



Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix

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RANDONNEE- DENTS BLANCHES TOUR

Duration: 7 days

Level: ▲▲▲▲▲

Price from: 790 €

This hike is intended for experienced hikers and will satisfy the adventurer within you. Wild and preserved, this varied and maintained route is unique and exclusive to the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix. This trip takes place to the north of the Mont-Blanc massif, between France and Switzerland. Using hidden away trails, we will discover rich and sumptuous landscapes and discover the varied histories of the numerous valleys we will cross through.

We carry all our belongings in our backpacks for the week, and use local buses, train for transfers. Accommodation in hostels, or huts. Nights in dormitories. Food and snack supplies are available from mountain villages and huts.

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Buet hamlet - Col de Salenton - Moede Anterne mountain hut

We start our week of hiking towards the famous Mont-Buet. After crossing a superb larch forest, we emerge in the authentic Bérard valley. The tumultuous waters of the eponymous torrent accompany us to the Pierre à Bérard refuge. From there, the climb becomes more demanding in order to reach the Col de Salenton (2,526m). We descend through the valley of Villy, magnificent and preserved by its lack of infrastructure. Night at the Moède Anterne refuge (2,000m).

Elevation gain : 1 400m - Elevation drop : 750m

Day 2 : Col d'Anterne - Chalet des Fonts - Grenairon mountain hut

We start our day with a short climb to the Col d'Anterne (2,257m). The view of the Mont-Blanc massif and the sharp faces of the Fiz rocks is sublime. We quickly reach Lake Anterne before going down to the Cirque des Fonts. We will take advantage of this classified site for our picnic. The afternoon will be reserved for the climb to the Grenairon refuge (1,950m) where we will spend the night.

Elevation gain : 1 300m - Elevation drop : 1 400m

Day 3 : Les Praz de Commune - Sixt Fer à Cheval - La Vogealle mountain hut by le Pas du Boret

From the Grenairon refuge, we descend towards the pretty village of Sixt Fer à Cheval in the Giffre valley. From the alpine chalets of the Praz de Commune (1,672 m) we enter the famous Fer à Cheval circus, the Gavarnie des Alpes circus! Just before the End of the World, it is time to embark on a real alpine path to climb to Le Pas du Boret, an ancestral path allowing shepherds to lead their flocks to the heights of Vogealle. The valley of the Vogealle is sublime, facing the last Haute Savoie glaciers on limestone rock. Night at the Vogealle refuge (1,902m).

Elevation gain : 1 500m - Elevation drop : 1 500m

Day 4 : La Vogealle mountain hut - Pas du taureau - Col de Bostan - Barmaz mountain pastures

We announced a demanding route to you, the proof of which you will have today. From the refuge, we follow the Vogealle lake to reach the pass giving access to the extraordinary limestone geological delirium of the Combe des Puaires. It is here we find the Jean Bernard chasm, for 20 years the deepest in the world with a depth of -1,602 m. A mineral path takes us to the Pointe Droite pass (2,475 m), then, off the beaten track we come to the Pas du Taureau (2,555 m). Cables through a rocky chimney allow us to advance on the path at the limit of verticality to the Col de Bostan (2,290 m), the border between France and Switzerland. The Pas de la Bide, the second tricky passage of our day awaits us with its famous "mailbox". We end our day in the serenity of the Barmaz mountain pastures (1,492 m) and spend the night at La Cantine de Barmaz.

Elevation gain : 1 000m - Elevation drop : 1 300m

Day 5 : Signal de Bonavau - Pas d' Encel - Col de Susanfe - Auberge de Salanfe

Early in the morning, we leave in the direction of Pas d'Encel, the climb is sublime between forest and steep rocks, in a landscape sculpted by the passage of the glaciers. We cross through by the memorable and vertiginous Pas d'Encel to gain a foothold in the Susanfe pass (2,494m), the surrounding black rock, turns the area into a lunar

landscape. We pass between the Dents du Midi (3,257 m) and the Tour Sallière (3,220 m). The descent takes us to the lake of the same name, before arriving at the Salanfe hostel (2,102m) where we will spend the night.

Elevation gain : 1 400m - Elevation drop : 900m

Day 6 : Col d'Emmaney - Col de Barberine - Cabane du Vieux Emosson

Today we leave for a great day opposite the famous Swiss peaks. From the Emaney pass (2,462 m) or that of the Barberine pass (2,481 m), the panoramic views of the beautiful Swiss landscapes are sublime. The fauna is not to be outdone by the landscapes as the Combe d' Emmaney is known to shelter many chamois and ibex. The day ends with the crossing of the Emosson Dam to reach the Old Emosson, a smaller but older dam, a remnant of the innovative hydroelectric activity at the time. We will spend the night at the Cabane du Vieux Emosson.

Elevation gain : 1 600m - Elevation drop : 1 400m

Day 7 : Cabane du Vieux Emosson - Dinosaur tracks - Col des Corbeaux - Tré-les-Eaux - Le Buet hamlet

For the last day of the hike we visit a unique site in Europe where we can observe the famous Emosson dinosaur tracks, carved in the rock over 200 million years ago. Finally, we will climb the Col des Corbeaux (2,603 m) to reach the wild valley of Tré-les-eaux. The last descent of our superb weeks hiking takes us back to Le Buet (1,330 m) where it all started 7 days ago.

Elevation gain : 700m - Elevation drop : 1 500m

The guide may have to adapt the route to weather conditions and/or to group physical and/or technical ability.

