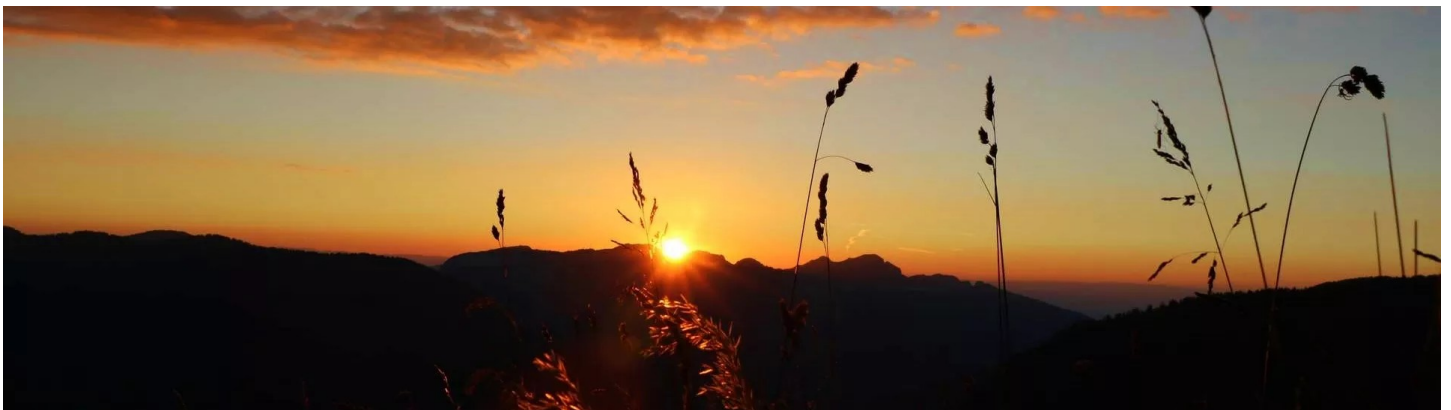






# GRANDE TRAVERSEE DES ALPES - sections 1, 2, 3 and 4


From Lake Geneva to Menton




Cross the Alps meeting people and mountains... The Grande Traversée des Alpes (GTA) between Lake Geneva and the Mediterranean is a long-distance hike. The opportunity to take a long break and put daily life aside. This itinerary runs along the Swiss and Italian borders while crossing five counties and some of the most famous mountain ranges in the Alps.

 28 days

 Guided / with a guide

 With or without baggage transport

 Accommodation : Classic (dormitory)

 Level : \*\*\*

 From : 3770€

## You will like

- Traversing mountain ranges, the geology and the varied landscapes
- Rich ecosystems, abundant wildlife and valleys full of history
- Baggage transport

# The route

## Day 1

Meet at 12:30pm in front of the Tourist Office in Thollon-les-Mémises or at 9:30am in front of Chamonix train station if you have chosen this option.

### PIC DES MEMISES - BALCON DU LEMAN

Take the cablecar and depart towards the balcony trail overlooking Lake Geneva. Picnic lunch and then cross the Mémises and the alpine pastures of Mottay before descending to the Novel valley. Night in a refuge in the pastures, **without baggage**.

3.5 hour walk / Elevation: +500 m ; -550 m / 8km

## Day 2

### BISE PASS - BISE VALLEY

From the refuge, climb to Lake Neuteu and the Bise pass. Short detour possible to the beautiful glacial Lake Darbon under the watchful eyes of the ibex! Descend into the Bise valley to the Ubine Refuge nestled under the north face of Mont Chauffé.

