

Ultimate Tour du Mont Blanc

Trip Code: UTM

Version:



WALK & TREK



GUIDED GROUP



CHALLENGING



HIGHLIGHTS

- Challenge yourself on our ultimate version of the Tour du Mont Blanc
- Trek hut-to-hut, staying in amazing mountain refuges inaccessible by road
- Travel through Alpine wildflower meadows and stay in the Cabane d'Orny
- Excellent IML guide and baggage transfers are included

AT A GLANCE

- 11 days trekking
- Max. altitude 2831 metres
- Join at Chamonix

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

Situated at the junction of France, Italy and Switzerland, the glaciated massif of Mont Blanc is circled by one of the world's greatest and most popular long distance walks - the Tour du Mont Blanc. Using our unrivalled experience, we have devised a walking holiday that provides the 'ultimate' version of this historic route, incorporating several exciting variants.

Taking the high-level option wherever possible, we traverse passes like the Col des Fours (2665m) and the stunning Monte de la Saxe Ridge. En route, we stay in incredible mountain huts and hostels including the dramatically located mountain hut - the Cabane d'Orny. We offer baggage support where we can and there are just 4 nights where you do not have access to your main luggage. This superb adventure presents the best of the Mont Blanc region, with a blend of breathtaking views, Alpine meadow trails, picturesque hamlets and an abundance of wildflowers... the Ultimate Tour of Mont Blanc.

Is this holiday for you?

This is a classic Alpine walking holiday on good trails. The average distance covered each day is around 20 kilometres (13 miles) and there is a fair amount of ascent and descent. Although this trip is more challenging and with longer days than our Classic Tour du Mont Blanc Hotel trek, regular and fit hill walkers will find this trek to be within their capabilities. Additionally, we will transfer your baggage to each of our overnight stops that can be accessed by road, which means that you usually need to carry no more than a small daysack. There are 4 nights in refuges which are inaccessible by vehicle and this means that you will need to carry just a few extra overnight items. If you are looking for a version of the Tour Du Mont Blanc, with all the high cols and spectacularly situated refuges, then this is the one for you.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional English-speaking guide
- All transfers and cable cars involved in the itinerary
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Baggage transfer to accommodation which can be accessed by road

What's not Included

- Travel Insurance
- Meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Visa fees (if applicable)
- Airport transfers
- Miscellaneous expenses

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will rendezvous at the hotel in the Chamonix Valley on the evening of day 1 of the trip itinerary.

Arriving by air:

Fly to Geneva Airport and make use of an airport transfer service. We recommend Mountaindropoffs (mountaindropoffs.com/en).

Arriving by rail:

Train tickets can be booked from London through to Chamonix (with two changes) with trainline.com.

Arriving by road:

If you are driving to Chamonix we will provide route details and directions to the group hotel in the Chamonix Valley.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

TRAVEL TO YOUR DESTINATION

In some cases you may choose to take a ferry and/or train to your holiday start and end destination. Please see further information on [Travelling by Train](#).

If flying from the UK there are low cost airlines available to the start and from the end of your holiday.

To benefit from full financial protection, ease your holiday planning, and avoid dealing with airlines, we can book scheduled flights from the UK as part of a flight inclusive package. Scheduled flights are usually more expensive than low cost alternatives, however potentially less stressful if your flight is cancelled or delayed. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will [offset the carbon of your flight](#).

Meal Plan

All meals are included except for lunches and dinner on day 1, 5 and 11.

Lunches can be easily purchased from supermarkets, bakeries or your accommodation along the way.

We do recommend you bring a few additional trail bars and snacks with you (not chocolate as it can melt) - these can of course also be purchased along the way, but it is sometimes nice to have your favourite hill food with you.

Food & Water

As to be expected, the food available in restaurants and hotels in France, Italy and Switzerland is excellent. In huts, the food is simple and wholesome with usually a limited choice which will include a vegetarian option. Continental breakfasts and evening meals are provided by our accommodation. Lunches can be purchased from the huts, hotels or supermarkets along the way.

When in the towns and villages all tap water is drinkable. In mountain huts there is usually not a sustainable drinking water supply. Water in plastic bottles is brought in to the hut. All huts have a recycling point. If you have to purchase water in plastic bottles please buy the largest bottle you can so as to use less plastic. Please take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a [Water-To-Go bottle](#)) to treat your water if you can fill from a local stream. Bottled water is not provided. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles. Local authorities are working to find solutions to using plastic water bottles in huts. We monitor the situation carefully for updates.

Accommodation

During this trip, the group start and finish the trek at a hotel in the Chamonix Valley. Whilst on our circuit of Mont Blanc, we have a mix of accommodation for 9 nights; a mixture of amazing mountain huts (where we can get away from the crowds) and hostels.

Specifically the Cabane d'Orny is a recognised highlight, with the most awesome views of the alps all around, and the Bonatti Refuge or Elena Refuge where a beer (or hot chocolate) on the terrace at sunset is highly recommended - keep your camera handy! Washing facilities at these huts (especially the Caban d'Orny) are very basic.