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.

Date 2021 : from Sunday July 25 to Thursday July 29.

Price 2021 : Coming soon - based on minimum of 6 participants.

Included in the package:

- The organization and supervision of each tour by a state qualified trekking guide/s
- Half-board accommodation (diner + breakfast + night) in mountain hut (dormitory) and basic hotel (double room)
- Picnic lunches from J1 to J7
- Train tickets way and return from Chamonix to le Buet hamlet

Not included:

- Drinks and personal expenditure (souvenirs...)
- Repatriation insurance (mandatory).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Rendez-vous : meet at 7.30 am in front of the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix on Day 1. We are taking the train to reach le Buet hamlet.

Ability level : 5/5 - The Dents Blanches hiking trip is a strenuous and demanding trek. More than 1000m (3350ft.) vertical gain and about 7 to 9 hours of daily hiking. Some days may be long and demanding, involving altitude and High Mountain passes (min. 9 190ft.). Hiking on mountain trails and terrain showing exposed and difficult sections. These trips generally require carrying a backpack with personal belongings throughout the trek. For very active, well-trained people with a solid experience in alpine trekking.

Guiding policy : by a state qualified trekking guide with a maximum of 10 people in the group. The Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix's guiding policy is one of the strictest in the mountain guiding business. It guarantees the most balanced groups as possible as well as high-quality personalised advice.

Important : no booking accepted in our scheduled groups for people under the age of 18 without a legal guardian.

Accommodation :

- During the trip : 6 nights in mountain hut (dormitory). No shower at Vieux Emosson mountain hut. Each hiker carries all his personal belongings, and the picnic along the entire trek.
- Before & after the trip : we have some hotel partners in Chamonix with special prices for our customers. If you want to receive information just ask Anaïs.

Documentation :

- Participants must have an insurance with repatriation cover. Cancellation insurance is highly recommended. You can take out insurance offering both of these types of cover when you sign up.

-Participants must also take valid ID with them.

Organisation : You are welcome to come and meet your guide the evening before at our office at 6 pm.

EQUIPMENT

Hiking boots

- Ankle supporting boots with notched technical rubber sole (i.e. VIBRAM).
- We strongly recommend wearing new boots (several days and preferably hiking) to break them in before the hike.
- To avoid blisters, try rubbing baby talc on dry feet before using boots (sprinkling talc inside boot works too)

Back-pack

- Minimum size recommended 40 L (bigger is better than too small).
- Take out lunch should fit after packing all your personal belongings.
- Bad weather precaution: pack covers are great to protect pack from rain or snow. We also recommend packing your belongings in a large and solid plastic bag (i.e. garbage bag) for a better protection in case of heavy rainfall.

Clothing

Avoid using cotton underwear. Compared to technical synthetic material, it is heavier and it dries slowly. Wool is also getting popular amongst sportswear brands. Synthetic and wool are warmer; they dry fast, and allow you to pack light (you can easily wash a piece of underwear in the sink as you arrive at the mountain inn/hut. It'll be dry before you finish your first beer!)

Carrying weight

Taking enough time to pack is essential, as you are going to carry every item for several days in a row. Avoiding extra weight can easily be done by packing your clothes tightly, placing heavy items at the bottom of the pack, and avoiding empty spaces. As a result weight is better spread throughout your back and weight impression diminished. Your back pack should not exceed 19 pounds (9kg).

DAILY NEEDS

- 1 long-sleeve shirt + 1 Tshirt (both synthetic)
- 1 polar fleece + 1 light down jacket (or a second fleece)
- 1 pair of shorts + 1 pair of hiking pants
- 1 pair of synthetic hiking socks
- 1 Goretex jacket (waterproof windbreaker)
- 1 poncho (large rain cover that fits over your pack) or 1 pack cover
- 1 pair of rain pants (although light Gore-tex pants are expensive, other types of light rain pants work too)
- 1 water bottle (1.5 quart, to 2 quarts minimum)
- 1 pocket knife + 1 « spork »
- Sun hat or ball cap, sunscreen, sun glasses, lip protection.
- 1 warm hat and a pair of gloves
- 1 pair of telescopic poles

FOR THE ENTIRE HIKE

- 2 changes of clothes: (T-shirt, underwear and socks) prefer synthetic to cotton
- 1 pair of long underwear (synthetic recommended)
- 1 pair of ultra-light shoes (i.e. flip flops, slippers)
- 1 pocket light or head-lamp
- Personal first aid kit **
- 1 one-person sleep-sheet (silk is the most comfortable and remains the lightest)
- Ultra-light shower kit (feel free to customize ...) + synthetic « dry fast » towel
- ID card or valid passport + small change/ bills for personal expenses.
- A small amount of laundry detergent
- Optional : low gaiters (early season trekking), camera, binoculars, umbrella, etc ...

** *Elastoplast (stretchable strapping tape), band-aids, second skin, medicine for common aches and pains (diarrhea, headaches, sore throat...) Don't forget to bring your personal prescription treatment if you have one. Mountain leaders also carry a complete first aid kit. Remember that packing light is essential.*

PRIVATE BOOKING

You are a private group, you can ask for a customized trip.

ADVANTAGES :

- Exclusive guide

A more individualized relationship between your group and the professional.

- Choose your date of departure

You can choose your date of departure within the limit of the hut availabilities.

- Flexibility all along the trip

Depending on weather conditions, your level and your expectations, the guide can suggest you some different options of itinerary.

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