



# Tour du Mont Blanc

12 Days



*The Adventure Company* | EST. 1969

**MT+SOBEK**<sup>TM</sup>

MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS**  
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

# ➤ **Tour du Mont Blanc**

Mont Blanc. Europe's highest and most iconic peak. Spectacular. Immense. Dazzling. And undisputedly on every serious hiker's must-do list. This 10-day trek through the heart of the Alps won't just get your pulse rate up, it will open your eyes to some of the most breathtaking vistas on Earth. Wander past giant glaciers and secret mountain lakes, ancient trails and grassy meadows. Experience three countries, cultures, and cuisines. Stay in hamlets that belong in a fairy tale. And discover why Forbes called our tour "the world's most luxurious hiking trip."

## **Details**

Arrive: Geneva, Switzerland

Depart: Geneva, Switzerland

Duration: 12 Days

Group Size: 5-16 Guests

Minimum Age: 18 Years Old

Activity Level:



## **Testimonials**

*"The expertise of the guiding on the Tour du Mont Blanc could not have been better. I am pretty sure we had the most knowledgeable guide along the whole Tour du Mont Blanc!"*

Christy H.

*"Totally blown away with the beauty of the Alps and the organization of the trek."*

George D.

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## Why Take This Trip With Us?

### REASON #01

The Tour Du Mont Blanc is an MT Sobek classic adventure and a best-seller for over 40 years.

### REASON #02

Professional MT Sobek guides are the best in the Alps, experienced and legendary for their indispensable knowledge and skillsets.

### REASON #03

No one knows the Alps like MT Sobek, with four decades of experience leading trips here and a regular following of Alps-loving guests.

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## What to Expect



### ACTIVITIES

Strenuous hiking on mountain trails covering 6-8 miles per day with maximum elevation gain of 4,200'. Exploration of scenic mountain towns.



### LODGING

Charming accommodations in alpine towns and villages, featuring comfortable rooms, on-site restaurants, and stellar vistas of surrounding scenery.



### CLIMATE

The days can change from hot to cold and wet. Snow is even possible at the high passes. Come prepared for everything.

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## Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

Originally from a little village in the French Alps, David grew up in the mountains and then travelled across the five continents for ten years, as a student, traveler and hiker. His studies led him to specialize in local development, organic farming and ecotourism and eventually led him to settle in Costa Rica as tour leader. After a few years, he then moved back to the Alps to manage a mountain hut in the Mont-Blanc valley. He now resides in Chamonix as a crystal hunter, organic cook, and enthusiastic trekker. David possesses deep local knowledge, and is an excellent cook!

**David Sivriere**

Marc began his outdoor career as a cartographer, and eventually became a guide, leading trips around the world in the Alps, Asia, New Zealand, and the Americas. After realizing a deep passion for American landscapes, he settled in California with his family where he immersed himself in western culture and helped French trekkers discover the wonders of the West. Eventually he decided to return home to Chamonix, where he currently resides. Marc takes great pride as a tour leader in his home region and loves sharing the trails around Mont Blanc, the history of the world-famous mountain, and its numerous cultures and traditions.

**Marc Latil**

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# Itinerary

## DAY 1

### ARRIVE IN GENEVA, TRANSFER TO CHAMONIX

Arrive at the airport in Geneva, Switzerland, for a 2pm pick-up. Transfer by private van to the charming mountain-ringed resort town of Chamonix, France. Upon arrival at the hotel, you'll have time to rest a bit or explore the town before orientation — where you will meet the guides and other members of your group. End the day with a delicious welcome dinner at a fine restaurant in town.

**Meals:** D

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## DAY 2

### HIKE ABOVE CHAMONIX

Start the day by taking the cog railway up to Montenevers, high above the Mer de Glace glacier. From here (6230'), head up to Signal Forbes (7215') for a fabulous views of the Chamonix Aiguilles towering high above you. Next, traverse towards Blatière and join the famous Grand Balcon for a hike that descends to the quaint Chalet Caillet, where you can enjoy an aperitif and dinner in the magical setting. Walk off your meal with a short, leisurely hike down to your hotel in Chamonix.

