Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix

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SKI TOURING - HAUTE ROUTE CHAMONIX ZERMATT IN 6 DAYS

Duration: 6 | Fitness: ▲▲▲▲▲ | Technique: ▲▲▲▲▲ | Price from: 1 700 €

SKIING THE HAUTE ROUTE FROM CHAMONIX TO ZERMATT

The Haute Route is without doubt one of the most famous ski tours in the Alps. Launched in 1903 by members of the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix, it links these **two historic centres of mountaineering** via a series of mountain passes above 3,000 m and a peak at 3,800 m. The extraordinary beauty of the landscapes traversed makes it an absolute must for ski tourers. Despite its popularity, the Haute Route remains a **serious undertaking** requiring good ski touring experience and physical fitness. The itinerary takes you through some of the most spectacular landscapes in the Alps, from the Argentière Basin to the foot of the Matterhorn. If you are unable to free yourself for a full week but dream of experiencing the unique atmosphere of the Haute Route, the Verbier - Zermatt ski tour is an excellent alternative.

THE HAUTE ROUTE CHAMONIX ZERMATT IN 6 OR 7 DAYS?

The itinerary we offer is normally completed in 6 days. Two stages are slightly longer than the others: Argentière - Champex (day 2) and Les Vignettes - Zermatt (day 6). Over 7 days, the itinerary is almost identical: the stage between Les Vignettes and Zermatt is divided into two, with an additional night at the Bertol Refuge. If you are looking for a more evenly paced Haute Route or simply wish to enjoy its unique atmosphere for longer, we recommend the 7-day itinerary.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Grands Montets - Argentière Hut
From the top of the Bochard gondola (2,766 m), we make a short descending traverse on skis to reach the Lognan Glacier (2,700 m). We then skin up via the Col des Rachasses to the Rognons Glacier (3,050 m), from where we begin a magnificent descent to the Argentière Glacier (2,550 m). We put our skins back on to reach the Argentière Hut (2,771 m). Throughout the route, the views of the impressive north faces rising above the Argentière basin are spectacular. The rest of the day is dedicated to basic mountaineering techniques (cramponing) and safety skills (avalanche rescue).
Vertical ascent: 575 m / Vertical descent: 750 m

Day 2

Argentière Hut - Champex
We start with a short descent to the Passon moraine (2,380 m). The moraine is crossed on foot and may require the use of crampons. We then continue on skis to the foot of the Col du Passon (3,028 m), which we reach using crampons. We ski beneath the north face of the Chardonnet before putting our skins back on to cross the Tour Glacier and reach the Col Supérieur du Tour (3,289 m). We are now in Switzerland. A long descent of the Trient Glacier, followed by a short technical climb using crampons, takes us to the Col des Ecandies (2,796 m). A magnificent descent through the Val d'Arpette leads us to the village of Champex (1,480 m), where we spend the night in a comfortable guesthouse.
Vertical ascent: 1,100 m / Vertical descent: 2,300 m

Day 3

Champex - Prafleuri Hut
We reach the Verbier ski area by minibus. The ski lifts take us to the foot of the Col de la Chaux (2,940 m), our first climb of the day. We then continue to the Col de Momin (3,003 m), which gives access to the magnificent Grand Désert Glacier. We continue to the foot of the Rosablanche (3,336 m), which we can climb as an optional round trip, before descending to the welcoming Prafleuri Hut (2,662 m).

Vertical ascent: 700 m / Vertical descent: 900 m

Day 4

Prafleuri Hut - Dix Hut
We start the day with a short climb to the Col des Roux (2,804 m), from where we can see the rest of the day's route. A long descending traverse leads us to the far end of Lac des Dix. From here, we climb via the Pas du Chat (2,385 m) to the Dix Hut (2,928 m), dominated by the Mont Blanc de Cheilon (3,869 m).
Vertical ascent: 850 m / Vertical descent: 400 m

Day 5

Dix Hut - Vignettes Hut
We start with a short descent to reach the Tsena Refien Glacier, which we follow up to the Pigne d'Arolla (3,796 m). At around 3,600 m, the passage of the Serpentine may require the use of crampons. The summit of the Pigne d'Arolla is one of the finest viewpoints on the Haute Route and offers a spectacular panorama across the Alps. A beautiful descent to the Vignettes Hut (3,160 m) completes this magnificent glacial stage.
Vertical ascent: 1,000 m / Vertical descent: 640 m

Day 6

Vignettes Hut - Zermatt
We start with a short descent to reach the Mont Collon Glacier, which we climb to the Col de l'Evêque (3,392 m). We then descend the upper Arolla Glacier to La Vierge, where we put our skins back on to reach the foot of the Col du Mont Brûlé (3,213 m), which we climb using crampons. After a short descent, we continue to the Col de Valpelline (3,554 m), our final climb of the day. We then begin our long descent to Zermatt, passing beneath the Dent d'Hérens (4,171 m) and the Matterhorn (4,478 m). This is probably one of the most beautiful ski descents in the Alps. We arrive in Zermatt in the middle of the afternoon.
Vertical ascent: 1,130 m / Vertical descent: 2,730 m

GROUP BOOKING

The group option brings together participants who may not know each other. It is ideal for those looking for the friendly atmosphere of a group and an attractive price.

