

The French Alps

Tour of Mnt Blanc part or complete route for DofE
groups

A summer expedition



The Tour of Mnt Blanc is widely regarded as one of the greatest mountain walks in the world. Crossing three countries and covering 112 miles with 10600m of ascent (and therefore loss) the entire trip can be accomplished in under two weeks by anyone with moderate fitness. There are so many variations to the route that the abilities of most groups can be catered for, however there are still some fairly large ascents and descents that cannot be avoided and a reasonable level of fitness is required to ensure that this route is enjoyed.



Being one of the busiest long distance walks in the world there is a good network of paths and mountain huts with campsites at regular distances to ensure that the days walk is never too long. There is also a fantastic helicopter rescue access and regular road heads that the route touches to ensure easy support of the expedition

The 12 day trip can facilitate a four day DofE gold practice or qualifying expedition. There is also the opportunity to complete half the distance and facilitate the DofE Expedition in an 8 day option from Chamonix going either into Switzerland or Italy.

The two outline itineraries below are simply that, there is scope to fulfil most ideals and abilities.

The 8 Day option.

- Day one fly to Geneva and private or scheduled (depending on group numbers) transfer to Chamonix. Geneva airport is serviced by Easyjet from most UK areas and this makes it a relatively cheap flight outside of the skiing season.
- Day two food shopping, briefings and time to spend enjoying the sites and cafes of Chamonix
- Day three acclimatization walk around Lac Blanc, by bus to the Col de Montets it is possible to walk up to Lac Blanc and from there back to Chamonix in one fairly long day. There are options to take a cable car to reduce some of the distance/ascents.
- Day four, expedition day one walk to Les Houches
- Day five, expedition day two walk to Les Contamines
- Day six, expedition day three walk to Les Chapieux
- Day seven, expedition day four walk to Courmayeur
- Day eight bus back to Chamonix and transfer to Geneva for flight back to UK (Possibility to take an optional day in either Courmayeur or Chamonix.) Cost (based on 10 pupils minimum) £750 p/person, includes one teacher to accompany group free of charge.

Accommodation is by camping throughout



The 12 Day option, the complete tour.

- Day one fly to Geneva and private or scheduled (depending on group numbers) transfer to Chamonix. Geneva airport is serviced by Easyjet from most UK areas and this makes it a relatively cheap flight outside of the skiing season.
- Day two food shopping, briefings and time to spend enjoying the sites and cafes of Chamonix.
- Day three, DofE expedition day one walk to Les Houches
- Day four, DofE expedition day two walk to Les Contamines
- Day five, DofE expedition day three walk to Les Chapieux
- Day six, DofE expedition day four walk to Courmayeur
- Day seven, rest day in Courmayeur
- Day eight, to La Fouly
- Day nine, to Champex
- Day ten, to Le Buet
- Day eleven, to Chamonix via Lac Blanc
- Day twelve transfer to Geneva for return flight to UK
- Cost (based on 12 pupils minimum) £1000 p/person, includes one teacher to accompany group free of charge.

What do the costs include ?

- A qualified supervisor (IML) and accredited assessor for the expedition,
- One free teachers place per 12 students
- Budget for Expedition food
- Private Airport transfers in France,
- Support vehicle (van for the 12 day option)
- Maps, campsite and teachers bunkhouse costs.
- Detailed Kit lists,
- Risk assessments
- Pre expedition visit to the school to assist with route planning
- Blue form completion and liason with DofE panel
- On going advise from our office in Somerset

What is not included (The honesty section)

- Any additional soft drinks or personal expenditure
- Air fares and UK airport transfers
(There are various options for flights depending upon your point of departure)
- Personal travel insurance
- Personal spending monies

Why book with Wildcountry Consultants.

As one of the first Approved Activity Providers licensed in the UK to provide UK and overseas DofE expeditions WCC have built a solid reputation for quality and safety.

All of our instructors are mature individuals who have a considerable depth of experience in working with youth groups and they all hold the appropriate qualifications for the terrain in which they are operating. We do not use trained only individuals.

Our Employers Liability Insurance covers all our instructors and we are covered for £10M Public Liability Insurance through Activities industry Mutual, the leading provider of Insurance to the adventurous activities market. We are also fully licensed by the Adventurous Activities Licensing Service (A division of the HSE) to provide mountaineering and trekking expeditions across the world.

We provide a holistic service from our office in Somerset for all our expeditions: from comprehensive advice on expedition equipment to personal fitness, risk assessments, declaration of risk documentation, booking paperwork and participant medical declaration forms.

The areas in which we operate we have first hand experience through having run expeditions previously and the instructors involved will have operated in this environment before. We will not take any individuals on our expeditions where we have concerns over their physical abilities or level of personal preparation to cope with the physical demands of the terrain they intend to cover.

Our commitment to you is one of safety first through meticulous planning and continual assessment of both the participants and the environment in which they are operating. Whilst the expedition will be demanding and place the participant in an environment which is generally outside of their comfort zone we will try to ensure they enjoy the experience as fully as possible by checking they are fully prepared for the experience. Finally we will turn the experience into a learning environment for them by assessing their understanding of the role they play within the team and the environment through which they are travel