



Duration of the tour: 7 days
Category: ski tour
Difficulty level: easy / moderate / difficult / **very difficult** / expert

Haute Route

On the original Route

The classical 'Haute Route', situated in the 'Alps of the Wallis', is and remains one of the greatest goals for every ski-touring enthusiast. Towards the end of the winter, between April and May is the most favourable time to attempt this classic of all ski traverses. At this time of the year the corn snow is probably at its best, the days are longer and considerably warmer and there are fewer skiers on the route. The valleys bottoms start to turn green with the new growth. All this is part of the 'Haute Route' experience that so many ski touring friends are dreaming of. To be able to leave your own tracks in this gorgeous landscape, to stay in mostly empty huts and to appreciate the good avalanche conditions you will find this time of year.

Region:

Walliser Alps (Switzerland), Mont Blanc-Group (Italy, France)

Day 1, Saturday

Our meeting point is at 12 o'clock at the gondola 'Grands Montets' in Argentière (1.252 m). We take the gondola to the summit station (3.233 m). Descent and short ascent to the Refuge (hut) 'Argentière' (2.271 m).

Hiking time approx. 2 hours, ascent 200 m.

Day 2, Sunday

Ascent to the 'Col du Chardonnet' (3.323 m) and further on over the 'Fenêtre du Saleina' and the 'Fenêtre du Chamois'. From here we can enjoy the tremendous descent through the Val d'Arpette to Champex (1.470 m). By bus or taxi via 'Orsieres' to 'Bourg St. Pierre' (1.632 m). Tonight we will stay in an Inn.

Hiking time approx. 7 hours, ascent 1.000 m, descent 2.000 m.

Day 3, Monday

Long ascent to the Cab. de Valsorey hut (3.030 m).

Hiking time approx. 6 hours, ascent 1.400 m.

Day 4, Tuesday

Ascent via the 'Plateau du Couloir' (3.650 m) and 'Col du Sonadon' (3.504 m) and descent to the 'Cab. Charion' hut (2.460 m).

Hiking time approx. 6 hours, ascent 900 m, descent 1.900 m.

Day 5, Wednesday

Above the 'Glacier du Breney' to 'Pigne d'Arolla' (3.796 m). Descent to the 'Cab. des Vignettes' hut (3.157 m).

Hiking time approx. 7 hours, ascent 1.400 m, descent 700 m.

Day 6, Thursday

After a very early start we reach via three different passes the 'Col de Valpelline'. From there it is downhill to 'Zermatt', where we stay in an hotel.

Hiking time approx. 8 hours, ascent 900 m, descent 2.400 m.

Day 7, Friday

By bus and train via 'Martigny' we return to 'Chamonix' (1.037 m). From there you can either commence your homeward journey or you are welcome to stay a little longer in Chamonix.

Option: If conditions are good, the ascent of the **Mont Blanc (4.807 m)** is possible after this week.

Required:

Ski touring and high altitude touring experience, excellent physical condition, a sure foot and no fear of heights, good ski technique in all types of snow, enough endurance for ascents with up to 1.400 meters a day.

Equipment:

Alpine ski touring skis, ski crampons, climbing skins, ski poles, ski touring boots, avalanche transceiver, avalanche shovel, ski pants, down jacket, pullover or fleece jacket, protective wear against wind and rain (Gore-Tex), underwear with climate function, a change of underwear (stored in a plastic bag), rucksack approx. 45 litre. Special advice: you can protect your equipment with a plastic bag inside your rucksack, or use a rucksack cover, 2 pairs of gloves, cap (against sun and cold), glacier sunglasses, sunscreen, lip salve, a thermos bottle, snacks (power bar, nuts, etc.), sleeping bag liner, head lamp, toilet bag, first aid, indoor shoes or trainers, identity card, alpine club member card.

Special equipment (crampons, ice-axe, climbing harness, carabines, sewn slings, etc.) if at hand please bring these along. This equipment can also be provided to you (free of charge).

Accommodation:

Hotels (shared accommodation), mountain huts (dormitory)

Services:

Mountain guide, avalanche transceiver and shovel

Additional costs:

6x half pension, 1x cable car, 1x bus transfer. We recommend € 50,- per day (6 days in Swiss Francs) for drinks, etc.

Participants:

4 – 5 people

