



Balcon du Sud with Mont Blanc behind

French Mont Blanc

A fabulous 4-night sample of the best of the French Tour du Mont Blanc

Tour Highlights

- ☞ Enjoy the cream of the French TMB, with two options for the first and third days' walking to suit your preference.
- ☞ Walk anti-clockwise for an enhanced experience.
- ☞ Choose between the ladders or the GRP up to the legendary 'Balcon du Sud' and the serene Lac Blanc.

Fact File

- ✓ Self-guided, inn-to-inn tour round the western section of the Mont Blanc Massif.
- ✓ Quite-challenging, 4-night taster tour, averaging 5½ hours and 9 miles-15 kms a day.
- ✓ Convenient access from Paris or Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ Departures any day from 15 June to 10 September.
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout - up to 20 kgs per person.
- ✓ Welcoming '3-star standard' hotels, with comfortable rooms and en-suite facilities.



Theme

French Mont Blanc sees you walking the best of the French segment of the legendary TMB and staying in three consecutive three-star hotels and a superior two-star, to boot.

The first day's walking offers you a choice of climbs up to the sumptuous trail locally known as the 'balcon du sud.' Whether you opt for the infamous 'ladders section' of the GR, or the less demanding GRP, you bask in Alpine wonderland and enjoy jaw-dropping views of the Mont Blanc massif; and still get to eat lunch on the banks of arguably its most attractive lake - Lac Blanc.

Having avoided the descent by the much-maligned cable car, the next day commences with a ride back up to exactly where you left off the previous afternoon - simple! But don't forget your hiking sticks as there may still be some snow on the Col de Brevent. Then enjoy the sense of absolute isolation as you join the chosen few that get to see the views of the other side - La Montagne de la Coquille, which is likely to see you signing up to walk the Via Alpina on your return home. And just when you felt it couldn't get any better, it does: the awesome views of Mont Blanc itself from the aptly-named panoramic terrace of Brevent restaurant.

French Mont Blanc then offers you another choice of routes for the big finalé: either more breath-taking views from the High Route, including the memorable



rope bridge section over the Bionnassay Glacier, or the gentler, all-weather option and Low Route that links together some fine alpine villages on route to Les Contamines.

Needless to say, decisions as to which trail to opt for can be deferred until the morning in question, as you walk in a blissful and enlightened state in the knowledge that our transporter is delivering your luggage to your comfortable and welcoming hotel well in advance of your arrival.

French Mont Blanc is arguable the best three days of walking that the Alps, and France itself, has to offer. If you only have a few days to spare, but wish to savour the essence of what the TMB has to offer, then this is the tour for you.



4-night Tour Itinerary¹

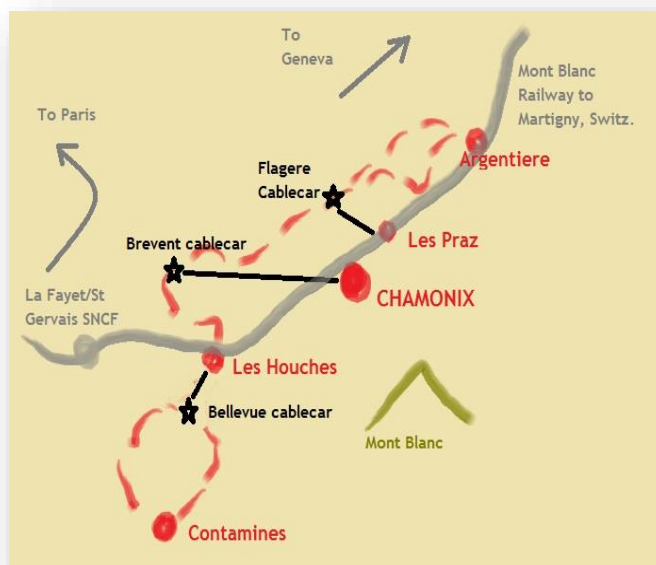
Day 1 Arrive in Argentiere

Check into your centrally-located and comfortable three-star hotel and get up to speed with your walking notes and map awaiting you at Reception.

Day 2 Argentiere to Les Praz de Chamonix via La Flegere

[7 miles/11 kms, 5.30 hrs, +1100ms, -470 ms].

Two options for the climb up to Lac Blanc: the GRP and the 'Grand Balcon du Sud' or the gentler climb via the TMB proper plus the ladders. Imagine you're the only one there before descending the rocky steps to La Flegere and the cable-car down to the Chamonix Valley.



Day 3 Les Praz de Chamonix to Les Houches

[10½ miles/17 kms, +770 ms - 1550 ms, approx. 6.30 hrs]

Walk out the hotel, take the cable car up to La Flagere and get straight into the TMB action: le Balcon du Sud, the splendid col du Brevent, the magnificent panorama from Brevent itself and the descent to Les Houches via Le Merlet.