6 hour walk / Elevation: +1050 m ; -1050 m / 12km

## Day 3

### ABONDANCE - LAKE TAVANEUSE - LAC DE MONTRIOND

Descend to the village of Abondance for a short transfer. Climb to Lake Tavaneuse and to the mountain pass at 1997m. Descend through the pastures and the forest to Lake Montriond. Transfer to the Chardonnière refuge. Night in a dormitory

7 hour walk / Elevation: +950 m ; -1600 m / 13km

## Day 4

### DENTS BLANCHES MASSIF - PAS AU TAUREAU

Climb to the Tête de Bostan facing the superb and wild Dents Blanches massif. Cross the Pas au Taureau (2555m) via a short cabled passage, then descend into the lunar-like valley of the Combe aux Puaires, an unusual area of lappiaz (eroded limestones). Night at the Vogealle refuge in a dormitory **without baggage**.

7 hour walk / Elevation: +1300 m ; -750 m / 11km

## Day 5

### BOUT DU MONDE AND CIRQUE DU FER À CHEVAL

From the Vogealle refuge, a beautiful descent facing the Tenneverge cliffs and on to Bout du Monde, continuing to the amphitheatre at Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval and its multiple waterfalls. Night in the village of Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval.

6 hour walk / Elevation: +200 m -1250 m / 17km

## Day 6

### ANTERNE LAKE AND PASS

The day begins through the woods, alongside the Rouget, Pleureuse and Souffraz waterfalls. Climb to the Anterne pasture at the heart of the Sixt-Passy Nature Reserve, a wide high plateau where one of the most beautiful lakes in the area is nestled. Here is the kingdom of marmots and rare bearded vultures! Skimming stone contest followed by a short climb to the Anterne pass and descent to the Moède-Anterne refuge. Night in dormitory **without luggage**.

7 hour walk / Elevation: +1550 m ; -400 m / 15km

## Day 7

### ENVERS DU BREVENT - CHAMONIX

Short descent towards the Arlevé bridge. Here the landscape changes, the Fiz limestones give way to the red rocks of the Aiguilles Rouges range. Climb up to the Brévent pass (2368m) then descend to Planpraz to take the gondola down to Chamonix.

5 hour walk / Elevation: +750m -750m / 10km

## Day 8

### LES HOUCHES - LES CONTAMINES

Take the cable car and depart on foot from 1800m. Crossing to the foot of the Bionnassay Glacier before climbing to the Tricot pass. Descend to the Miage chalets and on to Les Contamines.

Night in a small dormitory in a village gîte.

5.5 hour walk / Elevation: +650m -1250 m / 11km

## Day 9

### COL DE LA CROIX DU BONHOMME - CORMET DE ROSELEND

Climb via the Roman road to the famous mountain pass, Col du Bonhomme. Descend via the Crête des Gittes and the vast Beaufortain pastures to arrive at Plan de la Lai. Night in a dormitory above Lake Roselend.

6.5 hour walk / Elevation: +1450 m ; -800 m / 17km

## Day 10

### FROM THE FOOT OF PIERRA MENTA TO PORTE DE ROSUEL

Balcony trail overlooking Lake Roselend and climb to the Bresson pass (2469m) at the foot of the Pierra Menta mountain. Descend through the Ormette valley and alongside small water channels in the hamlets to reach Valezan, part of the Tarentaise valley. Taxi transfer to Peisey Nancroix and La Porte de Rosuel.

Night in a dormitory in a refuge (or hotel).

7 hour walk / Elevation: +900 m ; -1200 m / 16km

## Day 11

### COL DU PLAN SÉRY - CHAMPAGNY LE HAUT

Enter into the Vanoise National Park at the foot of Mont Pourri and Dôme de la Sache. After the lake of La Plagne, the ascent of the Plan Séry pass leads into the Vallaisonnay valley and its amazing geology. A final descent along the Py waterfall to the various hamlets of the Champagny valley. Night in a gîte at Champagny-le-haut.

7 hour walk / Elevation: +1050m -1150m / 18km

## Day 12

### TOUR DU MERLE - REFUGE DU GRAND BEC

The hike starts in a large spruce forest, the path rises to pass through all levels of vegetation until it reaches the Grand Bec refuge. Set on its promontory, it enjoys a large view of the glaciers above and the Pralognan valley below. Possibility to go through the very alpine col des Galinettes (2750m) depending on the conditions.

