

# Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix

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# SKI TOURING - VALLEE BLANCHE

Duration: 2 Level: ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ A Price from: 440 €

In the majestic background of the Vallée Blanche, hit the slopes for a total immersion in the high mountains. A unique occasion to take the time to enjoy the exceptional atmosphere of the area. This programme offers you a slow approach to contemplate and discover the high mountains in wintertime. You will spend the night at the mythic refuge du Requin, boasting a breath-taking view on the impressive serac fall of the Glacier du Géant. After spending your first day at the heart of the Vallée Blanche, on your second day you will discover the Leschaux area, at the foot of the Grandes Jorasses north face.

The unique setting of the Mont-Blanc massif, with its rocky peaks and glaciers, has always defined the reputation of the Chamonix valley and its mountains. To fully immerse yourself in this dramatic environment, we have set a series of ski tours that complete this trip. These experiences will enable you to explore the Argentière Glacier and the Tour Glacier, or venture to the renowned Col du Passon.

# **ITINERARY**

#### Day 1

We ride the tram up to the Aiguille du Midi, and ski down the easy slope to Rognon mountain pass. From there we ski under the East face of Mont Blanc du Tacul until Combe Maudite, located between the Tour Ronde and the Aiguille d'Entrèves. The glacier is very chaotic and we must meander through many crevasses on our way up to the high altitude Entrèves pass (3 527 m). We take time to admire the gorgeous view of the mountains above Courmayeur in Italy, with Gran Paradiso in the distance, the Vanoise and Ecrins ranges in the French Alps. We ski down toward the Géant seracs, then get to the Requin hut (2 512 m), perched on a rocky outcrop surrounded by glaciers and splendid granite towers. This is our stop for the night. Elevation gain:  $350 \text{ m} \pm 1 \text{ 155 ft}$  / Vertical loss:  $1 \text{ 400m} \pm 4 \text{ 620 ft}$ .

#### Day 2

After a short descent towards the famous « salle à manger » (the dining room) and the Tacul glacier, we turn right on the Leschaux glacier, just before Mer de Glace. Then we continue up the glacier until we reach the base of the Grandes Jorasses. The view over one of the most impressive North faces of the Alps is purely breathtaking! Here stands a hardcore mountaineers' dream! Our alpine adventure ends at the so-called "Cairn 2716m" point, just under the Leschaux peak. On the way down we follow a classic route down Vallée Blanche on Mer de Glace. Snow conditions may allow us to ski down all the way to Chamonix, or stop at the Montenvers.

Elevation gain: 600 m / Vertical loss: 1 400m (Montenvers) or 2 050m (Chamonix)

## **GROUP BOOKING**

Group session associates several people who don't know each other. It allows for a planned program to benefit from an attractive price on fixed dates. This formula is ideal for people looking for the friendliness of a group.

Dates: See below for the group booking module

Price 2024: 465€ per person - based on 4 persons minimum

Included in the package:

- mountain guiding service
- half-board in mountain huts (dinner, breakfast and night)

- lift access
- avalanche transceiver (DVA), shovel, probe and harness rental

Not included in the package:

- take out lunches and daily snacks
- personal drinks, (no drinkable water available at the hut, only bottle)
- personal technical equipment, personal expenses (bring some extra cash: euros)

## **PRIVATE BOOKING**

A private booking is the historical relationship that binds a guide to his/her client. It allows you to be alone, or in a constituted group, with your guide that meets your specific needs. It is undoubtedly the ideal formula to realize your projects because it guarantees you a maximum of comfort. You are free to choose your departure date (depending on the availability of the huts) and the itinerary can be adjusted, according to your specific expectations.

#### Prices 2024:

2 people : 880€ per person 3 people : 660€ per person 4 people : 550€ per person 5 people : 485€ per person 6 people : 440€ per person

#### Included in the package:

- mountain guiding service
- half-board in mountain huts (dinner, breakfast and night)
- lift access
- avalanche transceiver (DVA), shovel, probe and harness rental

Not included in the package:

- take out lunches and daily snacks
- personal drinks, (no drinkable water available at the hut, only bottle)
- personal technical equipment, personal expenses (bring some extra cash: euros)

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

In this section, find all the information about this activity. To prepare your trip effectively, refer to the guides' tips. They share their expertise and recommendations, ensuring you have a great experience.

Meeting point: Meet at 08:30 at the Info point of the Aiguille du Midi lift

**Fitness level :** For people who occasionally exercise/take part in sports. Vertical ascent of up to 900m per day. Five to six hours of exercise per day. Lightweight backpack. You will need to carry your skis talong the Aiguille du Midi ridge.

**Technical level :** For skiers with experience in off-piste. Wide, shallow slopes (up to 30°). Good skiing ability in easy snow conditions. A first experience in ski touring is recommended but not mandatory.

**Guiding policy :** 4 to 6 people.

**Accommodation :** During the trip: Half-board in hut.

Before & after the trip: We have some hotel partners in Chamonix with special prices for our customers.

**Documentation:** Participants must have mountain sports insurance with repatriation cover. We strongly recommend that this also includes cancellation cover. You can take out insurance when you sign up. Participants must also take valid ID with them

## **EQUIPMENT**

We recommend you to pay particular attention to the choice of your equipment. It contributes greatly to the success of your stay. Weight is decisive: you always have to evaluate the ratio weight/comfort, to find the best compromise.

#### **Equipment**

- Comfortable frameless rucksack of 35I on which you could fix your skis & ice-axe, rentable

- Ski touring skis & shoes, rentable
- Adhesive climbing skins & ski knifes adapted to your skis, rentable
- A pair of poles with large discs, rentable
- A pair of light crampons
- An ice-axe, (optional and rentable)
- A security pack including harness, DVA, shovel & probe this pack will be lend by your guide

#### Clothing

- Waterproof and windproof, non-insulated parka with hood (Gore-tex or equivalent), rentable
- Waterproof and windproof, non-insulated pants, rentable
- Thick polar-pile fleece jacket or equivalent
- A light down jacket
- 1 long-sleeve shirt
- Medium weight thermal underwear (top + bottoms, silk or polypro, double as pyjamas)
- Warm ski socks
- Warm ski hat and light sun hat with brim
- Warm ski gloves or mittens
- A pair of thinner/finer gloves (in leather or fleece)
- Neck protection
- Spare thermal underwear (for sleeping and change)

#### **Accessories**

- High-altitude sunglasses (grade 4 is recommended)
- A pair of goggles
- 1.5L water bottle
- An isotherm bottle
- A mini toilet bag including: sun block for face and lips, aspirin, elastoplast, 2nd skin kit, earplug, toilet paper
- A headlamp with spare batteries
- A cotton or silk sleeping sheet: compulsory in every hut. Hut provide blankets, slippers or clogs
- A plastic bag containing your ID card & Euros for extras

**Our Rental Partners:** You can rent your equipment with our rental shops partners and benefit from special price Sanglard Sports, Ravanel & Co & Concept Pro Shop

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