

Climb Mont Blanc

Make the ascent of Western Europe's highest mountain with our experienced team to guide you every step of the way

- **Six day course**
- **Three days training and acclimatisation**
- **Three day window to climb Mont Blanc**
- **Two opportunities to reach the summit**

Summary of the Mount Blanc course

Our Chamonix-based course is specifically designed to give our clients the maximum chance of achieving Mont Blanc's summit and, because of this, we have a high rate of success for our summit attempts.

Over the past 18 years we have successfully guided clients, from complete beginners to experienced alpinists, to the summit of Mont Blanc. Our clients benefit from the experience of Mountain Adventure Guides' Director, Richard Mansfield, who has been climbing and guiding Mont Blanc for almost 30 years.

After an initial three days of training and acclimatisation we allow a further three days to climb Mont Blanc, usually via the Tete Rousse and Gouter huts. With our course designed in this way – with two nights on the mountain – you and your guide have two opportunities to reach the summit. The programme is not fixed and can change if conditions, weather or hut bookings vary. Your guide will choose the best routes and venues for the conditions at the time.

Mont Blanc ascent – is it for me?

If you have little or no climbing experience it can be difficult to understand exactly what climbing Mt Blanc involves. We believe that if you have a reasonable level of walking experience in, for instance, the Lake District, Scotland or Wales, and are generally fit, then you have a good chance of summiting Mont Blanc after the training and acclimatisation we can give you over our six day course.

We will introduce you to and train you in the use of crampons and ice axes. We will climb easy alpine peaks prior to Mont Blanc to help you develop these skills and to start to become more comfortable in the alpine environment. The first time you leave a mountain

hut in the dark and begin walking on a glacier, for example, can be a nerve racking and stressful experience, but with the help and understanding from our guides, you will soon feel relatively relaxed and the second time should be no problem at all!

During the acclimatisation days the pace is relaxed and unhurried while we walk to the huts and acclimatise on lower alpine peaks. You also have plenty of time to relax both in the huts and in the Chamonix valley. This approach continues with the ascent of Mont Blanc, where the pace set by the guides is often slower than the training days.

On the summit days you will be roped to a guide (maximum two people to one guide ratio) and the guide will set the right pace for you, allowing you to climb at your own rhythm.

Mont Blanc is not "an easy walk", it is a graded alpine climb. And although it is not regarded as a technically difficult climb, there may be brief moments when you need to climb with your hands on easy angled rock, particularly on the way to the Gouter hut. Most of the ascent is, however, on snow. The summit day itself can be a twelve hour round trip, so stamina not sprint training is required!

Our experience shows that with good preparation on your part and the skills of our guides, you have a good chance of summiting -- and you never know, you may even enjoy the ascent!

Course requirements: your fitness

Participants on this course must be fit and used to long days on the hill. The summit day can be likened to a twelve hour marathon! For more information on being fit for alpine activities read our guide: Fitness for Mont Blanc 4800m and the Alps.

Mont Blanc ascent – sample itinerary

PRE COURSE MEETING

Evening meeting with guides prior to first day of the programme to discuss equipment and course structure.

DAY 1

Ecole de glace (ice training day) on the Mer de Glace. Here you will learn basic crampon and ice axe techniques which are invaluable for an ascent of Mont Blanc. This is also a great opportunity to see the Mer de Glace at close quarters.

DAY 2

Take the lift up the Aiguille du Midi to make a traverse of the Vallee Blanche and an ascent of the Aiguille de Toule 3534m. The night is spent in a mountain hut at altitude to help with the acclimatisation process.

DAY 3

From the hut, we make an early start to climb Mont Blanc du Tacul 4248m. This is a great acclimatisation ascent with fantastic views of Mont Blanc and the surrounding Aiguilles. We then descend back into Chamonix valley for the night.

DAY 4

An easy 2 to 3 hour walk to the Tete Rousse hut at 3204 metres.

DAY 5

We usually try and climb to the 4808m summit, returning to stay in the Gouter hut at 3800 metres. If the weather conditions or client fitness precludes a summit attempt, then we use the day to climb to the Gouter hut.

DAY 6

We descend to the valley from the Gouter hut or climb to the summit from the hut and then return to the valley.

The above programme is not fixed and can change if conditions, weather or hut bookings vary. Your guide will choose the best routes and venues for the conditions at the time.

