Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix

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HIKING - CROSSING THE ARAVIS FOR JUNIORS

Duration: 5 Fitness: Technique:

For five days, your children will experience a grand trek across the Aravis mountains, a 100% immersive summer camp in the heart of nature. The goal? To disconnect in order to reconnect: no phones, but breathtaking landscapes, challenges to overcome, and unforgettable memories to share.
The experienced and passionate leaders will send photos each evening to keep you updated.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Col des Aravis - Refuge de la Bombardellaz

Warm-up and first challenges: The trek begins at the Col des Aravis. The children set off to conquer the Aravis mountains, traversing the hillside, with a well-deserved picnic break at Lac des Confins. From there, the view of the Tournette massif and the Bargy is simply breathtaking. The day ends with the ascent to the Refuge de la Bombardellaz, where they will spend their first night in the mountains.

Elevation gain: 475m - Elevation loss: 301m - Distance: 12 km

Day 2

Bombardellaz Refuge - Pointe Percée Refuge

In the heart of Reblochon country: An early start for a sporty and spectacular day: the children hike up the valley towards Tête des Anes, before tackling the final climb of the day to reach the Pointe Percée Refuge. The reward? A night facing the Bargy massif, with a view to the west, towards the sunset.

Elevation gain: 749m - Elevation loss: 233m - Distance: 8.9 km

Day 3

Pointe Percée Refuge - Doran Refuge

Col des Verts and Doran Valley: a short but intense day: after crossing the Col des Verts, the children descend into the Doran Valley, a wild and unspoiled setting. They follow the stream to the refuge, with an option for the more adventurous: a loop towards Saix Noir, an exceptional spot for observing the Bearded Vulture, with the imposing Fiz mountain range as a backdrop.

Elevation gain: 304m - Elevation loss: 988m Distance: 4.9 km

Day 4

Doran Refuge - Mayères Refuge

The Fours Valley and its mysteries: today, there's no direct path! The children set off to explore the Fours Valley and its suspended stream, an almost sublime landscape accompanied by the local ibex. They then descend to the Mayères Refuge via Pierre Fendue, a hike rich in discoveries.

Elevation gain: up to 1134m - Elevation loss: up to 1143m - Distance: up to 16 km (The route can be adapted according to the group's level)

Day 5

Mayères Refuge - Cordon

A spectacular finale with views of Mont Blanc: to conclude this adventure, the children cross the Plateau des Bénés and reach the Petit Pâtre hut. The panorama is breathtaking: Mont Blanc rises before them, while the Coisse Baulet towers above, and the village of Cordon - the end point of our hike - stretches out below. Return to Chamonix by minibus at the end of the day. End of our trip !

Elevation gain: up to 913m - Descent: up to 1104m - Distance: up to 15.5 km (The route can be adapted according to the group's level)

GROUP BOOKING

The group option brings together several people who may not know each other. For a given program, it allows you to take advantage of an attractive rate on fixed dates. This option is ideal for those seeking the camaraderie of a group.

Dates : to come

2026 Price: €990 - based on a minimum of 7 participants

This price includes:
- Organization
- Supervision by 2 certified mountain guides
- Nights in mountain huts with halfboard
- picnics
- Transportation during the hike

This price does not include:
- Souvenirs and drinks (bring euros)
- Repatriation insurance (mandatory)
- Booking fees

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. For further information, please contact our advisor (contact details above).

Meeting point : Meet at 8.30 am at the Compagnie des Guides office, 190 Place de l'Eglise, 74400 Chamonix.

Ability level : 4/5 - The Aravis crossing is a moderately difficult hike. Expect a minimum of 700m of elevation gain and an average of 5 hours of walking per day. The hike follows generally well-maintained mountain trails. Children should be athletic, able to follow instructions, and capable of working independently within a group. Prior experience with day hikes is recommended.

Itinerary: The guide may need to adjust the itinerary based on weather conditions and/or the physical and/or technical abilities of the group

Guiding policy : The group consists of a maximum of 7 to 14 children supervised by qualified professionals (1 adult for every 7 children) for hiking.

Accomodation : 4 nights in a mountain refuge dormitory

Documentation :
- Aged between 13 and 15 years old
- Participants must have sports insurance with repatriation cover. We strongly recommend that this also includes cancellation cover. You can take out insurance offering both of these types of cover when you sign up.
- Participants must also take valid ID with them
- Ability to swim certificate
- Health form instruction
- Parental authorization

Preparing for the trip : There is an information meeting with your mountain leader the day before departure at 6pm at the Compagnie des Guides Office.

For the attention of the legal guardian of the registered minor : The legal guardian is aware of the sporting and risky nature of the activities offered as part of this service. Failure to comply with safety instructions and level requirements can lead to

accidents.
You must return the following completed documents to us: Parental authorization, Health form instruction + your identity card or passport (valid).

EQUIPMENT

Weight is the hiker's enemy, so pay close attention to your equipment choices as they greatly contribute to a successful trip. Children will be carrying their belongings for the entire trip. Avoid overloading them with unnecessary items.

Your Equipment
- A 30L backpack
- A pair of hiking boots
- A pair of trekking poles
- A hat or cap
- A beanie
- Category 3 sunglasses
- Breathable long- and short-sleeved T-shirts
- A lightweight fleece jacket
- A warm down jacket
- A waterproof jacket (Gore-Tex type)
- A rain poncho
- Hiking pants
- Waterproof pants (Gore-Tex type)
- Shorts
- A pair of gloves
- Hiking socks
- A 2L water bottle (minimum)
- A pocket knife and a spork
- A flashlight or headlamp
- Sunscreen and lip balm
- A sleeping bag liner
- Minimalist toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, small towel, toilet paper)
- Small personal first-aid kit: Compeed-type blister plasters, medication for common ailments: diarrhea, constipation, sore throat, headache, aches and pains Allergies
- ID, cash for personal expenses

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