

MT Sobek: Mont Blanc Family Adventure

Day 1 Arrive in Geneva, Switzerland & Transfer to Chamonix, France

1.5-hour private van transfer

Arrive at the airport in Geneva, Switzerland, and meet your guide promptly at 2pm for a private van transfer to the resort town of Chamonix, France. Please arrive early enough (by 1pm) to allow time to get through customs and immigration before the scheduled pick-up. After a scenic, hour-and-a-half ride into the mountains, take time to rest at the hotel or explore town before orientation. In the early evening, meet your guides and the rest of the group; then enjoy a delicious welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: La Folie Douce

(D)

Day 2 Hike from Les Houches to Chalet de Nant Borrant

6 hours/8 miles hiking with 2,650' elevation gain and loss

Begin your day riding the cable car to Bellevue, where breathtaking panoramic views of the Mont Blanc Mountain Range, the Aiguilles Rouges, and the Fiz and Aravis Massifs await. Cross the suspension bridge over Bionnassay Torrent, then descend into the hamlet of Champel before reaching Les Contamines-Montjoie. Continue to the bottom of the valley to Notre Dame de la Gorge, a Baroque church and ancient pilgrimage site. Finish the day with one last stretch of the legs to Refuge de Nant Borrant, your mountain hut for the night. You will not have your luggage on this night, so bring your overnight essentials in your daypack.

Accommodation: Refuge de Nant Borrant

(B, L, D)

Day 3 Hike from Val Montjoie to Les Chambres de Soleil

7 hours/8 miles hiking with 3,300' elevation gain and 2,650' loss

Relish a hearty mountain breakfast, then prepare for your hike. Starting from the Contamines-Montjoie Nature Preserve, begin your long, steady climb up to the Col du Bonhomme (8,133'). As you gain altitude, notice how the forest gives way to grassy meadows, then up to boulders and scree fields as you arrive above tree line at the Col de Bonhomme. Keep your camera ready for a spotting of roaming ibex! Enjoy a well-earned descent into the hamlet of Les Chapieux to Auberge de la Nova, your home for the night.

Accommodation: Auberge de la Nova

(B, L, D)

Day 4 Hike from La Vallee des Glaciers to Le Col de la Seigne into Courmayeur

50 minute private van transfer

7 hours/10.5 miles hiking with 2,400' elevation gain and 3,300' loss

The day begins in the alpine meadows of Beaufortain, among herds of happy sheep and cows. Begin your hike to the Col de la Seigne (8,256') and reach the Italian border. The climb is beautiful! As the pass opens up, it gives way to a superb view on the South face of Mont-Blanc. On your descent, pass the crystalline Lake Combal, and soon after, the Italian hamlet of the Visaille. A bus will meet you to transfer you to our hotel in Courmayeur.

Accommodation: Hotel Edelweiss

(B, L)

Day 5 Hike to Italy's Val Ferret

5 hours/7.5 miles hiking with 2,640' elevation gain and 1,650' loss

Beginning from the hamlet of Villair Superior, follow the trail towards the Bertone mountain hut.

Bask in the mountain views from the lookout point, where you can catch an aerial view of Mont-Blanc's peaks. Depending on the weather and group conditions, your guide will choose the best route to get you to our cozy mountain rifugio — your home for the night.

Accommodation: Rifugio Bonatti
(B, L, D)

Day 6 Hike to Le Grand Col Ferret & Descend into Champex

1-hour private van transfer

5 hours/7 miles hiking with 2,500' elevation gain and 3,100' loss

After a good night's sleep and breakfast, transfer to the foot of Grand Col Ferret (8,323'), at the Italian-Swiss border. This is the steepest, shortest and most demanding climb of your trip. But fortunately, your efforts are worth it! Through the day, catch impressive views of Grandes Jorasses and Triolet, and Mont Dolent — the meeting point of the French, Swiss and Italian borders. Descend towards La Fouly, passing by the chalet of La Peule. From La Fouly, transfer Champex, a village in the Swiss canton of Valais.

Accommodation: Hotel Sunways
(B, L, D)

Day 7 Hike to Bovine & Continue to Col de la Forclaz

5 hours/8.5 miles hiking with 2,000' elevation gain and 1,650' loss

Through the forest, reach Plan de l'Au. Little by little, climb through a forest overlooking France's Rhone Valley and the charming town of Martigny. Taking the scenic route, discover the alpine pasture of Bovine (6,519'). Continue on to the Col de la Forclaz.

Accommodation: Hotel du Col de la Forclaz
(B, L, D)

Day 8 Hike to Col de Balme & Descend into Chamonix

30-minute private van transfer

4 hours/5.5 miles hiking with 2,940' elevation gain and 2,970' loss afternoon options for rafting or a rope course at an adventure park

Begin the last day's hike by traversing the alpine meadow of Herbagères, then a spruce forest before reaching the Col de Balme (7188'). Cross the border again before starting your descent into the alpine meadows of Balme, just upstream from the Chamonix Valley, into the village of Le Tour. Your loop around Mont Blanc now complete, transfer to your hotel in Chamonix. Tonight, enjoy a festive farewell dinner in town.

Accommodation: La Folie Douce
(B, L, D)

Day 9 Return to Geneva & Fly Home

Transfer to Geneva airport. There will be one group departure for the airport at 8:30am. Please schedule your flight after 11am for inter-European destinations, after 12pm for all transcontinental destinations.

Accommodation: La Folie Douce
(B)