



Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix

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SKI TOURING - HAUTE ROUTE CHAMONIX ZERMATT IN 6 DAYS

Duration: 6

Level: ▲▲▲▲▲

Price from: 1 575 €

The Haute Route is without doubt the most famous ski tour 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 3000m mountain passes and a 3800m peak. The extraordinary beauty of the landscapes traversed makes it an absolute must for ski tourers. Despite its popularity, this tour is a serious undertaking requiring good levels of skiing experience and physical fitness. This tour leads you through some of the most spectacular parts of the Alps, from the Argentière Basin to the lower slopes of the Matterhorn, and a total escape.

The Haute Route Chamonix Zermatt - 6 or 7 days?

The suggested itinerary normally takes 6 days. Two sections are a bit longer than the others: Argentière - Champex (day 2) and Les Vignettes - Zermatt (day 6). On 7 days, the itinerary is almost the same, but the section Les Vignettes - Zermatt includes an extra night in refuge Bertol. If you prefer a uniform itinerary, or if you just wish to enjoy the Haute Route atmosphere for longer, we suggest picking the [7-day itinerary](#).

If you are not able to free yourself for a full week but you dream of discovering the Haute Route atmosphere, then the [Verbier - Zermatt ski tour](#) is perfect for you.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Following the fire that hit the cable car of les Grands Montets in 2018, the classic itinerary is modified. We start from Bochard lift (2 766m), we join Lognan glacier (2 700m). We skin up to Rognons glacier (3 050m) through the Rachasses pass. We ski down to Argentière glacier. The Argentière glacier is mostly flat at this stage, making the ski tour to the refuge short and easy. We stay overnight at the Argentière hut (2 771m). The view over the impressive north faces rising high above Argentière glacier is stunning!

Vertical ascent: 575m / Vertical descent: 750m

Day 2

We start with a short climb up to the Passon moraine (2 380m). We cross the moraine on foot and may have to use crampons. The climb now continues on skis to the foot of the Col du Passon (3 028m), which we reach using crampons. We now ski beneath the north face of the Chardonnet. We put our skins back on to cross the Tour glacier to reach the Col Supérieur du Tour (3 289m). We are now in Switzerland. A long descent of the Trient glacier followed by a short, technical climb in crampons takes us to the Col des Ecardies (2 796m). There is now a magnificent descent through the Val d'Arpette to the village of Champex (1 480m) where we spend the night in a comfortable gîte.

Vertical ascent: 1 100m / Vertical descent: 1 850m

Day 3

We go by minibus to the Verbier ski area. The ski lifts take us to the foot of the Col de la Chaux (2 940m), which is our first climb. Next we reach the Col de Momin (3 003m), which gives access to the magnificent Grand Désert glacier. We continue to the lower slopes of the Rosablanche (3 336m), which we can climb as a round-trip from here, before descending to the charming Prafleuri hut (2 662m).

Vertical ascent: 700m / Vertical descent: 900m

Day 4

We start the day with a short climb to the Col des Roux (2 804m) from where we can see the rest of the day's route. A long descending traverse leads us to one end of the Dix lake. From here we climb up via the Pas du Chat (2 385m) to the Dix hut (2 928m), which is dominated by the Mont Blanc de Cheilon (3 869m).

Vertical ascent: 850m / Vertical descent: 400m

Day 5

Our days begins with a short descent to reach the Tsena Refien glacier, along which we make our way up to the Pigne d'Arolla (3 796m). At around 3600m we might have to use crampons on the 'passage de la Serpentine'. The summit of the Pigne d'Arolla is one of the best viewing points on the Haute Route, with panoramic views across the Alps. This stunning glacier stage concludes with the beautiful descent to the Vignettes hut (3 160m).

Vertical ascent: 1 000m / Vertical descent: 640m

Day 6

We start with a short descent to the Mont Collon glacier, which we climb up to reach the Col de l'Evêque (3 392m). We next descend the upper Arolla glacier to the Vierge where we put on our skins to reach the foot of the Col du Mont Brulé (3 213m), which we climb using crampons. After a short descent, we go to the Col de Valpelline (3554m), which is our last climb. The time has come to commence our descent to Zermatt and probably one of the most beautiful descents in the Alps, passing beneath the Dent d'Hérens (4 171m) and the Matterhorn (4 478m). We reach Zermatt mid-afternoon.

Vertical ascent: 1 130m / Vertical descent: 2 730m

This programme is meant as a guide only. Depending on the abilities of the group and the conditions in the mountains, your mountain guide may alter the route.

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 : 1575 € per person based on minimum of 4 participants

Included in the package :

- IFMGA English speaking mountain guiding service
- half-board in mountain huts (dinner, breakfast and night)
- take out lunches and daily snacks: pack a little bit of space in your backpack
- ski lift access as per programme
- transfers as per programme
- rental of full safety kit (avalanche transceiver/DVA, shovel, probe)

Not included in the package :

- cancellation, assistance-repatriation insurance
- personal drinks in huts and other personal expenses, no tap water (we recommend you bring Euros and Swiss Francs)
- personal technical equipment
- transfer to the meeting point and transfer back from Zermatt to Chamonix

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 : 3175€ per person

3 people : 2405€ per person

4 people : 2025€ per person

5 people : 1790€ per person

6 people : 1575€ per person

Included in the package :

- IFMGA English speaking mountain guiding service
- half-board in mountain huts (dinner, breakfast and night)
- take out lunches and daily snacks

- ski lift access as per programme
- transfers as per programme
- rental of full safety kit (avalanche transceiver/DVA, shovel, probe)

Not included in the package :

- cancellation, assistance-repatriation insurance
- personal drinks in huts and other personal expenses, no tap water (we recommend you bring Euros and Swiss Francs)
- personal technical equipment
- transfer to the meeting point and transfer back from Zermatt to Chamonix (135€/pers)

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 : 09:30 in front of the Grands Montets (Argentière) ticket office. Contact us if you are having difficulty getting to Argentière from Chamonix. Tour finishes in Zermatt. In order to limit traffic in the valley, we recommend using [public transport](#) (bus or train). Optional transfer back to Chamonix (135€/person)

Fitness level : For people who regularly exercise/take part in endurance sports and are experienced ski tourers. Vertical ascent of up to 1300m per day. Seven to eight hours of exercise per day. You will carry your backpack including mountaineering equipment (crampons and ice axe), as well as your skis. Altitudes of under 4000m.

Technical level : For advanced ski tourers. Varied slopes, a few technical sections (slopes up to 35°). Strong technique in all snow conditions required. Knowledge of basic mountaineering techniques (walking with crampons and ice axe) and kick turns needed.

Note : this trip is not appropriate for splitboarding.

Guiding policy : 4 to 6 people.

Accommodation : During the trip: half-board in huts. Showers available on day 2. No drinking water.

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 35l on which you could fix your skis & ice-axe,
- Ski touring skis & shoes, *rentable*
- Adhesive climbing skins & ski knives adapted to your skis, *rentable*
- A pair of poles with large discs, *rentable*
- A pair of light crampons with anti-balling plates & an ice-axe, *rentable*
- A security pack including harness, DVA, shovel & probe - this pack will be lend by your guide.
- We recommend an helmet for ski touring / mountaineering

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](#)