



Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix

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BIODIVERSITY - EXCURSION AROUND THE MER DE GLACE GLACIER

Duration: 3

Fitness: ▲▲▲▲▲ Technique: ▲▲▲▲▲

Price from: 795 €

Overlooking the Mer de Glace, the balcony trails offer unique views of how the high mountains are evolving in response to climate change, particularly through changes in flora and the accelerated melting of glaciers. Frequentated since the 19th century, the Mer de Glace balconies remain exceptional today for their beauty, isolation, and the richness of their alpine flora. Over the course of three days, you will not only explore these mountain landscapes but also observe and better understand the transformations of the Mont Blanc Massif. This excursion is designed for experienced off-trail hikers with a curiosity for nature. Our high mountain guides will accompany you on this immersive journey, with the legendary Couvercle and Leschaux huts as your stages along the way.

On the itinerary: glacier trekking, traversing moraines, and hiking steep paths with ladder crossings. The summit you will reach is one of wonder and discovery, confronting a mountain that is ever-changing, yet still retaining its beauty and mystery.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Ascent to the Charpoua Hut

We take the cogwheel train up to Montenvers (1,913 m), then the new cable car onto the Mer de Glace (1,700 m). From there, a winding trail with ladders leads us through the Charpoua cirque, offering spectacular panoramic views along the way. The ascent ends at the beautifully renovated Charpoua Hut (2023), perched at 2,841 m, a quiet guardian of this wild valley.

Elevation gain: 1,150 m

Day 2

Crossing to the Couvercle Hut

We start with a detour to the heights of Charpoua, where the rare Saussure's androsace blooms among the rocks. Then the narrow, winding trail with ladders leads along the austere flanks of the Aiguille du Moine, offering stunning views of the Mer de Glace and surrounding peaks. The crossing ends at the beautifully renovated Couvercle Hut (2023), perched at 2,679 m, a guardian of this exceptional Mont Blanc balcony.

Elevation gain: 500 m - Descent: 700 m

Day 3

Return to Montenvers

For the return, we can retrace the previous route or take a detour via the Leschaux Hut, offering a unique view of the Grandes Jorasses. This wilder path extends our immersion in the massif, revealing glaciers and iconic rock faces from a new perspective. The trail gradually leads back to the Mer de Glace, where we catch the Montenvers cable car, marking the end of our journey.

Descent: 1,000 m

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 : 795€ per person, based on a minimum of 3 persons

Minors aged 16 and over must be accompanied by an adult

Including in the package :

- mountain guiding services
- 2 nights in mountain hut with half-board
- lift tickets

Not included in the package :

- daily lunches & snacks, drinks
- personal equipment
- mandatory repatriation insurance

PRIVATE BOOKING

Private hiring 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 2026 :

2 people : 1305€ per person

3 people : 955€ per person

4 people : 780€ per person

Including in the package :

- mountain guiding services
- 2 nights in mountain hut with half-board
- lift tickets

Not included in the package :

- daily lunches & snacks, drinks
- personal equipment
- mandatory repatriation insurance

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 8.30 am at the Compagnie des Guides office in Chamonix

Physical level : Suitable for experienced hikers. Daily hikes last 6 hours

Technical level : This trip requires prior experience in off-trail mountain hiking. Experience in via ferrata is also recommended due to the numerous ladder crossings. Prior mountaineering experience is not necessary

Guiding policy : 3 to 4 people. *Minors aged 16 and over must be accompanied by an adult*

Accommodation : During the trip, you will stay in huts for 2 nights on a half-board basis. *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 take particular care over your choice of equipment, as it plays a large role in the success of your trip. Weight is critical, and you must always evaluate the weight-to-comfort ratio to find the best compromise.

Equipment

- 35-litre backpack
- A pair of sturdy high-top shoes
- Telescopic trekking poles
- Crampons suitable for your shoes with anti-balling plates; helmet, harness

Clothing

- Warm hat that can be worn under a helmet
- Sun hat or cap
- Neck protection such as a 'Buff'
- 'Micro-fibre' style long-sleeve base layer
- Fleece
- 'Gore Tex' style shell jacket with hood
- Down jacket
- Base layer leggings
- A trekking trousers
- A short
- 'Gore Tex' style over-trousers
- Warm specialist walking socks
- Lightweight specialist walking socks
- Ski gloves or good quality mitts
- Leather or fleece gloves
- Change of clothes at your discretion

Accessories

- Category 4 sunglasses
- Ski goggles
- Headtorch
- Sheet sleeping bag
- Water bottle (minimum 1.5l) and thermos bottle
- Personalised first aid kit with a minimum of: sun cream, lip balm, cotton buds, blister kit, antisickness medication
- Watertight bag to contain your ID/passport and Euros

NB : you can load your electrical devices in every hut

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](#)