Night in a dormitory in the refuge **without luggage and without shower**.

5.5 hour walk / Elevation: +1250m -300m / 10km

Add +/-100m by the col des Galinettes

## Day 13

## **COL DE LESCHAUX - LES PRIOUX**

After leaving the refuge begins a wild traverse to the Col de Leschaux. From there the path goes on a balcony with the Vanoise glaciers and the Grande Casse (3855 m) in sight. The path is impressive but well marked and chained to the famous Lac des Vaches. A final descent takes you to the village of Pralognan. From the Col de Leschaux, or from the refuge, a second route allows you to avoid the balcony path in case of bad weather. Night in a dormitory in refuge.

7 hour walk / Elevation: +900m -1600m / 17km

## **Day 14**

### **CHAVIÈRE PASS - MAURIENNE VALLEY**

Climb Chavière valley dominated by the Domes de la Vanoise in a lunar landscape punctuated by cairn forests (piles of stones). The Aiguilles de Pécle-Polset indicate the nearby Chavière Pass. Descend into the Maurienne Valley through the pastures. Short transfer to Modane from Porte de l'Orgère.

6 hour walk / Elevation: +1150m -950m / 16km

## **Day 15**

### **MODANE - VALLEE ETROITE**

Transfer to Valfréjus (20min) to the famous departure point of the GR5, towards the Étroite valley. Gentle climb towards this mountain pass which acts as a natural border between the Northern and the Southern Alps. Here enter the Hautes-Alpes and Étroite Valley, a French enclave in Italy. Descent to the hamlet of Les Granges to spend the first night in a refuge.

5 hour walk / Elevation: +890m -720m

## **Day 16**

### **VALLÉE ÉTROITE - COL DU VALLON - NÉVACHE**

Let's go at the heart of the Clarée Valley. In that very wild area, climb to the Vallon pass (2645m) dominating the great Lake Blanc. A nice descent towards the Nevache village in the upper Clarée Valley. Cross the traditional village of Ville Haute and transfer (35min) at the end of the day to the neighbouring Fonts de Cervières valley. Night in refuge.

6 hour walk / Elevation: +850m -1050m

## **Day 17**

### **FONTS DE CERVIÈRES - COL MALRIF - ABRIÈS**

Reaching the Queyras National Park via the Malrif pass (2830m). A beautiful climb from the Fonts de Cervières hamlet. Cross the Marif pass with a breathtaking view of the famous Mont Viso, the Lord of the Southern Alps. A long descent to Abriès via the Malrif lakes which are among the largest in the Queyras region. Night in a gîte.

6 hour walk / Elevation: +850m -1300m

## **Day 18**

### **ECHALP - LAKE VALLEY - COL VIEUX - LAKE BLANCHE**

From the last hamlet of this high valley of Guil, up along the Italian border, the valley of Bouchouse which constitutes a biotope reserve. Passage to Egorgeou and Foréant lakes and then to "Col Vieux" (2806m) to reach "Col de Chamoussière". Descent into this wide valley of the "Aigue Blanche" to reach the "refuge de la Blanche", by the lake, nestled at the foot of the "Tête des Toilies". Night **without luggage transport**.

6 hour walk / Elevation: +1400m ; -600m

## **Day 19**

### **LAKE BLANCHE - COL DE LA NOIRE - MALJASSET**

From the refuge, in its extraordinary landscape, climb to the mineral area of Col de la Noire. Leaving behind the Queyras region to enter the wild valley of Haute-Ubaye. Gently descending into the flower filled Longet valley to the first hamlet of Maljasset. Night in a gîte.

