

Family Tour du Mont Blanc

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from £995
Difficult

Explore this famous classic walk as a family! Pass through three countries and three cultures on our *mini-Tour du Mont Blanc*. This excellent introduction to multi-day walking is designed for families with children aged from 10 years old. This trip is suitable for families used to spending full days in the mountains.

We meet in Chamonix, the mountaineering capital of the world to begin a journey of discovery which takes in the history, culture, folklore and wildlife of the mountains. We cross high passes, visit remote farms, a beautiful lakeside mountain village, and sleep in a mountain hut - it's all there on the Tour du Mont Blanc.

- Mini tour of the biggest mountain in the Alps
- Walk in 3 Alpine countries, France, Italy and Switzerland
- Enjoy a night in a mountain hut
- All meals included

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Departures

Family Tour du Mont Blanc Itinerary

We always aim to complete the itinerary as outlined below, however, the following itinerary will be followed only when conditions and weather make it appropriate, both in terms of safety and enjoyment. Your guide will make a decision on your route based on those conditions.

Day 1 Arrival in Chamonix Valley

We meet at the group chalet at Yeti Lodge in Argentière, just outside ~~Chamonix~~ [Chamonix](#). Beneath the stunning north face of Mont Blanc, the views are amazing from the start! Before dinner, you will meet your trip leader to have an informal chat about the days ahead. We will have time to check out your clothing and gear and decide if you need to pick up anything else, before setting out in the morning.

Day 2 Lac Blanc and the Aiguilles Rouges Nature Reserve

Today's walk is an excellent start to the Tour du Mont Blanc with spectacular views across to the main Mont Blanc range. We start our trip with a ride up in the Flégère cable car to gain some height into the Aiguilles Rouges Nature Reserve to reach the start of our ridge walk which will lead us upwards to Lac Blanc. En route we often see ibex, chamois, and marmots. It really can be a great chance to get up close to some of the alpine wildlife. At Lac Blanc (2352m) there is an opportunity to visit the Refuge and indulge in some home made tart and a coffee! We then descend to the mid-station at La Flégère and then to Chamonix by cable car before returning to Argentière

. Distance: 7.5km. Ascent: 500m. Descent: 500m.

Day 3 Col du Balme to Trient

After breakfast, our trek starts straight from the front door with a walk along the Petit Balcon Nord, to Le Tour at the top end of the valley. Here we save our legs by taking the cable car up the mountain. We then head round the mountainside and over our high point for the day below the peak of the Croix de Fer. From here we head to the alpine cow meadows at Les Tseppes, and then we zig zag directly down through the larch forest to the tiny village of Trient where we spend the night. Distance 14km. Ascent 600m. Descent 1000m.

Day 4 Col de la Forclaz to Champex

Today we begin with a climb to the Col de la Forclaz and then walk along the beautiful Bovine trail through the high meadows where the famous Swiss fighting cows spend the summer months. We stop for lunch at the farm and might have a chance to chat with the cow-herder whilst enjoying views right along the Rhône Valley and of some of the major Swiss peaks. In the afternoon we walk down to the idyllic lakeside village of

[Champex](#) where we spend the night. Distance: 15km. Ascent: 700m. Descent: 700m.

Day 5 Champex to La Fouly

We enjoy walking round the lake, before descending through pine trees and the 'mushroom trail' towards the meadows of Praz de Fort. Here our trail keeps to the valley floor and the river edge as we gently start to climb towards the Italian border and Mont Dolent, the summit of which is shared by France, Switzerland and Italy. We spend the night in La Fouly. This day could also be used as a rest day where you can enjoy relaxing in Champex. You can even hire a 'pedalo' to explore the lake with! If you choose this option then you can easily transfer to our accommodation by bus, the journey takes about 90 minutes. Please note that the bus is not included in the trip price. Distance: 15km. Ascent: 550m. Descent: 430m.

Day 6

La Fouly to Bonatti Hut via the Grand Col Ferret

Today is our big day! We set off on a long climb to the Grand Col Ferret at 2537m. Along the way we stop at le Peule, a perfectly situated farm and refuge where we can refuel with coffee and homemade cake. Our climb to the Grand Col is well worth the effort. We have views of the snow-capped Grand Combin 4090m, beyond the pass we enter Italy with views all the way to the border of France. We descend into Val Ferret to Arnuva for another refuel before our last push up to a beautiful balcony trail to reach the fantastic Bonatti Hut (2056m). The Refuge enjoys stunning views of the Mont Blanc massif and provides a true night in the mountains. This is a new mountain hut which pays homage to the world renowned Italian mountaineer and photographer [Walter Bonatti](#). [Walter Bonatti](#) available and the food is excellent! Distance: 19km. Ascent: 1270m. Descent: 770m.