**Activity:** 4–5 hours/6–8 miles hiking with 1,100' elevation gain & 3,600' elevation loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 3

### HIKE FROM CHAMONIX TO LES HOUCHES (FRANCE)

Your hike from the hotel leads to the start of the trail beneath the Aiguilles Rouges along the Petit Balcon to Merlet (4,921'), with its magnificent views of the north face and glaciers of Mont Blanc. After traversing to Coupeau, you will make an easy descent to our hotel near the charming village of Les Houches (3,200').

**Activity:** 5–6 hours/10 miles hiking with 2,000' elevation gain & loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 4

### HIKE FROM LES HOUCHES TO LES CONTAMINES (FRANCE)

Leaving Les Houches, climb through the forest past beautiful mountain farmhouses and into the woods to the small pass of Bellevue, overlooking the Chamonix Valley. Marvel at the peaks and hanging glaciers of Aiguille de Bionnassay (13,294') and Mont Blanc (15,777'). Descend through the thickly wooded hillside through typical alpine hamlets to the historic town of Les Contamines (3,829'), a traditional mountain village with picturesque wooden chalets and a fine old church.

**Activity:** 7 hours/10 miles hiking with 2,500' elevation gain & 2,800' elevation loss

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**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 5

### HIKE THE ROMAN ROAD TO BOURG SAINT MAURICE (FRANCE)

A long ascent on an old Roman road takes you to the Plan des Dames, before you make the last ascent to the Col du Bonhomme (7,641') and Croix du Bonhomme (8,100') where lunch is served. In the afternoon, hike the grassy trail downhill to Les Chapieux (5,080') with sightings of ibex, marmots and beautiful wildflowers along the way. At the end of the day, take a short transfer to the village of Bourg-Saint-Maurice, where we'll stay the night. Enjoy dinner in town.

**Activity:** 7 hours/12 miles hiking with 4,200' elevation gain & 3,000' elevation loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 6

### CROSS VALLÉE DES GLACIERS TO COURMAYEUR (ITALY)

After a 50-minute transfer to the end of the "Vallée des Glaciers," enjoy a relatively easy hike over the Col de la Seigne (8,245'). Take in the breathtaking view of Mont Blanc, Himalayan in its immensity, rising in a near verticality from the Veny Valley to the summit 10,000 feet above. Afterward, descend into Italy to Lac Combal and Visaille. A transfer then takes you to Courmayeur (3,800'), situated beneath the Grand Jorasses and Brenva Glacier, where you will spend the night. Dinner tonight is in town.

**Activity:** 6 hours/10 miles hiking with 2,300' elevation gain & 2,700' elevation loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 7

### HIKE FROM COURMAYEUR TO LA VACHEY (ITALY)

Today's beautiful mountainside walk offers fabulous views of Mont Blanc, hanging glaciers and glacial moraines. As you climb the trail through larch and alder it's not unusual to see the deer and chamois that make this area their home. A continued ascent to the Rifugio Bonnatti offers yet more unforgettable views on the way up. Your descent takes a steep trail to the valley floor and then continues to La Vachey (4,500'). At the end of our hike, we take a 15 minute transfer back to Courmayeur for another night at Hotel Berthod.

**Activity:** 5 hours/7-8 miles hiking with 2,500' elevation gain & 1,500' elevation loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 8

### HIKE FROM LA VACHEY TO CHAMPEX (SWITZERLAND)

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After breakfast this morning, we'll transfer back towards La Vachey and today's trailhead. We'll start our hike past the spectacular "Glacier de Pre-de-Bar" with Mont Dolent above, the meeting point of the borders of France, Italy, and Switzerland. Cross the Grand Col Ferret (8,300') to enter Switzerland, and descend to the scenic village of La Fouly (5,280'), located beneath the Glacier de l'A Neuve. Transfer by van to the lovely town of Champex (4,808'), a small lake resort that features typical Swiss-style chalets and charming gardens.

