Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix

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MOUNTAINEERING - WINTER MOUNTAINEERING COURSE

Duration: 3 | Fitness: ▲▲▲△△ | Technique: ▲▲▲▲△ | Price from: 785 €

DEVELOP YOUR WINTER MOUNTAINEERING SKILLS IN CHAMONIX

Our Winter Mountaineering Course is the winter counterpart of our Autonomy & Safety Level 2 course. Over 3 days, you will develop the techniques required for mixed ridge climbing, where snow, ice and rock combine. After a first day dedicated to ice climbing, you will complete two mountaineering routes in the Mont Blanc massif, selected according to conditions.

This course is designed for mountaineers looking to become more independent in winter conditions. You must be confident with climbing belay techniques, be able to lead French grade 4c and have previous experience using crampons. Ideally, you have completed our Autonomy & Safety Level 1 course or have equivalent experience. With 3 to 4 participants per guide, the routes and learning objectives can be adapted to the level of the group.

Course objectives
- Master the fundamental techniques of ice climbing
- Master essential safety techniques for mixed ridge climbing
- Develop decision-making and risk management skills

ITINERARY

Day 1

Ice Climbing in the Valley
We dedicate the first day to learning and developing ice climbing techniques at the Bérard training site in Vallorcine. Depending on conditions, this day may also take place on the Mer de Glace.

Day 2

Mountaineering Route from Pointe Helbronner (3,462 m)
We complete a mountaineering route in the Vallée Blanche area, focusing on ridge climbing techniques. Depending on conditions, possible routes include the Petit Flambeau (3,407 m), Aiguille de Toule (3,534 m) or Aiguilles Marbrées (3,535 m).

Day 3

Mountaineering Route from the Aiguille du Midi (3,842 m)
We continue developing ridge climbing techniques with another mountaineering route in the Vallée Blanche area. Depending on conditions, we may climb the Pointes Lachenal traverse (3,613 m). We return to the valley in the middle of the afternoon.

GROUP BOOKING

The group option brings together participants who may not know each other. It allows you to follow a set program on fixed dates while benefiting from an attractive price and the friendly atmosphere of a group.

Dates
See the group booking module below.

Price 2027
€785 per person based on a minimum of 3 participants.
Registration possible from age 18.

This price includes
- IFMGA English-speaking mountain guide
- Lift tickets mentioned in the program
- Round-trip transfer to Italy
- Technical ice axes provided
- Snowshoes provided

This price does not include
- Accommodation in Chamonix during the course
- Picnic lunches
- Transportation to the meeting points
- Personal technical equipment

PRIVATE BOOKING

The private option allows you to take this course with your own group and benefit from a guide dedicated exclusively to you. You can choose your departure date, and the program can be adjusted according to your level, mountain conditions and expectations.

Prices 2027
2 people: €1330 per person
3 people: €970 per person
4 people: €785 per person

This price includes
- IFMGA English-speaking mountain guide
- Lift tickets mentioned in the program
- Round-trip transfer to Italy
- Technical ice axes provided
- Snowshoes provided

This price does not include
- Accommodation in Chamonix during the course
- Picnic lunches
- Transportation to the meeting points
- Personal technical equipment

FURTHER INFORMATION

To prepare for your trip, read our guides' tips, which provide useful advice and recommendations for our mountaineering trips.

Meeting point
Meet at 8:30am on the first day at the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix, 190 place de l'Église, Chamonix.

Technical level
You must be confident with climbing belay techniques, be able to lead French grade 4c and have previous experience using crampons. Ideally, you have completed the Autonomy & Safety Level 1 course or have equivalent experience.

Fitness level
This program is designed for people who regularly take part in physical activity. Days may involve up to 6 to 7 hours of physical effort.

Guiding policy
3 to 4 participants per guide. *Registration possible from age 18.*

Accommodation
Accommodation in Chamonix is not included in the course. You can benefit from preferential rates with our hotel partners in Chamonix.

⚠ **Formalities**
Mountain sports insurance with repatriation cover is mandatory. If you are not insured, insurance including repatriation assistance and cancellation cover can be taken out when booking. A valid ID document is also mandatory.

EQUIPMENT

We recommend paying particular attention to your choice of equipment, as it directly contributes to your comfort during the course. Choose equipment suitable for winter conditions and use several layers to provide effective protection from cold and moisture.

Equipment
- A backpack of approximately 35 litres
- Rigid mountaineering boots compatible with semi-automatic crampons
- Gaiters if required with your trousers
- Crampons with anti-balling plates
- A helmet
- A harness
- A classic mountaineering ice axe

Mandatory technical equipment
- 1 lanyard, preferably adjustable, with a screwgate carabiner
- 1 directional screwgate carabiner
- 1 reversible belay device, excluding figure-eight devices, with 2 screwgate carabiners including 1 HMS carabiner
- 2 x 120cm slings with straight-gate carabiners
- 2 quickdraws
- 1 additional HMS screwgate carabiner
- 1 Machard or Prusik cord with a straight-gate or screwgate carabiner

Clothing
- A warm hat suitable for wearing under a helmet
- A neck warmer such as a Buff
- A technical long-sleeve base layer
- A fleece
- A waterproof hooded jacket such as Gore-Tex
- A down jacket
- Thermal leggings
- Waterproof mountaineering trousers such as Gore-Tex (avoid ski trousers)
- Warm socks
- Close-fitting gloves allowing you to handle equipment easily
- Ski gloves or mittens

Accessories
- Category 4 sunglasses
- An insulated bottle of at least 1 litre
- Sunscreen and lip balm
- Blister treatment

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

Our Equipment Partners
Millet, Dynastar, Julbo, Grivel and Monnet.