have checked into your room and had a short break you will go out onto the glacier d'Orny and learn essential glacier movement techniques.

Day 3: From the Hut you'll climb the Aiguille de Tour(3529m). The normal route is primarily a rock climb, starting first on easy glacier then gaining the ridge which leads to a feature called the Table. From here, a sharp jagged crest of granite spires is followed to the summit of the Aiguille du Tour. When you have made your back down you will continue down to le Tour, via a chair lift from Col du Balme to le Tour and back to the Chalet.

Day 4: Early start and up the breath taking Aiguille du Midi Cable car. From here you will traverse the spectacular glaciers of the valley blanche. This gives you a valuable opportunity to get used to walking roped up and with crampons, not to mention the altitude. You will spend the night across the valley in Italy at the Torino Hut (3375m).

Day 5: Today you will climb the Aiguille des Entreves traverse (3604m). This traverse offers a fun route on exposed rock, never extreme but always interesting. The views of the Tour Ronde, the south side of Mont Blanc du Tacul and the Brenva face on Mont Blanc are exceptional. You will descend back down to the glacier from the summit and make your back across and up to the Aiguille du Midi and back to Chalet for the night.

Day 6: You will have the morning to get the last bits and pieces you may need for your ultimate summit day. Then before the morning is out you will make your way by cable car and tram to the Nid d'Aigle (2380m). From here you will make your way up to the Gouter Hut (3800m)for the night. Getting there involves a fairly strenuous hike and scramble.

Day 7: Today you will start at about 3am. The summit day involves a vertical gain of 991 meters on spectacular glaciated terrain. Our descent is by the same route with almost 2500 meters down to the Nid d'Aigle railway station. You will not be back at the chalet before last afternoon.

Day 8: Last breakfast at the Chalet before departure.

Please note that this itinerary is an example of a Mt. Blanc week. Itineraries are variable and subject to change due to conditions, hut availability, the weather and group.

The Client to guide ratio for the training and acclimatisation days of this itinerary is 4:1, and for the summit days it is 2:1.



The trip price is €2100 per person based on a group size of 3 – 8 people.

The trip price includes:

- 6 days services of a UIAGM Mountain guide. At a ratio of 4:1 during training and acclimatisation and 2:1 for the summit days.
- 7 nights B&B in out chalet or in Mountain huts.
- 7 evening meals in either the chalet, local restaurants or mountain huts
- Road transportation during the week.
- All up lifts
- All group equipment



The trip price does not include:

- Flights to Geneva
- Return transfers from Geneva to the Chamonix valley
- Insurance, visas, personal equipment
- Lunches
- Incidental personal expenditure e.g. alcoholic drinks, laundry, snacks etc
- Any other items not mentioned as included.

Trip Difficulty

This trip is strenuous trip. You should have a good level of aerobic fitness. Hill walking fitness is most suitable. A good level of fitness will ensure that you enjoy the week to the full. You can expect to be on the go 6- 8 hours per day on a wide range of terrain. Sections of the itinerary take you across exposed ground. Not dissimilar to the exposure on the knife edge ridges surrounding Carrauntuohil and the 12 Bens, though somewhat more spectacular and breath taking.

Group Size

The minimum group size is 3 and the maximum is 6. As noted above you will spend the first part of your trip working in a Guide: Client ratio of 1:4 and the last part of your trip working on a ratio of 1:2

Getting there and away

The week begins and ends at the White Chalet in Argentiere in the Chamonix valley, which is easily accessible from. The nearest airport in Geneva. Transfers from Geneva to Chamonix take approximately 90mins and reservations can be made online as www.mountaindropoffs.com.

Important Note

When booking your travel arrangements, you must check with us that the minimum numbers have been reached to enable the trip to run. This can be done either by emailing the office.

Why Climb Mt. Blanc with Wilderplaces?

With a wide variety of companies offering Mt. Blanc weeks it is often difficult to know which to choose.

Apart from the weather, many of the factors which determine success on Mt. Blanc are controllable. Our itinerary is carefully designed by Robbie Fenlon, director of Wilderplaces and experienced Mountain guide. With over 50 successfully guided summits under his belt Robbie has learnt how to give clients the maximum opportunity for success.

The itinerary uses huts and peaks carefully chosen for their quality, acclimatisation potential and location. Where possible we use huts that are less frequented by the rest of the Mt. Blanc courses. This ensures a greater sense of wilderness.

Our high quality chalet accommodation provides you with a comfortable friendly atmosphere in which to re-charge before heading to the mountains. Having superb breakfasts and dinners put in front of you each night leaves you with nothing to do other than relax and repack for your next day on the hill. After all this is your holiday not a training camp!



Accommodation

Argentiere Chalet: When you are not in a Mountain refuge you will stay in a conveniently located chalet in the rustic village of Argentiere, Chamonix. The chalet is very comfortable and offers en-suite rooms. The service is fully catered and includes a cooked breakfast, afternoon tea, and dinner served with wine.

Mountain Refuge: When you are staying in huts you will be in dorm style rooms with other groups. Beds are generally made up of wall to wall thin mattresses. These can be quite cramped especially those located on Mt. Blanc itself as they are always fully booked throughout the summer season. Be prepared for basic wash room facilities and limited electricity and running water.

Single Room supplement at the Chalet

We do not charge single person supplements to people booking on their own. However you will be expected to share a room with another person of the same sex. However, it may be possible to book a single room, provided one is available. Please request at the time of booking and we will let you know if one is available and the relevant supplement charge.

Insurance

It is a condition of booking that you are insured against medical and personal accident risks. This must be for the activities undertaken and include repatriation costs, air ambulance and helicopter rescue services and cancellation and curtailment. We also recommend that you take out insurance which includes baggage cover. You can purchase insurance to cover all your needs from the British Mountaineering Council at www.thebmc.co.uk

About Wilderplaces

Wilderplaces Alpine is an Irish run company specialising in Alpine adventure holidays. Our company is based in the Chamonix valley and made up of Director and UIAGM Guide Robbie Fenlon assisted by a small team of dedicated guides from Sweden, America and England and backed up in the office by avid skier, climber and mountaineering Claire Michael.

We firmly believe that there is no substitute for experience, to this end all of our holidays have been exhaustively researched and personally assessed for quality and suitability.

Further Information

Please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone or email on the details provided.

