



THE HAUTE ROUTE SKI TOUR

Chamonix, France to Zermatt, Switzerland

ITINERARY

Day 1

We meet in the alpine climbing and ski mountaineering center of Chamonix, France for a meeting before dinner at our hotel to discuss the logistics of the trip. Afterward we will all go out to dinner together (not included)

Day 2

Today we take the amazing Aiguille du Midi tramway to access the famed Vallee Blanche. We spend the day touring the Vallee Blanche area to get acclimated and doing avalanche beacon practice, skinning and kickturn practice, as well as reviewing crevasse rescue techniques before skiing down the Mer de Glace back to town...9,000 vertical feet and 16 miles. The night is spent back in Chamonix at our hotel.

Day 3

Today is a big day with one big climb, one short one, and an exciting rappel. We begin the Haute Route Tour by taking the Grand Montets tram out of the town of Argentiere and skiing down to the Argentiere Glacier. We then skin up the Chardonnay Glacier to the Col du Chardonnay and then a rappel down the other side into Switzerland. We head up to the Fenetre de Saleina and then we make our way across the Trient Glacier to the Trient Hut where we spend the night. A long, yet rewarding day.

Day 4

We have a great descent down to the Champex, Switzerland, down a the Val d'arpette where we transfer by private taxi to the ski resort village of Verbier. There we take the ski lifts back up to the high alpine terrain and then ski down to the Mont Forte Hut, where we spend the night. The Mont Forte hut is just in-bounds at the mega-resort of Verbier, has been recently remodeled, and is very comfortable. Showers are available for purchase. There is also the option of skiing in the afternoon at the Verbier ski resort. An easier, mostly downhill day.

Day 5

We leave the Monte Forte Hut and the Verbier area and make our way to towards the remote Prafleuri Hut across the Grand Deserts Glacier. We also summit our first peak today, Rosablanche, an easy yet rewarding peak. After arriving at the hut, there may be some extra time for some great ski descents in the immediate area.

Day 6

Today we travel over the Col des Roux, traverse the Lac de Dix and then climb up to the Dix Hut

where we are rewarded with stunning views... A shorter day of mostly skinning. However, there are also great options for afternoon ski descents right up from the Dix Hut.

Day 6

This day is spent climbing up the Pigne d'Arolla via the Serpentine Glacier. The Pigne d'Arolla is another one of our summits and the high point of the tour. We then make a fantastic descent down to the Vignettes Hut which occupies an amazing position perched on the side of a large cliff overlooking the glaciers. A longer day with a lot of up as well as down.

Day 8

A long day, but one of the most spectacular. We ski across numerous cols including the Col du Mont Brule which affords amazing views. We also cross a total seven glaciers eventually down the Stockli Glacier and along the Zmutt Glacier, passing under the North Face of the Matterhorn. We finally arrive in the idyllic Swiss town of Zermatt, which has no automobiles. We stay in a 3-star hotel or apartment in Zermatt this evening and enjoy a fine celebratory Swiss meal.

Day after the tour ends

This day is reserved for an optional add-on off-piste skiing day in Zermatt, a rest day, or a travel day to get to an airport for afternoon flights home.

Itinerary subject to change