PRICES – SUMMER 2018

- **Saturday to Saturday – six days**
- **Guide only price – from £350 per day, plus guide expenses**
- **Maximum group size – six people**
– for groups of more than six, we can arrange extra guides.
- **Two clients only per guide on Mont Blanc summit days 4 to 6**
– additional guides for the summit days will be arranged for groups of more than two people .

We can help you arrange... *

- Transfers and in-resort transport
- Accommodation and meals
- Lift passes where required
- Equipment hire.

*not included in guide only price

We do not organise...

- Flights
- Insurance.

Equipment requirements

- Equipment list available when booking.

To make a booking

For more information and to discuss Climbing Mont Blanc, or to book:

tel: +44 (0) 330 321 1017

email: info@mountainadventureguides.co.uk

BOOKING FORM

To make a booking please complete the form below. Scan and email back to info@mountainadventureguides.co.uk or send by post to: Mountain Adventure Guides, Cherry Blossoms, Barline, Beer, Devon, EX12 3LP, UK

To secure a booking a deposit of 25% of the total cost of the course is required.

A booking will be held for you for a maximum of 10 days without a deposit. If we have not received a deposit after this time the reserved place or places will be made available to others.

Once we have received your booking form and deposit we will issue you with a confirmation form to notify that you have been booked onto the course.

The balance of your course is due no later than eight weeks prior to the start date. If the booking is made less than 8 weeks prior to the course then the total cost is payable immediately. Once we have received the full balance for the course we will send you a final confirmation form.

Payment: deposits and balances can be paid by bank transfer or UK bank cheque.

- Cheques made payable to: **Mountain Guides Ltd**
- Bank transfers in GBP sterling: **Lloyds Bank TSB** (Trinity Square, Axminster, Devon, EX13 5AL, UK)
Sort Code: **30-90-37** / Account No: **28768560**
IBAN: **GB58LOYD30903728768560**
BIC: **LOYDGB21275**
Reference: **your name**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

COUNTRY: _____ POSTCODE: _____

TEL NO.: _____ MOBILE NO.: _____

EMAIL: _____

COURSE NAME: _____

DATES OF COURSE: _____ NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN GROUP: _____

TOTAL COST OF THE COURSE: £ _____ 25% BOOKING DEPOSIT: £ _____

ANY MEDICAL CONDITIONS WE SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF? YES NO

IF YES, PLEASE GIVE MORE INFORMATION: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME AND TEL NO.: _____

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MOUNTAIN GUIDES LTD.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

MOUNTAIN GUIDES LTD: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Booking and Payment : Mountain Guides Ltd shall include where appropriate its associates and employees. The Client means the person who makes the reservation and must be a minimum of 18 years old. By making such a booking the Client shall be deemed to have accepted the terms of these booking conditions.

Deposits and bookings: No contract shall exist between Mountain Guides Ltd and the Client until a 25% deposit has been paid and a confirmation email has been sent from Mountain Guides Ltd.

Final balance: The final balance is to be paid no later than 8 weeks prior to the start of the course the Client has booked for and if a booking is made within this 8 weeks then full payment is required. If payment is not received by the due date then Mountain Guides Ltd reserves the right to cancel the reservation without further notice, retaining deposits and the right to levy cancellation charges.

Payment: must be made by bank transfer or UK cheque

Cancellation: If you wish to cancel your course, cancellation will only take effect when written or email notification by the Client is received by Mountain Guides Ltd. The following cancellation fees will become immediately payable to Mountain Guides Ltd.

Notification of cancellation given: cancellation fee

Up to 8 weeks prior to course start: deposit (25%)

Less than 8 weeks: 100%

We strongly recommend all Clients to arrange suitable travel insurance to cover losses.

Holiday Insurance: It is mandatory that whilst on a Mountain Guides Ltd course the Client has personal insurance to fully cover themselves for personal accident, rescue and third party risks. Mountain Guides Ltd will also not be held responsible for your luggage and personal effects whilst on a Mountain Guides Ltd course.