**Activity:** 5–6 hours/9 miles hiking with 2,500' elevation gain & 3,100' elevation loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 9

### FOLLOW TRAIL TO COL DE LA FORCLAZ, TRANSFER TO MARTIGNY (SWITZERLAND)

An hour and a half of moderate hiking followed by a rapid ascent in the forest brings you high over the Rhône Valley overlooking the town of Martigny. Fabulous views await! An easy descent takes you to the Col de Forclaz (3,900'), from where you'll take a short transfer to Martigny. Here you'll visit the Fondation Pierre Gianadda — an impressive art exposition featuring a sculpture garden and museums. Dinner tonight is on your own in town.

**Activity:** 6 hours/12 miles hiking with 2,400' elevation gain & 2,300' elevation loss

**Meals:** B, L

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## DAY 10

### CLIMB TO THE VALLORCINE VALLEY (FRANCE)

After breakfast, take a short transfer to nearby Trient. Climb steeply on an old smuggler's path through the forest to the French border and an unforgettable view of the Mont Blanc massif and the Chamonix valley. Your descent takes you deep into the Vallorcine Valley East of Chamonix, and to your hotel in Argentière (4,100').

**Activity:** 5–6 hours/10 miles hiking with 2,900' elevation gain & 2,650' elevation loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 11

### HIKE BACK TO CHAMONIX (FRANCE)

From Le Col De Montets (4,800') the hike to Les Cheserys (7,130') offers gorgeous views of the Le Tour and Argentiere glaciers, as well as the entire Mont Blanc range. After rejoining the Grand Balcon Route and La Flégère, descend to Chamonix (3,300') and a festive farewell dinner in town.

**Activity:** 6.5 hours/10 miles hiking with 2,700' elevation gain & 3,600' elevation loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 12

### RETURN TO GENEVA & DEPART

Enjoy your final breakfast with the group before transferring from Chamonix to Geneva airport.

**Meals:** B

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## Dates

Jun 17 - 28, 2020

Jul 15 - 26, 2020

Aug 12 - 23, 2020

Sep 16 - 27, 2020

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## Pricing

2019

\$ 5,995 per person

### Additional Cost

\$ 1,300 Single Supplement

2020

\$ 6,295 per person

### Additional Cost

\$ 1,300 Single Supplement

### PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert leadership from experienced adventure guides
- Accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- Meals as noted in the daily itinerary
- Potable water and snacks throughout
- 1 glass of wine or beer at dinner
- All group entrance fees, activities, and ground transportation
- Arrival and departure day group airport transfers

### PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, any airport taxes, or excess baggage charges
- Dinner on Day 9
- Optional tips to your adventures guide(s) and driver(s)
- Personal expenses such as medical immunizations, phone calls, laundry, or souvenirs
- Airport transfers if arriving outside of the scheduled group transfer time
- Optional travel protection

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## ➤ **The World of MT Sobek**

At Mountain Travel Sobek, we believe life is an adventure and adventure is life.

As the originators, innovators and leaders in adventure travel for more than five decades, we passionately create, craft and share indelible, transformative journeys to the world's most memorable places. Our more than 200 unique and once-in-a-lifetime trips are designed to inspire and exhilarate, enliven and excite--opening eyes and minds through profoundly personal connections with nature and culture.

Our small group and custom adventures span the globe, and the spectrum—of interests, environments and activities—every one expertly planned and knowledgeably and passionately guided. And our commitment to making every experience a remarkable one has earned us preferred travel outfitter status for National Geographic Active Expeditions, Active New York Times Journeys, and Smithsonian Active Journeys.

We are *the* adventure company.

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### **Awards**



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1266 66TH STREET, SUITE 4, EMERYVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94608-1117

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