Group dates
See the group booking module below

2027 group price
1 745€ per person based on a minimum of 4 participants
Registration possible from age 18.

This price includes
- IFMGA English-speaking mountain guide
- Half-board accommodation in mountain huts (dinner, breakfast and overnight stay)
- Ski lift access as per programme
- Transfers as per programme
- Full safety kit provided: avalanche transceiver/DVA, shovel, probe and harness

This price does not include
- Cancellation and assistance-repatriation insurance
- Picnic lunches and daily snacks
- Personal drinks in the huts and other personal expenses; there is no running water in the huts (we recommend bringing euros and Swiss francs)
- Personal technical equipment
- Transport to the meeting point
- Transfer back from Zermatt to Chamonix (150€/person)

PRIVATE BOOKING

The private option allows you to travel with a group of your choice, accompanied by a mountain guide. More flexible, it allows you to choose your departure date according to hut availability and adapt the programme to your level, expectations and objectives.

2027 private prices
2 people: 3550€ per person

3 people: 2625€ per person
4 people: 2160€ per person
5 people: 1885€ per person
6 people: 1700€ per person

This price includes
- IFMGA English-speaking mountain guide
- Half-board accommodation in mountain huts (dinner, breakfast and overnight stay)
- Ski lift access as per programme
- Transfers as per programme
- Full safety kit provided: avalanche transceiver/DVA, shovel, probe and harness

This price does not include
- Cancellation and assistance-repatriation insurance
- Picnic lunches and daily snacks
- Personal drinks in the huts and other personal expenses; there is no running water in the huts (we recommend bringing euros and Swiss francs)
- Personal technical equipment
- Transport to the meeting point
- Transfer back from Zermatt to Chamonix (150€/person)

FURTHER INFORMATION

In this section, you will find all the practical information about this activity. To prepare for your trip, refer to the guides' tips, where our guides share their expertise and recommendations.

Meeting point
9.30am in front of the Grands Montets ticket office in Argentière. To limit traffic in the valley, we recommend using public transport (bus or train). The tour finishes in Zermatt. Optional transfer back to Chamonix (150€/person).

Itinerary
The programme is provided as a guideline and may be adjusted according to the group's level and mountain conditions.

⚠ **Splitboard information**
This trip is not suitable for splitboarding.

Technical level
Suitable for skiers who are confident skiing off-piste in all snow conditions, have good ski touring experience and are able to perform kick turns. Wide slopes with occasional narrow sections and inclines of up to 35°. Some mountain passes require the use of crampons and an ice axe.

Fitness level
For participants who regularly engage in endurance activities. Up to 1,200 m of ascent and 7 to 8 hours of effort per day.

Group size
Group of 4 to 6 participants per mountain guide.
Registration possible from age 18.

Accommodation
During the tour: accommodation in a guesthouse on day 2 and mountain huts on the other nights. A shower is available on day 2; there is no running water in the mountain huts. Before and after your trip, benefit from preferential rates with our hotel partners in Chamonix.

⚠ **Formalities**
Mountain sports insurance with repatriation cover is mandatory. We strongly recommend cancellation cover. Insurance can be purchased when you register.
Valid ID is mandatory.

EQUIPMENT

We recommend paying particular attention to the choice of your equipment, as it contributes greatly to the success of your trip. Weight is an important consideration: you should always find the right balance between weight and comfort.

Equipment

- A comfortable 35-litre backpack with attachments for skis and an ice axe
- Ski touring skis and boots, *available to rent*
- Climbing skins and ski crampons adapted to your skis, *available to rent*
- A pair of ski poles with large baskets, *available to rent*
- A pair of lightweight crampons with anti-balling plates and a lightweight ice axe, *available to rent*
- A safety kit including harness, avalanche transceiver/DVA, shovel and probe (provided by your guide)
- A ski touring / mountaineering helmet is recommended

Clothing
- A waterproof and windproof jacket with hood (Gore-Tex or equivalent), *available to rent*
- Waterproof and windproof trousers, *available to rent*
- A warm fleece jacket or equivalent
- A lightweight down jacket
- A long-sleeved top
- Medium-weight thermal underwear (top and bottoms, which can also be used as pyjamas)
- Warm ski socks
- A warm ski hat and a sun hat or cap
- Warm ski gloves or mittens
- A pair of lightweight gloves (leather or fleece)
- A neck warmer
- Spare thermal underwear (for sleeping and changing)

Accessories
- Category 4 sunglasses
- Ski goggles
- A headlamp with spare batteries
- A cotton or silk sleeping bag liner, compulsory in mountain huts (blankets and slippers or clogs are provided)
- A 1.5 L water bottle
- An insulated bottle
- A small personal first-aid and toiletry kit including sunscreen, lip balm, painkillers, blister treatment, earplugs and toilet paper
- A waterproof pouch containing your ID and euros for personal expenses

Our rental partners
You can rent your equipment at preferential rates from our partner shops: Millet (excluding crampons, ice axes and helmet), Sanglard Sports, Ravanel & Co & Concept Pro Shop.

Our equipment partners
Millet, Dynastar, Julbo, Grivel & Monnet