7.5 hour walk / Elevation: +550m -1300m

## **Day 20**

### **MALJASSET - COL MARY - CHIAPPERA**

At the foot of the highest range of Haute-Ubaye, the Chambeyron (3412m), an easy climb through the Col Mary Valley with its multitude of lakes cheerfully dotting the pastures. From the mountain pass enter Italy, to the Piedmont to reach the Val Maira and the beautiful village Chiappera. Night in a gîte, **without luggage transport**.

5.5 hour walk / Elevation: +815 m ; -1150 m

## **Day 21**

### **CHIAPPERA - COL DES MONGE - ORONAYES VALLEY - LARCHE**

Nice traverse in the unusual Maira Valley to reach the "Col des Monges" (2542m) marking the border between France and Italy. Descend into the Montagnette Valley dominated by the fortresses of Maginot erected during the Second World War... Arrive in Larche, a small village of Haute-Ubaye.

6 hour walk / Elevation: +1150 m ; -1150 m

## **Day 22**

### **LARCHE - VALLON DU LAUZANIER - PAS DE LA CAVALE**

Departure for the Lauzanier Valley at the gates of the Mercantour National Park. Climb via a pleasant path to reach the Lauzanier Lake before a final slightly steeper climb up to the pass. A magnificent view from Col de la Cavale of the Tinée and the surrounding mountains. Descend into the high valleys of the Alpes Maritimes passing via the Col des Fourches and the magnificent promontory of Mont des Fourches. Reaching the Bonnette Restefond road (the highest road in Europe) encountering poignant vestiges of the Maginot line. Night in Bousseyas, the first hamlet in this high valley of Tinée.

6 hour walk / Elevation: +1040m ; - 1100m

## **Day 23**

### **ISOLA 2000 - COL DE LA MERCIERE - LE BORÉON**

After an early transfer to Isola 2000 ski resort, climb to the Col de la Mercière (2342m). Descend and then cross through the old village of Mollière and up to Salèze pass. Depending on the weather conditions and on the group, a detour is possible to Lake Negere. Descend into the Vesubie to the village of Boréon. Night in a gîte.

5.5 hour walk / Elevation: + 550 m ; - 1090 m

## **Day 24**

### **LE BORÉON - PAS DES LARDES - MADONE DE LA FENESTRE - LACS DE PRALS - LA GORDOLASQUE**

From Boreon, climb through the valley towards the lakes of Trécolpas to cross the Pas de Lardes (2448m) dominated by the Gelas, highest summit of the Mercantour. Descend to the hospices of the Madone de Fenestre passing near its cheese cave. Through the Poncet Valley to the lower lakes and then on to the 5 lakes of Prals before going up to Lower Prals. Beautiful descent into the Gordolasque Valley, in the Relais des Merveilles.

7.5 hour walk / Elevation: + 1550m ; - 1520m

## **Day 25**

### **VALLÉE LA GORDOLASQUE - REFUGE DE NICE - BAISSÉ DE VALMASQUE - VALLÉE DES MERVEILLES**

Climbing through the Gordolasque Valley to Lac de la Fous and Refuge de Nice which dominates. Travelling light for a night without baggage transport to the Refuge des Merveilles.

From Refuge de Nice, climb to Baisse Basto to join the famous Vallée des Merveilles and its engraved caves. A succession of enchanting lakes in the middle of this mineral landscape typical of this valley full of history.

6.5 hour walk / Elevation: + 1300m ; - 790m

## **Day 26**

### **REFUGE DES MERVEILLES - PAS DU DIABLE - COL DU RAUX - L'AUTHION - CAMP D'ARGENT**

Via a multitude of lakes, leave the Vallée des Merveilles by the Pas de Diable. Change of scenery starting from the Pas de Diable where we will cross several mountain passes at medium altitude through sheep pastures. At the Col du Raux,

heading back to the small plateau of Authion dominated by a remarkable redoubt, a high place of confrontation during the Second World War. From Authion on a clear day is our first sighting of the Mediterranean. Descend to the small ski resort of Camp d'Argent.

