Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix

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SKI TOURING - AUTONOMY & SAFETY COURSE - LEVEL 2

Duration: 3 | Fitness: ▲▲▲△△ | Technique: ▲▲▲▲△ | Price from: 865 €

LEAD A SKI TOUR

Our "Autonomy & Safety in Ski Touring" program is designed to teach you how to manage avalanche risk and ski safely and independently in the mountains. With small groups of 3 to 4 participants per guide, we provide personalized coaching and a program tailored to your needs. These courses are designed for ski tourers who want to gain confidence and autonomy through **structured progression and practical exercises** in real mountain conditions.

Our Autonomy & Safety - Level 2 course is the logical follow-up to Level 1, which focuses on the fundamentals of avalanche risk management. It takes the form of a multi-day hut-to-hut ski tour, offering an ideal setting to deepen your knowledge through real mountain conditions. This course is intended for regular ski tourers who have already completed basic avalanche risk management training.

⚠ **English-speaking session: January 22-24. All other sessions are in French**

Course objectives - Level 2
- Recognize typical avalanche situations
- Develop strategies adapted to specific conditions
- Understand the key role of human factors
- Improve winter navigation skills: critical zones and apps
- Interpret the avalanche forecast
- Use advanced risk management and decision-making tools
- Plan a route in a simple context
- Learn the fundamentals of glacier safety

ITINERARY

Day 1

The educational content is covered through the following itinerary
We start at the Bochard lift station (2,766 m) and traverse to the Lognan Glacier (2,700 m). From there, we skin up to the Rognons Glacier (3,050 m) via the Col des Rachasses, then continue to the Col des Grands Montets (3,225 m). We then ski down to the Lognan Hut (2,032 m), where we spend the night and prepare the route for the following day.
Vertical ascent: 575 m / Vertical descent: 1,200 m

Day 2

The educational content is covered through the following itinerary
We reach the Passon moraine (2,380 m) and cross it on foot; crampons may be necessary. The climb then continues on skis, with wide slopes leading to the col, which we access using crampons. The views from the col (3,028 m), overlooking both the Argentière and Le Tour basins, are simply breathtaking. We then ski across the Tour Glacier towards the Albert I hut (2,700 m), which requires a short uphill section. We spend the night at the unstaffed mountain hut and prepare the route for the following day.
Vertical ascent: 1,100 m / Vertical descent: 350 m

Day 3

The educational content is covered through the following itinerary
From our mountain hut, we ski up to the crest above us (3,094m), which we will climb using crampons. On the other side, the

sunny, gentle slopes of the Glacier des Grands welcome us. We then ski down through the wild landscape of the Grands and Bron glaciers, all the way to the Combe de la Chaux des Grands (2,400m) at the foot of the Grandes Autannes (2,680m). We reach the summit by ski and then on foot. Afterward, we take on the famous north side descent to the Herbagères (2,033m). Finally, we ascend to the Col de Balme (2,200m), which gives us access to the Tour-Vallorcine ski area, where we ski down to the village of Le Tour. We return to Argentière by public transport in the mid-afternoon.
Vertical ascent: 850m / Vertical descent: 1,750m

GROUP BOOKING

A group booking brings together several people who do not necessarily know each other. For a set programme, it offers an attractive price on fixed dates. This option is ideal for those who enjoy the friendly atmosphere of a group.

Dates
See below for the group booking module.

Price 2027
895€ per person based on a minimum of 3 participants.
Registration possible from age 18.

Included in the package
- IFMGA English-speaking mountain guiding service
- 1 night with half board in a staffed mountain hut
- 1 night self-catering in an unstaffed mountain hut
- Lift access as per programme

Not included in the package
- Take-out lunches and daily snacks
- Cost of getting to the meeting point
- Personal technical equipment

PRIVATE BOOKING

A private booking is the traditional relationship between a guide and their clients. It allows you to be alone or with your own group, accompanied by a guide who can adapt to your specific needs. It is undoubtedly the ideal option for carrying out your projects, offering maximum flexibility and comfort. You are free to choose your departure date, and the itinerary can be adjusted according to your specific expectations.

Prices 2027
2 people: 1520€ per person
3 people: 1085€ per person
4 people: 865€ per person

Included in the package
- IFMGA English-speaking mountain guiding service
- 1 night with half board in a staffed mountain hut
- 1 night self-catering in an unstaffed mountain hut
- Lift access as per programme

Not included in the package
- Take-out lunches and daily snacks
- Cost of getting to the meeting point
- Personal technical equipment

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 8.30am at the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix, 190 place de l'Église, Chamonix.

Technical level
Suitable for skiers who are confident skiing off-piste in all snow conditions, have good ski touring experience and are able to perform kick turns. Wide slopes with short, narrow sections (up to 35°) and mountain passes that may require the use of

crampons and an ice axe.

Physical level
For individuals who engage in regular physical activity. Positive elevation gain of up to 1,000 m per day and 5 to 6 hours of physical effort per day. You will need to carry your own food for the night in the unstaffed mountain hut.

Required prerequisites
You must have already completed training in the fundamentals of avalanche risk management: snow basics, avalanche bulletin interpretation, field observations, and simple risk management and decision-making tools.

Guiding policy
3 to 4 participants per guide. This group size, specific to the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix, helps ensure balanced groups and high-quality personalised advice.
Registration possible from age 18.

Accommodation
1 night with half board in a staffed mountain hut and 1 night self-catering in an unstaffed mountain hut.

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 that you take particular care when choosing your equipment, as it contributes greatly to the quality of your experience. Weight is important, so you should always consider the balance between weight and comfort. In general, it is better to wear several thin layers rather than one heavy garment.

Equipment
- 35 L backpack
- A pair of skis with ski touring bindings and ski touring boots
- Touring skins and ski crampons adapted to your skis
- Ski poles with large baskets
- A helmet suitable for ski touring / mountaineering is recommended
- Lightweight crampons and an ice axe
- A safety kit: avalanche transceiver (DVA), shovel and probe in working condition
- A glacier safety kit: harness, 1 directional screwgate carabiner, 1 120 cm sling
- A navigation kit: map holder, IGN Chamonix 3630OT map, compass, altimeter

Clothing
- Waterproof and windproof, non-insulated jacket with hood (Gore-Tex or equivalent), *available to rent*
- Waterproof and windproof, non-insulated trousers, *available to rent*
- Fleece jacket or equivalent
- A lightweight down jacket
- A long-sleeved base layer
- Medium-weight thermal underwear (top and bottoms)
- Warm ski socks
- Warm hat and light sun hat or cap
- Warm ski gloves or mittens
- A pair of lightweight gloves (leather or fleece)
- Neck warmer
- Spare thermal underwear

Accessories
- High-altitude sunglasses (category 4 recommended)
- Ski goggles
- A headlamp with spare batteries
- A sleeping bag liner
- A water bottle of at least 1.5 L
- An insulated bottle
- A small personal first-aid kit including at least sunscreen, lip balm, earplugs, blister kit, headache medication and toilet paper
- A waterproof pouch containing your ID and Euros

Our Rental Partners

You can rent your equipment at preferential rates from our partner shops: Millet, Sanglard Sports, Ravanel & Co & Concept Pro Shop

Our Equipment Partners
Millet, Dynastar, Julbo, Grivel & Monnet