



Le Grand Balcon du Sud

Taste of Hiking Mont Blanc - Switzerland to France

A chance to sample 4-nights of the Tour du Mont Blanc

Tour Highlights

- ☞ Moderately-challenging, 4-night, TMB taster tour.
- ☞ Enjoy two nights in both France & Switzerland.
- ☞ Start in Champex, Switzerland & finish near Chamonix, France.
- ☞ Walk anti-clockwise for an enhanced experience.
- ☞ Choose between the ladders or the GRP on the final day.
- ☞ Lac Champex to Lac Blanc and the 'Balcon du Sud.'



Fact File

- ✓ Self-guided, inn-to-inn tour round the northern section of the Mont Blanc Massif.
- ✓ Average 5½ hours and 9½ miles-15 kms a day.
- ✓ Convenient access from Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ Departures any day from 15 June to 15 September.
- ✓ Luggage transfers throughout - up to 20 kgs per person.
- ✓ Welcoming hotels, averaging 'superior 2-star standard,' with private rooms - no dormitories!



Theme

Taste of Hiking Mont Blanc [Switzerland to France] empowers you to experience a 3-day section of the mythical Tour du Mont Blanc so you can see what all the fuss is about.

Taste of Hiking Mont Blanc [Switzerland to France] brings Europe's most talked-about hike within easy reach of the healthy and relatively-fit hiker. You stay in Lac Champex or 'Little Canada' and the Col de Forclaz [Franco-Swiss frontier] and enjoy the 'Grand Balcon du Sud', one of the finest hiking trail in Europe. Your average an unhurried five-and-a-half hours a day, so can enjoy the alpine ambiance at your own pace.



Taste of Hiking Mont Blanc [Switzerland to France] comprises luggage transfers and four comfortable hotels with double rooms and en suite facilities. There is also the option to prolong your stay and experience one night in a carefully-selected mountain chalet-refuge, with hot showers, a restaurant and bunk beds arranged in alcoves of six to allow for greater privacy. It's worth it to appreciate one of the finest hiking locations anywhere in Europe - a sublime mid-mountain lakeside getaway.

4-night Itinerary¹

Day 1 Lake Champex. Arrive in Champex, Switzerland and hotel check-in. Enjoy the location affectionately known as 'Little Canada.'

Day 2 Champex to Col de la Forclaz
[10 miles/16 kms, + 664 ms, - 672 ms, approx. 5.30 hrs]
The views down the Upper Rhone Valley from Bovine are a treat, and the descent to the Franco-Swiss border absorbing.

Day 3 Col de la Forclaz to Argentiere
[11 miles/18 kms, + 920 ms, - 1185 ms, approx. 6 hrs]
The climb to the Col de Balme is breathtaking and the views as you descend into France are as exceptional as they are expansive.

Day 4 Argentiere to Les Praz de Chamonix via La Flegere
[7 miles/11 kms, + 1120 ms, - 505 ms, approx. 6 hrs]
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 assisted by the 'ladders'. Imagine you're the only one there before descending the rocky steps to La Flegere and the cable-car down to your celebratory meal.

Day 5 End of Tour. Buffet breakfast and departure. Bon retour et à bientôt!



What's Included

- ☑ 4 nights comfortable accommodation in carefully-selected hotels with private rooms - i.e., no dormitories
- ☑ 4 breakfasts and 3 evening meals & all local hotel taxes
- ☑ Industry-leading hiking notes, 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.



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.





Champex - "little Canada"

Auberges & 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:

- Champex, 3-star hotel;
- Col de la Forclaz/Trient, welcoming comfortable Hotel de Tourisme/auberge;
- Argentiere, 3-star hotel, and
- Praz de Chamonix, 3-star hotel.



All French hotel star ratings underwent a major review by the relevant authorities in 2012/2013, as ratings had lost touch with reality. Such reviews are expensive and individual hotels are expected to pay. Many have not bothered and have chosen to remain starless out of choice. This does not mean that these hotels have suddenly become bad. However, knowing one's accommodation suppliers intimately is now important than ever!



France is just an hour away



Lunch on the banks of Lac Blanc

Access & Departure

Best access is via Geneva airport or the Paris-Geneva TGV. Then fast train from Geneva to Martigny and onward to Orsières (30 minutes) on the Saint-Bernard Express. Then take a short onward bus-ride or ten-minute taxi ride.

From Italy, explore train options from Milan to Orsières via Brig in Switzerland.

Customers rate this site as the best for planning rail journeys:

<http://www.raileurope.com/>

and this site will assist you in planning your final approach from Martigny:

<http://www.tmrta.ch/>

Ten reasons to book with The Enlightened Traveller®

- 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
- ❹ Personalise your tour to suit your needs
- ❺ Industry-leading walking notes make orientation easy
- ❻ 1:25 000 full scale maps & insightful dossier
- ❼ 7/7 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!





Back to Mont Blanc

2023 prices:

Per person in double or
twin-bedded room:
£680.00 Sterling or €795.00 Euros

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.

The Enlightened Traveller®

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Our Guarantee - Tour operator bonding

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