5.5 hour walk / Elevation: + 625m ; - 1000m

## Day 27

### **CAMP D'ARGENT - MONT VENTABREN - MANGIABO - SOSPEL**

A magnificent day on a ridge awaits. Leaving these landscapes rich in military vestiges of the Second World War to reach Sospel via the Mount Ventabren and Mangiabo ridges. With a continuing view over the mouth of the Var and the outskirts of Nice. A Charming descent to the village of Sospel on the Bévéra river for the night.

7 hour walk / Elevation: +570m -1750m

## Day 28

### **SOSPEL - COL DU RAZET - VIEUX CATSELLAR - MENTON**

Last day of the GTA, not there yet... but can you smell the sea?! Beautiful climb to the Col de Razel (1032m) on an old paved path between ruined shepherd huts. Passing flocks of sheep and goats from Rove testifies to the arrival in Provence. The vegetation becomes much more leafy and fragrant. Chestnut trees, maples and rosemary line this beautiful day. Enjoy the last mountain pass, Col du Berceau (1050m) to picnic overlooking the bay and harbour of Menton... and a final descent of 1050m to the waters edge!

6.5 hour walk / Elevation: +1110m -1450m

**End point around 4:30pm in Menton harbour.**

# The trip

## LEVEL \*\*\*

Elevation: +/- 700m - 1300m approximately per day.

Walking time: 5 to 7 hours per day.

Type of trek: mountain route on trails with some well equipped aerial sections.

You have to be in a general good fitness level. Please practice a cardio sport such as hiking, running, cycling, from 3 to 4 hours a week.

Your physical preparation will enable you to enjoy your trek to the maximum.

Please find the description of the levels by clicking here: [levels of difficulty](#)

## GUIDING

Group between 6 and 14 people supervised by a professional mountain leader.

It is usual to tip your guide at the end of the trek, according to your satisfaction. It is not mandatory but, it is very appreciated.

## ACCOMMODATION

CLASSIC: 27 nights in mountain chalets, refuges and gîtes

## MEALS

Breakfast and dinner are provided in each accommodation.

Picnics are included and are carefully prepared daily by your guide, comprising a variety of healthy salads and local products.

Please inform us about your food allergies and special diets **at the time of booking**.

*We do our best to accommodate special diets (gluten-free, vegetarian etc.). However, we encourage you to bring some additional products for your own picnics.*

# Practical information

## ACCESS TO DEPARTURE POINT

### Meeting point at 12:00pm in front of Thollon-les-Mémises Tourist Office.

If you wish, we can pick you up in Chamonix and transfer you to the departure point in Thollon-les-Mémises; optional service costing 50€ per person, to be booked on registration.

Meet at 9:30am with your baggage in front of Chamonix train station.

### BY TRAIN

Inbound: depart Gare de Lyon (Paris) TGV Paris/Bellegarde/Evian

There are regular buses from Evian to Thollon Les Mémises (40mins) [www.thollonlesmemises.com](http://www.thollonlesmemises.com)

Return with a night train: depart Chamonix at 7:11pm arrive in (Paris) Gare de Lyon at 7:54am.

*Times given are indicative and should be verified in a train station or on [www.oui.sncf](http://www.oui.sncf)*

### BY CAR

Take the A40 motorway to Annemasse, free parking and bus [sat-leman ligne-141-evian-annemasse](#) or train to Evian-les-Bains, then to Thollon-les-Mémises [thollonlesmemises.com](http://thollonlesmemises.com).

Return: From Chamonix to Annemasse by train [www.oui.sncf](http://www.oui.sncf)

For your car: free parking in Thollon-les-Mémises, Chamonix and Annemasse.

Chamonix, free parking at the Biolay car park opposite the Montenvers train station or if you wish to leave your car in a covered garage, contact:

Chamonix Auto Park: 04 50 53 65 71 (40 to 50€ per week).

