



# Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix

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## VALLEE BLANCHE - OVERNIGHT AT THE COSMIQUES HUT

Duration: 1.5

Level: ▲▲▲▲▲

Price from: 395 €

Located by the Col du Midi and at the foot of Aiguille du Midi, at 3613 meters above sea level, the Cosmiques hut is one of a kind. Second highest mountain hut in France after the refuge du Goûter (3 815m), it once was a laboratory for the study of cosmic rays. The current structure was built in 1991 and is now operated by the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix. In its basement, the refuge still hosts research activities carried out by the National Centre for Scientific Research. A night at the refuge des Cosmiques guarantees a total immersion in the high mountain world, where the sunrise and sunset are unforgettable.

Aiguille du Midi summit - 3,842m. Panoramic views of Mont-Blanc and 4,000m peaks: Grandes Jorasses, Dent du Géant, Aiguille Verte... A breathtaking landscape featuring glaciers and rocky peaks. The descent from Aiguille du Midi, equipped with fixed ropes in the winter season, provides access to the Vallée Blanche ski route: 23 kilometers and 2,000 meters of elevation gain in an exceptional glacial environment. Skiing across slopes and bowls, you'll navigate through seracs and crevasses. Optionally, take a lunch break at Refuge du Requin, facing the impressive serac fall of Glacier du Géant. At the snout of Mer de Glace, two options for returning to Chamonix exist. Traditionally, the cable car from the glacier connects you to the Montanvers train, then Chamonix. With excellent snow conditions, skiing down to the valley is possible. A walk of about 25 minutes with an elevation gain of 200 meters is required to reach Mottets Hut at 1,650m before continuing on skis.

### GROUP BOOKING

The group formula associates people who do not necessarily know each other. It is ideal for people looking for group friendliness and attractive prices. **No snowboarders in group booking, only in private booking**

**Dates (group booking) : Sunday to Monday**, see on-line booking. **The date should be read as referring to the night at the Cosmiques hut**

**Guiding policy (group booking) :** Group from 4 to 6 people per guide. Children, minimum 16 years old accompanied by a parent

**Meeting point (group booking) :** 3.30pm at the bottom of the Aiguille du Midi (Info Point)

**Price 2024 (group booking) :** 395€ per person

This price includes :

- mountain guiding service
- glacier and Avalanche safety equipment (harness,transceiver)
- Half board in hut (night, dinner and breakfast)
- lift passes

This price does not include :

- ski equipment
- drinks at the hut
- snack
- sleeping bag liner compulsory at the hut

**Group :** The group is assured with a minimum of 4 people

## PRIVATE BOOKING

A private booking is the historic relationship between a guide and their clients. It allows you to be alone or in a group of friends with your guide where the guide organizes your outing to suit your specific needs. It is undoubtedly the ideal formula to ski the route of your choice.

**For the snowboarders :** Due to the natural configuration of the glaciers, the classic route of the Vallée Blanche is not very steep and therefore is not recommended for snowboarders. Several steeper variants (Petit et Moyen Envers du Plan for example) are better adapted for snowboarders. The level required for these variants is equivalent to that of a black slope in off-slope conditions (changing and deep snow). **Telescopic poles are mandatory** to help your descent on the final part of the glacier.

**Dates (private booking) :** Except Friday and Saturday evening and subject to availability at the refuge

**Meeting point (private booking) :** Your guide will call you the evening before your trip around 6.30pm to organize the meeting time and place

**Guiding policy (private booking) :** Group from 1 to 6 people. 16 years old minimum accompanied by a parent

**Route (private booking) :** On request depending on the conditions

**Rates 2024 (private booking) :**

- 2 people : 610€ per person
- 3 people : 480€ per person
- 4 people : 415€ per person
- 5 people : 380€ per person
- 6 people : 355€ per person

The price include :

- guiding service
- safety equipment (harness & transceiver)
- hut's fees
- lift passes

The price do not include :

- ski equipment
- drinks at the hut
- snack
- sleeping bag liner compulsory at the hut

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Find in this section, all the information about this activity. For any further information please contact our advisors (contact details above).

The Vallée Blanche is an off-piste and ungroomed route, taking place on glaciers. Supervision by a qualified guide is the safest way to take full advantage of the activity. The Vallée Blanche is skiable from mid-December to early Mai.

**Important information : A night at high altitude can cause inconvenience such as : headache, nausea, insomnia.**

**Duration :** From mid-afternoon to late morning the next day.

**Ability level :** The descent of the Vallée Blanche is for skiers who can control their speed and know how to skid and make turns **determined by the route**. The technical difficulties are comparable to those of a **black run ungroomed**. In case of fresh snow, the descent of the Vallée Blanche is similar to off-piste skiing in powder snow. It therefore requires adequate experience. Season after season, global warming profoundly alters the morphology of glaciers. The Vallée Blanche is no exception; if you've skied this route before, you're likely to be very surprised. The crevasses are more present than before and wide slopes have given way to cramped passages. The level required to ski the Vallée Blanche has therefore significantly increased overall in recent years.

**Formality :** 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.

## EQUIPMENT

We recommend you to pay particular attention to the choice of your equipment. It contributes greatly to the success of your stay. In a general way, it is better to pile up several light coats rather than wear one big clothing.

### Equipment

- The normal ski equipment is sufficient. Have the bindings checked before departure to avoid any unpleasant surprises !
- A backpack on which you can attach your skis is obligatory. This will also allow you to carry drinks, picnics and clothes that you will take off if it's hot.
- Your guide will provide you the necessary safety equipment : avalanche transiver and harness.
- A pair of crampons adjust on your ski boots (Optionnal)

### Clothing

- Clothing should be adapted to the cold and wind that we often have at the start. Gloves, hats, sunglasses and sunscreen with a high degree of protection are essential.

### Accessories

- Sunglasses or goggle
- Sunscreen
- Snack
- Camera
- Sleeping bag liner
- Pills against headach
- Toilet set (No shower / water at the hut)
- Sleeping bag liner compulsory at the hut

**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](#)