Day 4 Les Houches to Les Contamines

a) The Low or all-weather Route via Bionnassay

[10 miles/16 kms, +90 ms - 640 ms, approx.4 hrs] or

b) The High Route via Refuge de Miage

[11 miles/18 kms, +840 ms - 580 ms, approx.5¾ hrs]

Avoid the knee-crunching and monotonous climb, take the cable car up to Bellevue and, depending on the weather, and your mood, opt for the trail that suits you to Les Contamines.

Day 5 End of Tour. Buffet breakfast, au revoir et bonne route. Onward travel by bus and train or airport transfer - own arrangements.

*Near Chalet du Truc
with Col de Tricot right*



What's Included

- ✓ 4 nights stay in fine, carefully-selected hotels
- ✓ 4 breakfasts and 3 evening meals
- ✓ Industry-leading hiking notes, two 1:25,000 maps and themed dossier
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout - one suitcase up to 20 kgs per person²
- ✓ Telephone help-line service with 7/7 native English and French-based support
- ✓ Select according to your trail preferences on two days.



Not included

- ⊗ Remaining meals and all drinks and extras - lunch and dinner options are listed in your dossier and walking notes
- ⊗ Personal expenses
- ⊗ Entrances into any optional cultural visits and venues
- ⊗ Hiking, personal and travel insurances
- ⊗ Single rooms - unless booked at the single-person rate
- ⊗ Travel to and from the tour start and finish points.



Bridge over Bionnassay





Lunch on Le Balcon

Three3- star Hotels



“Carefully-selected accommodation based on close contact with our partners.”

As always, and subject to availability, our commitment to our customers is to offer the best accommodation in every stage along the trail. You stay in comfortable accommodation of a high standard, with private rooms throughout [no 'dortoirs'/dormitories] that has been carefully selected on the basis of superior facilities, location, service and welcome. Early booking is advised and en suite facilities the norm and our aim. However, this is arguably the world's most popular hiking trip and such facilities may not always be available and so cannot be a precondition for your booking.

Your accommodation is:

- Argentiere, 3-star hotel,
- Praz de Chamonix, 3-star hotel,
- Les Houches, 3-star hotel, and
- Les Contamines, superior 2-star hotel with outdoor pool - see photo right.



Lac Blanc



Mont Blanc



Descent from Brevent

Access & Departure

Due to the location of Argentiere, a short bus or train-ride from Chamonix, the options for getting to there are frequent and plentiful. Spend your arrival day in Argentiere, or check out Chamonix itself.

By Air

Getting to Argentiere [Chamonix] is relatively straightforward from the following major airports:

1. Geneva International Airport, with onward connections by train [hourly via Martigny] or bus [via the SAT bus company] or via airport transfer.
2. Lyon International Airport, with onward connections by train [via Annecy].
3. Charles de Gaulle with onward connections by train.

By Rail

Our customers recommend RailEurope.com for research and ticketing.

The Mont Blanc Express: This SNCF railway line serves all villages from St Gervais-le Fayet to Martigny (Switzerland) via Servoz, Les Houches, Chamonix, Chamonix Les Praz, Argentière and Vallorcine.

By Bus

Frequent SAT coaches take you from Geneva Airport or Northern Italy to Chamonix. Follow the link below for details.



He's staying in a dormitory - you aren't and just carry a daypack!

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- ❶ Best accommodation, better service and recommended by The Times
- ❷ Benefit from French-based expertise and our total focus on France
- ❸ **Buy direct from us, the tour provider, and get better value for money**
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- ❺ Industry-leading walking notes make orientation easy
- ❻ Two 1:25 000 full scale maps & insightful dossier
- ❼ 7/7 and 8 till late telephone support in native English
- ❽ We transport one suitcase up to 20 kgs from hotel to hotel.
- ❾ Travel along with your luggage if you need a rest day - subject to availability and places are limited².
- ❿ Anglo-French family business that tries harder: We'll look after you like one of the family!



Junction near Miage



Balcon du Sud

2023 prices:

Per person in double or
twin-bedded room:
€765.00 Euros or £660.00 Pounds Sterling

Booking

Email, phone or Skype us and
we will email you everything
you need to reserve your tour.



Notes

¹ We reserve the right to alter parts of the above programme for the benefit of group safety and the quality of the overall experience.

² This covers one piece of luggage per person up to 20 kgs in weight. Supplements apply for overweight luggage and we accept no responsibility for lost valuables. We advise you not to bring computers and business-related equipment.

Travelling with your luggage must be booked the night before and is subject to a fee of approx. 40.00 Euros per person.

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