### CAR-SHARING

Get in touch with people to share a lift! Here are some website : [www.blablacar.fr](http://www.blablacar.fr) [www.laroueverte.com](http://www.laroueverte.com) [www.roulezmalin.com](http://www.roulezmalin.com)

## CLOSEST AIRPORTS

### Geneva (GVA)

1 hour by car to Chamonix.

Bus and minibus services direct to your accommodation (25-35€ pp each way)

### Lyon (LYS)

2.15 hours by car to Chamonix.

Train every 2 hours to Chamonix, 4.15 hour journey (40-45€ pp return)

### Paris (PAR)

7 hours by car to Chamonix.

Train every 2 hours to Chamonix / 5-6 hour journey (80-120€ pp return)

## END OF THE TRIP

### End of the hike on Saturday around 4:30 p.m.

your bags will be in the hotel you have booked (if you have taken the luggage transport option). If you leave Menton directly after the hike, we will drop off your bags at a hotel near the station (the hotel will charge us €15 per bag if you do not stay overnight).

### Return by train:

At Menton train station, you can reach Nice (Nice => Menton: 40 mins) and the trains or planes that take you back to major destinations (arriving at Nice station between 4 and 6 pm).

Night trains : Nice - Paris; TGV;

Shuttle bus to Nice - Côte d'Azur airport in front of Nice Ville station, on the right along the avenue in front of the station.

You can spend the night in a hotel close to the station in Nice or Menton.



# ACCOMMODATION BEFORE AND AFTER

[Thollon Les Mémises](#)

[Evian-les-Bains](#)

[Chamonix Tourist Office](#) : +33 (0)4 50 53 00 24

If you book a night in the Chamonix valley, you can ask to your hotel reception a bus/train pass so you can public transports for free in the Chamonix valley.

[www.chamonix.com/pdf/chambus.pdf](http://www.chamonix.com/pdf/chambus.pdf)

## INSURANCE

In accordance with regulations, we are covered by Professional Liability Insurance. Under no circumstances, we can replace your personal civil liability.

The repatriation insurance EUROP ASSISTANCE that we offer is dedicated to French speaking people living in Europe. If it is not your case, we advise you to subscribe to another travel insurance which will cover you in case of injury and repatriation during your trek.

If you chose to take out repatriation insurance with EUROP ASSISTANCE whom we propose, Altitude Mont Blanc will only serve as an intermediary between the client and the insurer. We cannot influence either party. We adhere to strict conditions of sale. You are responsible for compliance with the reporting procedures of any incident.

Before making any decision, contact EUROP ASSISTANCE.

## TO CONTACT US

If you are late please contact the agency as soon as possible on: **+33 (0)4 50 79 09 16** or **+33 (0)6 42 49 76 07**

## Dates & prices

From 16/06/24 to 13/07/24	Guaranteed departure	3770 €
From 23/06/24 to 20/07/24	Guaranteed departure	3770 €
From 30/06/24 to 27/07/24	Guaranteed departure	3770 €
From 07/07/24 to 03/08/24	Guaranteed departure	3770 €
From 14/07/24 to 10/08/24	Guaranteed departure	3770 €
From 21/07/24 to 17/08/24	Guaranteed departure	3770 €
From 28/07/24 to 24/08/24	Guaranteed departure	3770 €
From 04/08/24 to 31/08/24	Guaranteed departure	3770 €
From 18/08/24 to 14/09/24	Guaranteed departure	3770 €
From 01/09/24 to 28/09/24	Guaranteed departure	3770 €

## THE PRICE

### The price includes:

- Organisation and booking fees, guiding by a qualified and insured mountain leader;
- All meals including picnic lunch (except Day 14), snacks during the day;
- Accommodation in gites, refuges and small hotels;
- Baggage transport between accommodations (except day 1, 4, 6, 12, 18, 20 and 25);
- Bus transfers.

