

Exploring nature

In today's society, we have ever higher expectations. Guided by our motto "maximum enjoyment in total safety", you will discover fairy-tale landscapes where nature reveals herself in all her splendour. Our trips offer you relaxation and exhilaration. The unique feel and character of a place are what matter to all of us. During your stay with us, you will relish those moments of relaxation and sheer exhilaration. The mountains are our stomping ground and our team of professional employees have many years' experience of the mountains and will accompany you in search of hidden gems whilst carefully abiding by the rules.

Climate and snow cover

The Alps are a particularly sunny region and covered in snow for all of the winter. In order to offer the best ski areas, a programme is drawn up daily depending on the weather forecast and snow conditions.

Weather

Weather conditions can change quickly at altitude, so please take the necessary precautions before you leave home, see below.

Sun

At altitude, the reflection of the sun off the snow and the ice is extremely bright. Sun glasses are essential and sun cream is strongly recommended.

Snow conditions and the risk of avalanches

In the mountains, snow conditions vary considerably during the winter, as they are subject to the sun, the wind, to temperature variations and to new falls of snow. The quality of the snow can change daily. Essentially, snow quality varies according to altitude and exposure to the sun. Snow falls frequently and abundantly in the Alps. Our staff are constantly on the ground sharing information daily about the quality of snow they encounter. This valuable information allows them to regularly find excellent powder snow.

In winter there is always a risk of avalanche. The level of danger constantly varies according to the state of the snow and the weather. Our guides take these factors into account when selecting the itinerary. If conditions are too bad for heli-skiing, your guide will suggest off-piste skiing or delay your heli-skiing to a later date. If it is impossible to go heli-skiing, amounts allocated to cover the cost of the helicopter flight will be reimbursed.

Safety

The safety and wellbeing of our clients is our highest priority during your stay with us. The ski instructors and the mountain guides are specially selected and trained to lead ski safari. The instructors meet every day to look at the weather forecast and snow stability. The day's skiing terrain is chosen according to your own skiing level and information from weather stations in different ski areas. Skiing requires an excellent understanding of the mountains and its dangers, particularly on a glacier or in changing atmospheric conditions.

Groups

Once we have a minimum of 4 reservations, a trip will go ahead – the maximum is 10 people per trip. For groups of more than 4, a second guide will be arranged for the duration of the stay. For the day in Chamonix, Vallée Blanche and for off-piste or heli-skiing days, a mountain guide will supplement the team.

Supervision and Training

All our ski activities are guided and supervised by qualified Swiss Ski Instructors comparable to an instructor who has been qualified by the state for several years. Our staff of instructors include numerous skiers and instructors from the Skiing World Cup.

Our high altitude mountain guides are certified UIAGM and/or ASGM.

Off-piste training is provided by licensed skiing instructors qualified to instruct off-piste skiing.

Group leader Instructions

It is imperative that, at all times, you follow and listen carefully to all instructions given by the group leader. You must obey all instructions and stay in the designated areas. Following instructions and being careful when skiing are the best ways to avoid accidents and injuries.

Slope/descent selection

The group leader will always do their best to select descents suitable to your level of skiing skill. If you are an average skier, you will start your week on easier slopes. Gradually, as the week progresses, you will improve as well! As your confidence builds and your skill level increases, you will be able to try steeper slopes and ski faster! The ski instructors and mountain guides leading the groups of good skiers will select a suitable level of difficulty and type of slope. Cloud, fog, wind, sun, visibility, stability, snow quality and the ski level of each group help the guides to select your next descent.

Drop and length of a descent when heli-skiing

The average drop of each descent is about 2000 m, but can vary between 1600 and 2400 m. The duration of the descent depends mainly on the individual's skiing level and the chosen route. It lasts on average between 90 and 180 minutes. A group of experienced skiers will be faster than a group of intermediate skiers. We average 1 to 2 descents per day, with drops of between 2000 m and 4000 m. However, these data depend on snow conditions and the physical fitness of the participants.

Materials and equipment for off-piste skiing or heli-skiing: the equipment included in our package is the type for freeriding; safety equipment with ABS, Barryvox, shovel, harness and rucksack.

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Clothing

Temperature and conditions at high altitude in the mountains can be very harsh in winter. That is why we recommend that you are well equipped and wear appropriate sports clothing, which helps to regulate the body's temperature and protect against the cold and wind. Warm and waterproof clothing is essential. One or two underlayers are ideal for the upper body, an insulating layer and a Gore-Tex type jacket. Warm gloves and cap must be worn. Do not forget your sunglasses or your ski mask, sunscreen and a camera to capture those wonderful moments.

Helmets

It is not obligatory to wear a helmet but is strongly advised.

What level of skier do I need to be?

For a trip reserved solely for skiers, you must be class 3 of the French Ski School or Advanced in the Swiss Ski School. You need to be able, at least, to ski consistently parallel on red and black runs. Off-piste skiing is planned as part of the trip but will depend on weather conditions.

Level of Fitness

You do not need to be a super strong athlete; however, it would be wise to prepare yourself before coming. Walking, running, biking, swimming or fitness classes will help you to have a good level of fitness and insure you take full advantage of your experience with us.

Piste Security

Our trips take place in ski resorts which are well patrolled and are widely accessible. For off-piste skiing, the itineraries (off-piste runs) are chosen with care but “risk” is a factor which we accept in high altitude mountain sports.

Respect for others

Users of the pistes must behave in such a way that they do not put others in danger or cause harm, either as a result of their behaviour or their equipment.

Anyone located uphill must be in a position that allows them to choose a route that preserves the safety of any person located downhill. After a stop or at a point where pistes cross, every user must, by checking uphill and downhill, ensure that they can set off without endangering others or themselves. Every user of the slopes must adapt their speed and behaviour according to their individual skill and to the prevailing conditions of the terrain and weather, the snow conditions and traffic density. Overtaking can be done uphill or downhill, to the right or to the left, provided that the overtaken skier is always left with enough space to make any voluntary or involuntary movements. All users must avoid stopping in narrow places or where there is no visibility; if you fall, you must get off the piste as quickly as possible.

Transfers and transport during your trip

Transportation is at your own cost whether by car, by train or by plane (the meeting points, airports, stations, hotel addresses will be specified upon reservation) As soon as you arrive in Switzerland, we take care of all your requests according to your budget.

The daily transfers by bus from your accommodation to the ski areas will be arranged by Swiss-Discovery, morning and night.

Meals and Accommodation

Meals are arranged depending on the ski area and consist of breakfast and dinner, which are included in the trip price. Lunches are arranged in typical mountain restaurants and Swiss lodges. Accommodation will be in a 5-star hotel, with a double or single room.

Please note that you may choose to arrive the day before and/or leave the following morning of your stay.

Prices

The prices are based on a group of minimum 4 and maximum 10 people. The price will vary for groups of fewer than 4 or more than 10. Ask us about offers for groups with fewer than 4 people or more than 10. Depending on which package is chosen, all you need is extra money for drinks consumed outside of meal times or for any souvenirs, and don't forget to pack your toothbrush!