Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix

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MOUNTAINEERING - WINTER MOUNTAINEERING COURSE

Duration: 3 | Fitness: ▲▲▲△△ | Technique: ▲▲▲▲△ | Price from: 775 €

Our Winter Mountaineering Course is the seasonal counterpart of our Autonomy & Safety - Level 2 course within our mountaineering program. It focuses on ridge climbing techniques in mixed conditions. A hallmark of our courses, the exclusive ratio of 3 to 4 participants per guide ensures personalized coaching and a program tailored to your needs. This course is ideal for those looking to progress step by step, through a learning process focused on self-reliance.

The course is centered on mixed ridge climbs. After one day dedicated to ice climbing, you will move on to ascents either in the Vallée Blanche area or in the Aiguilles Rouges. Enrollment requires essential prerequisites to ensure optimal skills development: you must master belaying techniques in a climbing setting (including abseiling) and be able to lead climb at French grade 4c. Ideally, you have completed our Autonomy & Safety Level 1 course or an equivalent. For beginners wishing to discover winter mountaineering, we recommend our Ice Climbing Discovery Course or our Ice Climbing Day.

Objectives of the Winter Mountaineering Course
- Mastery of the fundamental techniques of ice climbing
- Mastery of basic safety techniques for mixed ridge climbing
- Risk management: decision-making tools

ITINERARY

Day 1

Ice-Climbing
Ice climbing at the Bérard ice climbing area in Vallorcine. Depending on conditions, this day may take place on the Mer de Glace.

Day 2

Route from Pointe Helbronner (3642m)
This day is focused on a snow route. We will climb Petit Flambeau (3407m), Aiguille de Toule (3534m) or a corridor in les Marbrées.

Day 3

Route from Aiguille du Midi (3842m)
This day is focused on an ice or mixed route. Pointe Lachenal (3613m), Arête à Laurence or itinerary to the Cosmiques ridge (3800m).

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 2026 : 775€ per person based on minimum of 3 participants
Registration possible from age 18

Included in the package :
- IFMGA English speaking mountain guiding service
- lifts tickets
- transfer to Italy (Day2)
- Technical ice axes (ice climbing) provided
- Snowshoes provided

Not included in the package :
- accommodations in Chamonix
- all meals
- cost of getting to meeting point
- personal technical equipment

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 and the itinerary can be adjusted, according to your specific expectations.

Prices 2026 :
2 people : 1310€ per person
3 people : 955€ per person
4 people : 775€ per person

Included in the package :
- IFMGA English speaking mountain guiding service
- lifts tickets
- transfer to Italy (Day2)
- technical equipment: crampons, ice axes, harness, helmet & DVA

Not included in the package :
- all meals
- personal drinks and other personal expenses (we recommend you bring Euros)
- cost of getting to meeting point
- personal technical equipment
- accommodations in Chamonix

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 am at the Compagnie des Guides office in Chamonix - 190, place de l'eglise - 74400 Chamonix

Physical level : For people who regularly exercise or take part in sports. Four to five hours of exercise per day in winter conditions (cold, deep snow)

Technical level : I master belaying techniques in a climbing setting and I am able to lead climb at French grade 4c ans also have experience with crampons. Ideally, I have completed the Autonomy & Safety Level 1 course or an equivalent

Guiding policy : Our guiding policy is to have 3 to 4 people per guide. Registration possible from age 18

Accommodation : No accommodation during the trip. We have 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. In a general way, it is better to pile up several light coats rather than wear one big clothing.

Equipment
- Bag pack (about 35-40 litres)
- Mountaineering boots compatible with semi-automatic crampons
- A pair of gaiters if your pant is not equipped
- A pair of telescopic poles
- A pair of crampons, helmet, harness & ice axe
- Mandatory technical equipment :
- 1 lanyard (adjustable if possible) with 1 screwgate carabiner
- 1 directional screwgate carabiner
- 1 belay device with 2 screwgate carabiners whose 1 HMS type
- 2 slings (120 cm) with straight-gate carabiners
- 2 quickdraws
- 1 screwgate carabiner HMS type (with nothing on)
- 1 cord type Machard or Prussik with 1 simple carabiner or screwgate carabiner

Clothing
- Waterproof and windproof, non-insulated parka with hood (Gore-tex or equivalent)
- Waterproof and windproof, non-insulated pants
- Thick polar-pile fleece jacket or equivalent
- 1 long-sleeve shirt
- Medium weight thermal underwear (top + bottoms, silk or polypro, double as pyjamas)
- Warm socks
- Warm ski hat and light sun hat with brim
- Warm ski gloves or mittens
- A pair of adjusted gloves allowing you to easily handle material,
- Neck protection,
- Spare thermal underwear (for sleeping and change), down vest, T-shirt (s)

Accessories
- High-altitude sunglasses (grade 4 is recommended)
- 1.0 or 1.5 quart water bottle (insulate if possible)
- Sun block for face and lips
- Aspirin, elastoplast, 2nd skin kit
- Camera

Our Rental Partners : You can rent your equipment with our rental shops partners and benefit from special price Millet (excluding crampons, ice axes and helmet), Sanglard Sports, Ravanel & Co & Concept Pro Shop
Our Equipment Partners : Millet, Dynastar, Julbo, Grivel & Monnet