

Weather/Climate in the Alps in summer:

Summer in the Alps can be both spectacular in the amount of sunshine and in the amount of precipitation.

We can have several seasons in one day or we can be lucky and walk under warm, sunny skies the entire duration of our trip.

What normally happens is that we get a mix of foul weather and clear, summer days. Climbing to nearly 3000m on most days means that some extra clothing should be taken such as gloves, hat and a heavyweight fleece along with the appropriate rain gear.

Most evenings are cool, even during the peak of the summer heat wave, so some warm clothing is advisable for evenings especially when staying in mountain huts. A down vest may be a good idea, especially one that can be stuffed into a small stuff sack. We may even get occasional snow, so gaiters and telescopic walking poles can add to the comfort level of the trip.

Mandatory equipment:

- Wind and waterproof jacket and pants
- Fleece layers (*one warm fleece pullover or jacket, one lighter fleece layer, a fleece vest is a very good idea, too*)
- Proper fitting, solid trekking boots (*Take the inner sole/foot bed out of your shoe and stand on it. You should have a space of 0,5cm – 1cm from the top of your toes to the top of the sole. If there is less space, your boots are too small, if there is more space, your boots are too big. Also make sure that your heel is not too loose in order to avoid blisters*). *If you are unsure of what brand and model of shoe, please wait and purchase in Chamonix. Most boots today need no break in periods and are extremely comfortable. Chamonix shops carry most brands worth stocking and provide shoppers with complete boot fitting services including thermo formed foot beds. Buying boots mail order is a recipe for disaster. Boots should have Vibram soles, should be above the ankles and should be waterproof.*
- Jogging shoes/sandals for the hotels/huts/inns (*the Bonatti hut provides sandals, so you don't have to carry extra shoes with you for that night 12-day version only*).
- Technical clothing that is light and dries quickly (*2/3 T-shirts, 1,2 long sleeves*)
- Socks / underwear
- Warm hat, gloves (*fleece gloves are enough*)
- Sun protection (*sun hat/cap, glasses, cream*)

- 35 litre rucksack (*with rain cover, if possible. Some have one built in on the bottom of the pack, for example 'Deuter' rucksacks. If not, try to get one for your rucksack in a sport shop. Another good idea is a plastic liner for the inside of the bag on rainy days. Zip lock bag for wallet, tickets, passport, money etc. works as well. If you unsure as to the brand and model, please wait until you arrive in Chamonix. The sports shops in Chamonix carry a wide range of brands and have experts to tell you how they should fit. Mail order is not recommended as one cannot get an idea of what the pack will feel like when loaded.*)
- Camelbak or water bottle
(*if you use a Camelbak, make sure you carry spare parts*)

Optional equipment:

- Telescopic poles
- Gaiters
- Map/compass
- GPS if you like to use it
- Hut sleeping bag liner (*for the 1 night in the hut, 12- day trip only*)
- Small head torch (*for night in the hut – 12-day trip only*)
- Swiss army knife or similar
- Small umbrella

Transport of luggage during the Tour du Mont Blanc:

Upon your arrival in Chamonix, you will receive an Alpine Interface duffle bag. Please put all your equipment you would like to take on the trip into this duffle, and our driver will transport it for you.

The duffle helps to identify our guests' luggage, and avoids any mix-up with other companies.

You may leave items not required for the trip in your suitcase/duffle in the hotel in Chamonix.