### The price does not include:

- Personal expenses (drinks, etc.), touristic visits;
- Dinner on day 14;
- Cancellation insurance;
- Your return journey from home to the point of departure/end point.

**The price is all inclusive from departure to end point.**

# Equipment and baggage

## EQUIPMENT LIST

### Clothing

- Walking trousers
- Shorts (Bikini/swimsuit, just in case!)
- Breathable or merino wool t-shirts
- Breathable or merino wool leggings
- Fleece or jumper
- Wind stopper or Goretex jacket
- Waterproof poncho + gaiters or Goretex trousers + waterproof rucksack cover
- Pair of gloves and a warm hat
- Sun hat or baseball cap
- Walking socks (1 pair per day)
- Sturdy walking boots with a good sole, already broken in
- 1 change of clothes for the evening
- A pair of comfortable shoes for the evening

### Other Equipment

- Toilet bag
- Quick drying towel
- Sunglasses and sun cream
- Water bottle or Camelback (1.5 litre minimum)
- Knife, fork and spoon
- Plastic lunch box/plate for your picnic lunches
- Plastic cup for coffee
- Small First Aid kit (antihistamine, ibuprofen, Compeed type blister pads...)
- Survival blanket
- Head torch or hand torch
- Sleeping bag liner sheet and pillowcase (blankets provided at accommodation)
- Two adjustable walking poles (highly recommended)
- Identity card or passport

## BACKPACK

Bring a comfortable backpack of 30 to 40 litres for your personal belongings for the day (warm clothes, waterproofs, water, plate and cutlery for your picnic, sunscreen and your identity papers) and please keep a little room to carry a picnic and snacks.

## BAGGAGE TRANSPORT

You are allowed **1 soft, sports type bag, with all your possessions inside, of 10kg maximum per person**. Your baggage will be transported daily between accommodation by our logistics vehicle where access is not always easy. **Baggage which is too big and too heavy won't be accepted by the drivers, please think of their backs!**

## YOUR BACKPACK FOR YOUR NIGHTS WITHOUT LUGGAGE

**On nights 1, 4, 6, 12, 18, 20 and 25**, your luggage won't be dropped off at your accommodation (you will get it back the day after). Here are the things to bring with you (about 2 kilos are enough!):

- Small toiletries bag
- Sleeping bag liner sheet
- Change of clothes for the day after (bare necessities!) and comfortable for the evening.

## HOW TO REGISTER

- By internet: [www.altitude-montblanc.com](http://www.altitude-montblanc.com)

- By telephone: +33 (0)4 50 79 09 16

- By post: Please provide your details

- Surname, First Name, Date of birth
- Address
- Email
- Telephone
- Mobile

If you wish to register by post, please complete the form below and return it to:

Altitude Mont-Blanc  
62 Passage du Nant Devant  
74110 MONTRIOND  
FRANCE

Please specify whether you wish to take out an optional cancellation insurance (4.2% of the tour price).

On receipt of your registration we will email an invoice (per couple) with a request for a deposit of 30% in association with your account details at Altitude Mont-Blanc ('My Account'). Payment can be made by credit card, bank transfer or by cheque. On receipt of your deposit you will receive a registration confirmation.

The balance must be paid one month before departure without a reminder from us.

For self-guided tours, we will then send your tour pack (includes maps, descriptive book etc.)

Our terms and conditions of sale can be found on our website.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.



## Registration by mail form

Last name:

PRENOM:

Date of birth:

Address:

Phone number:

Mobile phone number:

Email address:

SEJOUR DEMANDE:

Number of days:

Insurance:

Price:

x 30% =

Deposit

Locality where signed:

Date

Signature:

A large, light gray rectangular box intended for the user's signature.

Return with your deposit to:  
Altitude Mont-Blanc, 62 Passage du Nant Devant, 74110 Montriond, FRANCE