

August 24-29, 2009

CHAMONIX



CLASSIC CLIMBS OF THE MONT BLANC MASSIF

A week climbing some of the Classic routes of the area including the Traverse of the Crochue, the Tour Ronde, the Cosmiques Arete, and the traverse of Mt. Blanc.

Based in the epicenter of world alpine climbing, Chamonix, we will spend our week sampling some of the hundreds of world class alpine climbs in the Mt. Blanc Massif and the Aiguille Rouge. This is one of the most spectacular and easily accessed alpine environments on the planet. Trams and gondolas allow us to ascend high into the peaks with ease, leaving us time and energy to attempt challenging routes and return to the Chamonix Valley for French cuisine and a warm bed! This also allows us to acclimatize by staying high during the day, then sleeping low at night. We'll culminate the week with a traverse of Mt. Blanc via the Trois Monts route, a long and challenging climb to the top of Western Europe.

● August 24 - Arrive Geneva. Meet in rental car area and drive to Chamonix, about an hour and a half. Check in to local hotel, go to the local crag for a bit of climbing in the afternoon.

● August 25 - Early morning for the tram ride, La Flégère, to the Aiguille Rouge. About an hour hike to the beginning of the Traverse of the Crochue. This climb is an opportunity for us to practice movement over broken terrain, begin acclimatizing, and hopefully get our first full views of the Mt. Blanc Massif across the valley. The traverse involves rock climbing in alpine boots up to about 5.5, all the while perched on the knife-edged ridge of the Crochue. Descend to Lac Blanc then hike back to La Flégère.



Traverse of the Crochue

A classic ridge run in the Aiguille Rouge with views of the Mt. Blanc Massif and the Chamonix Valley.



Tour of Classics

Top - Descending from the Crochue to Lac Blanc.

Center - Topping out to the Aiguille du Midi tram station after an ascent of the Cosmiques Arete.

Bottom - Climbers ascending the Cosmiques Arete between the 1st and 2nd Towers (1re et 2e Tours)

● August 26 - In the early a.m. we will drive through the Mt. Blanc Tunnel to La Palud, Italy. We will take the tram to the Torino Hut, then begin the glacier traverse to La Tour Ronde. There are three options for routes on this peak - the South East Ridge, a rock ridge and knife-edge snow climb to the summit, and the Gervasutti Couloir and the North Face, both snow and ice climbs of 50 to 55 degrees. The Tour Ronde is at the heart of the Mt. Blanc Massif with incredible views of Mt. Blanc du Tacul and its wild granite spires. We descend back to the glacier and hike back to the Torino Hut for the ride back down to Italy. Drive back to Chamonix.

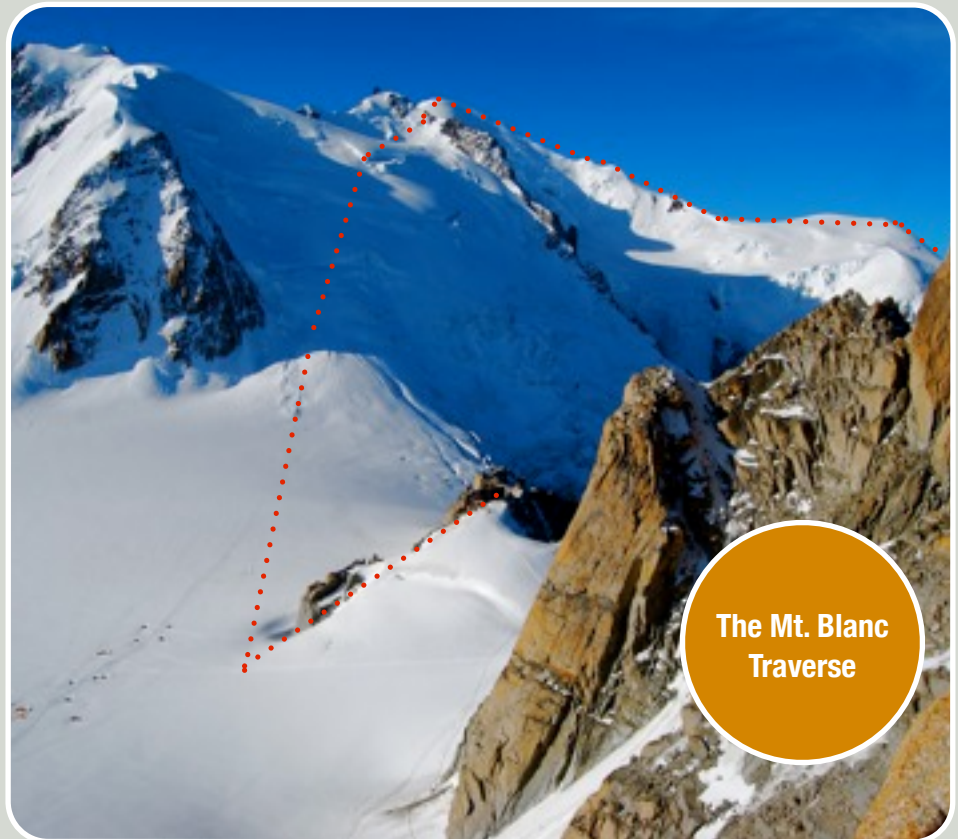
● August 27 - We'll take the first tram up to the Aiguille du Midi for an ascent of the Cosmiques Arete, a classic ridge run that mixes snow and rock climbing and ends swinging a leg over the rail onto the Aiguille du Midi tram station. Once back on top we'll actually descend back to the Cosmiques Hut where we will spend the night.