Cancellation or amendment by Mountain Guides Ltd: We reserve the right to cancel any course if there are insufficient bookings for that course or we have irresolvable staffing issues e.g. illness or injury. In the unlikely event that Mountain Guides Ltd has to alter or cancel your holiday the Client shall be offered:

- a) an option to transfer to another course. If the price of the new course is more than the original one the Client will be requested to pay the difference. If the price of the new course is less than the original one the Client will receive a full refund of the difference,
- b) an option to pay a supplement for the course to run the course,
- c) a full refund,

unless the cancellation or alteration is due to forces beyond the control of Mountain Guides Ltd such as fire, floods, natural disaster, political unrest, riots, strikes, war or any other circumstances amounting to Force Majeure.

Surcharges: Mountain Guides Ltd shall endeavour not to surcharge your holiday cost, but if surcharging is necessary we will attempt to keep any increase to a minimum and will advise the Client of the adjustments at the earliest opportunity.

Equipment: The Client will be responsible for the loss or damage to equipment loaned or hired to the Client. The cost of repair or replacement of the equipment will be charged to the Client.

Safety: Mountain Guides Ltd will make every effort to safe guard the Client's safety in the Mountains however the Client must be aware that when undertaking activities in the mountains there is an element of risk. Climbing, skiing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death and participants should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their actions and involvement. While your guide every reasonable step to reduce these risks to a minimum, they cannot be totally eliminated.

Mountain Guides Ltd has the right to cancel or curtail the participation of any Client that they believe is potentially placing themselves or other members of the group at risk.

Client Participation: Mountain Guides Ltd also has the right cancel or curtail the participation of a Client that is acting in an inappropriate behaviour that is disruptive to others in the group.

Weather: Mountain Guides Ltd cannot be held responsible for the snow and weather conditions prevailing at the time of your course. In adverse weather conditions Mountain Guides Ltd will make every effort to ensure that your course will be tailored to provide a suitable alternative programme.

Accommodation: Where Mountain Guides Ltd undertakes to book accommodation on behalf of the Client there will be an Agent either in or nearby to Chamonix who can be easily contacted. The Agent is available to sort out aspects of the accommodation while the Client is in occupancy. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that the accommodation is in acceptable order and with adequate equipment, Mountain Guides Ltd will not accept responsibility for deficiencies beyond its control.

Client Liability: It is the Clients' responsibility to ensure that the accommodation/ apartment/ chalet is left in a clean condition, with replacement of all breakages, if this is not possible, the breakage should be reported to the Agent and paid for. The client must adhere to all chalet exit regulations by signing a document on arrival. A returnable damage deposit of 500E is authorized at the time of full payment or on arrival from your credit card and will be returned within 2 weeks of departure, less any costs incurred for cleaning and damages not reported or paid for. Mountain Guides Ltd shall be entitled to recover from the Client costs for damages or losses caused by the Client or a third party. If the Client fails to do so, the Client must indemnify Mountain Guides Ltd against any claims (including legal costs) subsequently made against Mountains Guides Ltd or its agents as a result of the Client's actions. Mountain Guides Ltd and its Agents reserve the right to terminate the holiday of any Client whose behaviour or that of any of the Client's party is considered to be unacceptable.

If there are any problems about the condition of the accommodation/ apartment/ chalet and any inventory discrepancy, the Client should contact the Agent directly on a number which will be supplied at the time of booking. The Client is unable to request a change of apartment during their holiday. Mountain Guides Ltd disclaims any liability for disputes between the Client and the local Agent. Mountain Guides Ltd disclaim any liability for negligence of use by the Client of items associated to the accommodation/ apartment/ chalet.

Third Parties: Mountain Guides Ltd does not accept liability for any act or default or omission on the part of the suppliers of any service that Mountain Guides Ltd offers and over whom Mountain Guides Ltd has no direct control or has information link to on this website. All company links and information on this site is the sole responsibility of that company or their site. Mountain Guides Ltd disclaims any responsibility or liability for any issues relating to these companies. The Client will be bound by the operating conditions of the suppliers of the other services that make up the holiday. In no event shall the liability of Mountain Guides Ltd to the Client exceed the price paid for the relevant holiday or arrangement.

Complaints: Any complaints should be addressed to Mountain Guides Ltd at the time of the course or within one month of the end of the course.

Disputes: Any contract between the Client and Mountain Guides Ltd shall be governed in all respects by English Law. Only English Courts shall have jurisdiction in relation to any claim or dispute arising out of or connected with any such contract.

Information Accuracy: Every effort has been made to ensure that the information supplied by Mountain Guides Ltd is accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of writing.