Day 7 Walk from the Bonatti Hut to Courmayeur

Our final day is less strenuous but yet another gem. We say our farewells and begin walking along a balcony trail keeping our height. From here we have several options to complete our journey all depending on how we feel. We may choose to walk over the Col du Sapin (2436m) and even the Tête de la Tronche (2584m) before making our way along the Mont de la Saxe Ridge with some of the finest views of the Mont Blanc range. A little further on we find the Bertone Refuge which is ideally situated for refreshments and views of the 'Italian' side of Mont Blanc, or *Monte Bianco*! From here we descend through pine forests to the old quarter of Courmayeur where we complete our journey. We have time to soak up the Italian sunshine and cuisine before meeting our transfer back to Yeti Lodge. Distance: 12km. Ascent: 300m. Descent: 900m.

Day 8 Depart Argentière

Today is departure day, the trip ends following breakfast.

Price

Included: The guiding services of a fully qualified International Mountain Leader. Night in a mountain hut in dormitory style accommodation, hotel or gîte accommodation for 6 nights (based on twin or family rooms possibly with a shared bathroom), transfers and cable cars involved in the itinerary and the services of a baggage vehicle and driver. All meals: breakfast, picnic lunch and three course evening meal.

Not included: Travel Insurance, airport transfers, snack food, transfers and cable cars which are not part of the itinerary, personal expenses ? beer, souvenirs etc. We are happy to advise on the best options for airport transfers and flights. Bus and activities in Champex to La Fouly if taking a rest day.

Accommodation

During this trip you will stay at the very comfortable Yeti Lodge, in Argentière, near Chamonix. Offering stunning views of Mont Blanc. Facilities include a Hot Tub, Sauna, free WIFI, in-house computers and secure parking. On the trek, you will spend three nights in comfortable hotels, or gites with all bedding provided, and one night in the lovely Bonatti mountain refuge, where a sheet sleeping bag



is required, but can be purchased upon arrival for a few Euros. All accommodation is in twin or family rooms (possibly with shared bathrooms), with one night in dormitory style accommodation in the Bonatti Refuge (twin rooms are available in the refuge subject to an extra charge). Due to the nature of the accommodation on this trip; small hotels, in often tiny villages and remote mountain huts, we cannot offer single rooms.

Weather

In mountainous terrain the weather can vary considerably. Temperatures can reach over 30°C in the height of the summer (July/August), but can be as low as 5°C on the passes. It is often sunny with good clear days, but it can rain and snow (even in July or August) so you should be prepared for any eventuality. The average temperatures range from 15-25°C in the valleys and 5-15°C on the passes.

Luggage

On each trekking day, there will be vehicle support to carry your luggage to the next overnight stop. To make things efficient during the luggage transfer process, and to prevent any losses, please keep luggage to a minimum i.e. a day sac whilst walking and one bag labelled clearly to transfer. Please make sure you can carry your own bag as many hotels do not have 'lifts'.

Spending money

You will need to allow approximately 10 - 15 Euros per day for snacks and you should also make an allowance for drinks, including bottled water. Beer, wine and soft drinks are available every night. We estimate that approximately 200 - 250 Euros should cover all your personal expenses. Please note that a part of the route is in Switzerland and you should consider taking a small quantity of Swiss Francs. These are particularly useful at Geneva Airport.

In Summer 2018 we will be reducing the price of this trip by £100 and adapting the itinerary slightly.

Group numbers

This is designed for families with children aged from 10 years old and upwards and will run once a minimum number of 8 clients have booked. We will take a maximum of 10 clients. We can run these trips with a smaller group size but an additional supplement would apply. Please contact us directly about this option. We advise you not to make your travel arrangements until the trip is guaranteed to run.

This excellent family adventure is designed for those families who love to walk. During the week, you we will make a half circuit of the Mont Blanc massive following the classic Tour du Mont Blanc trail. The distance walked each day is between 9 and 16 km with daily ascents of 500 - 600 metres and up to 1230 metres on the day we climb to the Bonatti hut. You should make sure that everyone in the family is comfortable with these daily distances and ascents, especially the younger ones. This excellent introduction to multi-day walking is designed for families that are already used to full days out but now want to link up a journey. With comfortable hotel and chalet accommodation and luggage transfers provided, this itinerary enables the whole family to walk the best part of the famous Mont Blanc circuit.

Further Information

Chamonix is easily reached from other European and worldwide destinations by road, rail, coach or plane. For suggested travel links please refer to our

[Booking & Information](#) pages for further details. Geneva is the closest international airport, only 1 hour 15 minutes away by road, making shared transfers, buses or trains easy to arrange.

Please

[contact us](#) if you need further advice on your specific travel requirements.

Once you have booked we will send you a list of suggested equipment and clothing for the trek.

Our Partners

As our niche trips such as the Family Tour du Mont Blanc are of a specialised nature we work with our partner companies to attract sufficient clients to reach the minimum number of participants to allow these trips to go ahead, meaning you are more likely to have your chosen holiday 'guaranteed'. Tracks and Trails in these instances may, in collaborating with our associates, make use of their guiding services. If you have any queries with regard to this please contact us.

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Making friends in the mountains!