● August 28 - A very early morning start for the Mt. Blanc Traverse. We first ascend Mt. Blanc du Tacul to a shoulder below its summit - 2-2 1/2 hours. Dropping down to the Col Maudit, we then ascend to just below the summit of Mt. Maudit - 2 1/2-2 3/4 hours. Finally, we drop down to the Brenva Col below Mt. Blanc and on up to the summit - 3-4 hours. From the summit we descend the Gouter Ridge, down past the Gouter and Tete Rouse huts to the Nid d'Aigle (Eagle's Nest) - about five hours. From the Nid d'Aigle we ride the train back to the valley. This is a big day, and we'll enjoy a good meal back in town. This route requires an early start and moving quickly and efficiently the whole way to avoid spending another night up high.

● August 29 - A rest/weather day.

● August 30 - Return to Geneva for flights home.

Routes - Our route choices throughout the week may change due to weather, stamina, or local recommendation due to changing conditions.



Equipment List

Personal Climbing Gear

- Helmet
- 50 cm to 60 cm ice ax
- Climbing harness
- 2 locking carabiners
- Belay/rappel device
- Shoulder length sling
- 17' 7mm cord for a cordelette
- Crampons with anti-balling plates
- Insulated mountaineering boots

Personal Clothing

- 2 long underwear tops
- 2 long underwear bottoms
- stretch woven climbing pants (Marmot

Scree Pants or similar)

- Heavy fleece jacket
- Lighter fleece sweater
- Windbreaker (Marmot Dri-Clime or

similar)

- Warm winter hat
- Balaclava or neck gaiter
- 2 pair warm synthetic socks to fit your

mountaineering boots

- Fleece gloves
- Shelled, insulated ski/mountaineering

gloves

- Gore-Tex shell jacket with hood
- Gore-Tex shell pants, preferably with

side zips

Miscellaneous

- Goggles
- Sun glasses
- Baseball cap or sun hat
- Headlamp
- Personal first-aid - band-aids, blister kit, personal medications, etc.
- 2 X 1 liter water bottles - wide mouth
- Small pocket knife
- Sun screen
- Lip balm
- Toiletries
- Town clothes

Renting Equipment in Chamonix

Chamonix has some of the best gear shops with the best prices in the world. It is an excellent place to purchase equipment and things like boots, helmet, ice-ax and crampons can be rented there. We're happy to accompany you on shopping trips in town to be sure you get what you need.



I'm Looking Forward to Climbing With You!

Travel & Rescue Insurance

Travel insurance is recommended. Go to www.InsureMyTrip.com for quotes from the major travel insurance companies. Membership to the American Alpine Club includes evacuation insurance from remote locations worldwide, as well as other benefits. Go to www.americanalpineclub.org

\$4200 Includes

Professional guide, ground transportation, lifts and trams, lunches on climbs, 1 night in the Cosmiques hut. **Does not include:** Meals in towns, lodging in towns, international airfare, rescue and trip cancelation insurance, items of a personal nature, drinks.

Deposit

\$1200 deposit per person required to book the trip. The balance of trip costs are due 60 days prior to the departure date. See below for the Cancellation Policy.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation occurring after the balance due date will result in a complete forfeiture of all payments and deposit.

If you cancel your enrollment before the balance due date you will receive a refund of all payments and deposit less any deposits we cannot recuperate from hotels, flights, etc, and a cancellation fee of \$100.



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