

ALPINE INTERFACE

HAUTE ROUTE CLASSIC HIKE

– FROM CHAMONIX, FRANCE, TO ZERMATT, SWITZERLAND

Day 1: ARRIVAL DAY – CHAMONIX MONT-BLANC

Meet us in our Chamonix hotel at 6:30pm for your trip briefing, followed by dinner in one of our favorite restaurants in town.



Hotel in Chamonix

Dinner included

Day 2: COL DE FORCLAZ

A short taxi-ride up the Chamonix Valley to the town of Argentière before we begin to climb through a forest of larch and fir trees, quickly reaching the pastures of the Col de Balme and the border with Switzerland. Several variations are possible, depending on the group's ability and weather. Stunning views down toward Chamonix.



Hotel Col de Forclaz

Breakfast, Dinner included

Luggage delivered

Distance: 17.6km (11m), 5 hours, up: 1140m (3760ft), down 865m (2855ft)

Morning transfer from Chamonix to Argentière, 15 min

Day 3: CHAMPEX-LAC

We either take the more challenging – but also more rewarding – path over the Fenêtre d'Arpette, or the gentler Bovine Traverse. Lunch en route with great views either to the Trient glacier or the Rhône Valley and its many vineyards.



Hotel in Champex-Lac

Breakfast, Dinner included

Luggage delivered

Distance: 15km (9.5m), 5-6 hours, up 661m (2170ft), down 521m (1710ft)

Day 4: CABANE DU MONT FORT

We transfer to the posh ski resort of Verbier in the Val de Bagnes, and have some time to explore the mountain village, before we have lunch above Verbier in a beautiful alpine restaurant. Refreshed, we follow an ancient canal to the Cabane du Mont Fort, our lodgings for the night. The views at sunset over the Mont Blanc Range are spectacular.



Cabane du Mont Fort, shared bathrooms

Breakfast, Dinner included

Distance: 14 km (8.75m), 4 hours, up 735m (2400ft), down 550m (1790ft)

Transfer from Champex-Lac to Verbier (45 min)

Day 5: CABANE DE PRA FLEURI

We are now high up in the alpine, as we cross three mountain passes; Col de la Chaux, Col de Louvie and Col de Pra Fleuri. These are difficult trails with rugged sections but the rewards are worth it. Not much in the way of a path, we skirt glaciers and follow blazes painted on the rocks. Walking time: 6 - 8 hours.



Cabane de Pra Fleuri, small dormitories, shared bathrooms

Breakfast included

Distance: 14km (8.75m), 8 hours, up 800m (2628ft), down 634m (2080ft)

Day 6: AROLLA

The day begins with a short climb to the Col des Roux and views out towards the Dix dam and lake. The Dix hut, our lunch destination, is an engineering marvel, perched on a rocky outcrop jutting out towards the glacier below. Weather-permitting, we will have a picnic with our first glimpse of the Matterhorn. We then carry on towards the Reidmatten pass. The climb to the pass is steep and requires some care, but the views at the top are well worth the effort. A steep descent takes us to Arolla.

Once a thriving summer destination a century ago, this sleepy town is still a gem built at roughly 2000 meters above sea level. Grand old hotels, hark back to the 'Golden Age of Mountaineering' when wealthy clients hired guides for months at a time and climbed the surrounding peaks. Our night's accommodation is a majestic old hotel, with modern amenities and an excellent restaurant.



Hotel in Arolla



Breakfast, Dinner included



Luggage delivered



Distance: 17km (10.5m), 8 hours, up 718m (2355ft), down 1275m (4180ft)

Day 7: GRIMENTZ

Another short transfer brings us to our starting point in the little village of Villa, above Les Haudères. We climb up the Col du Torrent and descend to the Barrage de Moiry (dam) for a well-deserved drink, before we take the bus down to the hamlet of Grimentz, a beautiful and very picturesque village with 16th century wooden houses and an abundance of geraniums.



Hotel in Grimentz



Breakfast, Dinner included



Luggage delivered



Distance: 13km (8.2m), 5-6 hours, up 1184m (3885ft), down 665m (2815ft)



Transfer Arolla to Villa (20 min), Lac de Moiry to Grimentz (20 min)

Day 8: GRUBEN

From Grimentz we transfer across the valley to St. Luc by taxi and our funicular ride for an easy start. Our high point is the Meidpass (2,790m - 9'153 ft), which allows for sweeping views of several of the higher mountains in the Valais, including the Dom, the highest mountain that is entirely in Switzerland. A steeper descent from the pass is followed by a path in a lush forest, before reaching Gruben a summer only village in the Turtmantal the linguistic border between French and German.



Hotel Schwarzhorn



Breakfast, Dinner included



Luggage delivered



Distance: 12.8km (8m), 4-5 hours, up 612m (2020ft), down 972m (3207ft)



Transfer Grimentz to St. Luc (20 min), Funicular (10 min)

Day 9: ZERMATT

We are almost in Zermatt: From our hotel in Gruben we make our way up the Augstbord Pass (2,788m - 9'147 ft), before reaching Jungu, a tiny hamlet just above St. Niklaus. A funky, private cable car whisks us down to St. Niklaus where we hop on the train to Zermatt. Walking time: 6-7 hours



Hotel in Zermatt



Breakfast, Dinner included



Luggage delivered



Distance: 12.8km (8m), 4-5 hours, up 1064m (3490ft), down 914m (3000ft)



Transfer St. Niklaus – Zermatt (45 min)

Day 10: ZERMATT: HÖHBALMEN, TRIFT

Leaving right from the hotel's front door, we begin one of the more arduous hikes of the trip, with nearly 1100 metres of vertical gain. Our hike takes us steeply up the Trift Gorge where at the top, a lovingly restored hotel and refuge welcomes the weary climber and hiker alike.

Hugo, mountain guide and owner of the Trift Hotel serves wonderful home-made pies and other delights. With the sound of his Alphorn echoing in the distance, we carry on along the Höhbalmen trail with some of the best views in the Alps.

Monte Rosa, the second highest peak in the Alps unfolds before us, as do some of the other giants such as the Breithorn, Liskam, and, of course, the huge North Face of the Matterhorn itself, symbol of the Alps.

Our trail winds back down to the valley floor through pleasant haying fields. If the weather is good, we will have a drink in the hamlet of Zmutt, before heading back to Zermatt's main street. Dinner on your own in Zermatt.



Hotel in Zermatt



Breakfast included



Distance: 22km (13m), 6-7 hours, up/down 1125m (3690sft)

Day 11 - DEPARTURE

All guests will depart from Zermatt at their own leisure.

We can, of course, help with pre- and post-arrangements.



Breakfast included
