Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix

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SKI TOURING - COSY BIVOUAC IN THE SWISS VALAIS

Duration: 2 | Fitness: ▲▲▲▲△ | Technique: ▲▲▲△△ | Price from: 475 €

SKI TOURING & REMOTE HUT EXPERIENCE IN THE SWISS VALAIS

Perched at the foot of the Dents du Midi in the Swiss Valais, the Dents du Midi bivouac offers an extraordinary vantage point overlooking the high peaks of the Valais and Mont Blanc massifs. Although unstaffed in winter, the hut provides a high level of comfort with a wood-burning stove, cooking equipment and comfortable beds. Spending the night in this remote mountain hut offers a **unique experience** in the heart of the winter mountains. The varied itinerary takes you through the valleys of Susanfe, Emaney and Fenestral, close to Lake Emosson. To fully enjoy the tranquility of the area and take your time, this trip relies entirely on public transport. It is designed for participants with previous ski touring experience who want to discover a wild and unspoilt part of the Swiss Alps.

DISCOVER ANOTHER SKI TOURING EXPERIENCE IN THE VALAIS

If you are looking for a similar experience with less elevation gain, we recommend our two-day trip with a night at the Cabane de Fenestral, starting from the Ovronnaz ski resort in the Swiss Valais.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Start in Chamonix, where we catch our train to the small family ski resort of les Marécottes, Switzerland (1 100m). The ski lifts leave us at 2200m, starting point of our adventure. We reach the Col de la Golette (2 470m) by ski and then by foot, to access the wild Salanfe Valley. We ski down a gentle, great slope, often with fresh powder, all the way to the lake (1 900m), which is completely ice-covered in the winter. We cross it and start the way up to the Dents du Midi refuge (2 885m). Cosy night at the hut.
Elevation gain: 1250m / Elevation loss: 550m

Day 2

We start our day with the beautiful descent of the Combe du Sé Rouge, which leads us to Lake Salanfe (2,050 m). We follow the impressive east face of the Tour Salière up to Col d'Emaney (2,460 m), providing access to the wild Vallon d'Emaney. The initial descent requires some caution, but the slopes then widen, taking us all the way down to the Vallon (2,000 m), at the foot of the Aboillon peaks. We continue our descent through the Vallon d'Emaney, exiting around 1,600 m to reach the Marécottes ski area. From there, we descend to the village to catch the train back to Chamonix, arriving in the mid-afternoon.
Elevation gain: 600m / Elevation loss: 2000m

GROUP BOOKING

The group formula brings together participants who do not necessarily know each other. It allows you to follow a set program at an attractive price on fixed dates. This formula is ideal for those who enjoy the friendly atmosphere of a group.

Dates
See below for the group booking module

Price 2027

500€ per person, based on a minimum of 4 participants
Registration is possible from the age of 18.

This price includes
- IFMGA English-speaking mountain guide
- Half-board in an unstaffed mountain hut (dinner, breakfast and overnight stay)
- Ski lifts and public transport mentioned in the program
- Safety equipment: avalanche transceiver, shovel and probe

This price does not include
- Picnic lunches and snacks
- Mountain sports insurance with repatriation and cancellation cover
- Personal drinks
- Personal technical equipment

PRIVATE BOOKING

A private booking is the traditional relationship between a guide and their clients. It allows you to be alone or with your own group and gives your guide the flexibility to meet your specific needs. It is undoubtedly the ideal formula for carrying out your own projects, offering maximum flexibility and comfort. You are free to choose your departure date (depending on availability) and the itinerary can be adjusted according to your specific expectations.

Itinerary modification
Depending on the conditions, the itinerary described for Day 2 may be extended after the descent from Col d'Emaney, with an ascent to Col de Fenestral (2,450 m), followed by a descent to the village of Finhaut (1,300 m). This option provides a similar elevation gain on Days 1 and 2 (approximately 1,250 m each).

Prices 2027
2 people: 1080€ per person
3 people: 775€ per person
4 people: 625€ per person
5 people: 535€ per person
6 people: 475€ per person

This price includes
- IFMGA English-speaking mountain guide
- Half-board in an unstaffed mountain hut (dinner, breakfast and overnight stay)
- Ski lifts and public transport mentioned in the program
- Safety equipment: avalanche transceiver, shovel and probe

This price does not include
- Picnic lunches and snacks
- Mountain sports insurance with repatriation and cancellation cover
- Personal drinks
- Personal technical equipment

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

Meeting point
⚠ **Due to the specific logistics of this trip, it is essential that you arrive on time**
7:15am at the Chamonix train station. Please do not confuse it with the nearby Montenvers railway station

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

Technical level
For skiers who are confident skiing off-piste in all snow conditions, have good ski touring experience and are comfortable performing kick turns. Wide slopes with occasional narrow sections up to 35°

Fitness level

For participants who regularly practise endurance sports. Vertical ascent of up to 1,300 m per day. 6 to 7 hours of physical activity per day

Guiding policy
Groups of 4 to 6 participants per mountain guide. *Registration is possible from the age of 18.*

Accommodation
Night in an unstaffed mountain hut. Before and after the trip, benefit from special rates with our hotel partners in Chamonix

⚠ **Formalities**
Mountain sports insurance with repatriation cover is mandatory. If you are not insured, you can take out repatriation and cancellation insurance when booking. A 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 a key factor; you should always consider the balance between weight and comfort to find the best compromise.

Equipment
- A comfortable 35 L backpack with attachments for skis
- Ski touring skis and boots, *available for rent*
- Climbing skins and ski crampons adapted to your skis, *available for rent*
- A pair of crampons, *available for rent*
- A pair of poles with large baskets, *available for rent*
- Safety equipment: avalanche transceiver, shovel and probe (provided by your guide *under your responsibility*)

Clothing
- Waterproof and windproof jacket with hood (Gore-Tex or equivalent), *available for rent*
- Waterproof and windproof trousers, *available for rent*
- A fleece jacket
- A light down jacket
- A long-sleeved base layer
- Thermal underwear (top and bottoms)
- Warm ski socks
- A warm hat and a sun hat or cap
- Warm ski gloves or mittens
- A pair of lightweight gloves (leather or fleece)
- A neck warmer
- Spare clothing as required

Accessories
- High-altitude sunglasses (category 4 recommended)
- Ski goggles
- A headlamp with spare batteries
- A sleeping bag liner
- A water bottle of at least 1.5 L
- An insulated bottle
- A small personal first-aid kit including sunscreen, lip balm, earplugs, blister treatment, headache medication and toilet paper
- A waterproof bag containing your ID and Euros

Our Rental Partners
You can rent your equipment at special rates from our partner shops: Millet (excluding crampons, ice axes and helmets), Sanglard Sports, Ravanel & Co & Concept Pro Shop

Our Equipment Partners
Millet, Dynastar, Julbo, Grivel & Monnet