In the Chamonix Valley the hotels will be on a twin rooms basis. In the mountain huts and hostels accommodation may be in a non-segregated, dormitory. This type of shared accommodation is all part of the Alpine mountain experience.

Single rooms are not available.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by an experienced mountain leader.

Altitude

This holiday involves going to moderately high altitude. During the course of your trip you will reach altitudes in excess of 2500 metres. Most people will have no difficulty with this level of altitude but before coming on the holiday, we recommend you read the advice on trekking at altitude on our website which can be viewed via the link below. You can also talk to one of our trekking experts if you have any concerns about altitude. www.keadventure.com/page/altitude.html

This holiday involves going to moderately high altitude. During the course of your trip you will reach altitudes in excess of 2500 metres. Most people will have no difficulty with this level of altitude but before coming on the holiday, we recommend you read the advice on [trekking at high altitude](#). You can also talk to one of our trekking experts if you have any concerns about altitude.

Spending Money

The package price includes all accommodation, guiding and all meals except lunches and two dinners. You should make an allowance for additional snacks, drinks etc. Note that bottled water bought in huts is quite expensive. Beer, wine and soft drinks are available every night. We estimate that approximately 350 - 400 Euros should adequately cover typical personal spending requirements. Please note that a part of the route is in Switzerland (3 nights) and you should consider taking some of your spending money in Swiss francs. Alternatively it is possible to withdraw Swiss francs from cash machines in La Fouly. Euros are accepted in most places we stay in Switzerland although the exchange rate may not be favourable.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage (maximum weight on arrival at the group hotel is dependent on your international flight restrictions) and a daypack (of around 30 - 40 litres).

Our baggage transfer company who transport your main bag from guesthouse to guesthouse throughout the trek have requested that everyone uses a duffle type bag. They will not take hard suitcases. Please note that there is a strict weight limit of 15kgs maximum for bags to be transferred and no fresh produce should be left in these bags.

You can of course travel to the group hotel with any type of baggage, and store it at our group accommodation with any items you do not need on trek and pick these up when you return.

Your main bag will be transferred between overnight stops and you should have this ready for collection by 8.00 each morning. The bag will normally be delivered to your hotel by 17.30.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

The unit of currency in Switzerland is the Swiss Franc.

Preparing for your Holiday

It makes a lot of sense to spend some time before coming on a trekking or climbing trip getting some additional exercise. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. We would suggest that you adopt a weekly exercise regime leading up to your trip. Jogging, squash and swimming are good for developing better stamina. Before departure, we suggest that you try to fit in a number of long walks in hilly country.

Climate

The temperatures that we can expect to encounter during the day will be reasonably warm, ranging from 15°C to 25°C. It can be cool in the evenings at our highest overnight stopping places, falling close to freezing point at night. The weather is usually stable during July and August, but mountainous areas do generate their own weather systems and occasional rain and even stormy weather cannot be ruled out. You should be prepared for all eventualities!

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- Tour of Mont Blanc. Trekking Guide. Kev Reynolds
- Walking Guide to the Tour du Mont Blanc. Andrew Harper Tour du Mont Blanc Topo Guide, Publisher: Fdration Franaise de la Randone

Maps

IGN (Institut Geographique National) 1:50,000 scale.

The IGN also produce a 1:25,000 series covering the route but these are not very practical as you would require several sheets. The 1:50,000 'Carte de Randonees' series of walking maps provides a detailed topographic map with a useful contour interval of 20m. This is still a good scale for following the route on the ground and means you only need one map: Pays Du Mont-Blanc - Aravis - Chamonix - Courmayeur A1

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

You must bring the following items:

- Hiking boots
- Socks
- Underwear

- Trekking trousers
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Waterproof jacket
- Baselayer shirts (1 short sleeve, 1 long sleeve) - quick dry, not cotton
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Warm and waterproof gloves or mittens
- Thermal gloves
- Sunhat
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Daypack 30 - 40 litres should be sufficient
- Dry bags for rucksack contents
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 litre (x2) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Sheet sleeping bag (for use in huts)
- Small towel (for use in huts)

- Basic First Aid Kit including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters and blister treatment.

The following items are optional:

- Trekking poles (highly recommended)
- Gaiters
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Spare laces
- Shorts
- T-shirts and/or casual shirts
- Insect repellent
- Camera
- Travel clothes
- Ear plugs (for mountain hut dormitories)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Notes:

- We request that you keep the weight of your main baggage to less than 15kgs for the baggage transfers.
There are a total of two nights spent in mountain huts where there is no access to your main bag.
- Otherwise group members will have access to their main luggage on each evening. Sleeping bags are not required, as bedding is provided. However you do need to bring a sheet sleeping bag for use in the mountain huts.

Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from

your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

Land Only Information

We sell this holiday on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The holiday starts at the hotel the Chamonix Valley. Geneva has the nearest airport.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

This is a unique-to-KE trek, where you'll trek high trails, see spectacular views and stay in lofty mountain huts few travellers get to experience.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 23/11/2024 and the trip is subject to change