Hiking the Alps Trilogy

12 Days

The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

MT-SOBEK
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL
Experience storybook alpine hamlets and sweeping mountain vistas in Switzerland, France and Italy on this unforgettable hiking trilogy of the Alps. Tackle the legendary Eiger Trail at the foot of the Eiger’s notorious north face, which has challenged mountaineers for over a century. Traverse canyon trails to discover imposing views of the iconic Matterhorn, and complete your tour in Chamonix, where the majestic Mont Blanc looms over the charming village. From Grindelwald to Zermatt to Chamonix, this 12-day tour will inspire and challenge even the most seasoned hiker.

### Details

- **Arrive:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Depart:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Duration:** 12 Days
- **Group Size:** 5-16 Guests
- **Minimum Age:** 18 Years Old
- **Activity Level:**

### Testimonials

- **“This trip takes you to some of the most iconic hikes in the world. My only disappointment was that the trip was over! Great guides and wonderful hikes.”**
  - David M.

- **“I've taken six MTS trips and they have all exceed my expectations. The staff, the food, the logistics and the communications have always been exceptional. Thank you for being my "go to" adventure travel company!”**
  - Margaret I.
Why Take This Trip With Us?

REASON #01
This MT Sobek-crafted itinerary covers the must-see Alps in only 12 days — see the Eiger, Matterhorn and Mont Blanc.

REASON #02
MT Sobek's expert guides have been leading treks in this region for nearly 50 years, and this grand tour is not to be missed.

REASON #03
MT Sobek has been taking our travelers to the Alps since 1970 — we know the best hikes in these iconic mountains!

What to Expect

ACTIVITIES
Scenic gondola

LODGING
Pleasant 3-star accommodations in gorgeous surroundings, and luxury hotels complete with saunas, Jacuzzis, and swimming pools.

CLIMATE
The weather in the Alps is always unpredictable. We could encounter snow in the morning and sun in the afternoon.

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.

Laurent Langoisseur hails from Normandy, France, having grown up in Argentan. In 1991, he obtained his European Mountain Leader certification, and in 1995 he was awarded the coveted patch of the Compagnie des Guides. An avid sports enthusiast and inexhaustible hiker, Laurent has hiked the Tour du Mont Blanc close to 100 times. Laurent has been guiding for MT Sobek since 1995, and is a senior guide on our Tour du Mont Blanc, Mont Blanc Express, and Haute Route trips, as well as any other trip we can get him on! His knowledge of the culture, history, plants, birds, and the name of every single peak and glacier along the trail is a wonderful complement to his guiding skills. When he isn’t guiding for us, he teaches First

A native of Chamonix, Florence is a descendant from two of the area’s oldest families. After growing up in the Chamonix Valley, “Flo” spent several years in the south of France, and then traveled abroad to South America and Asia. She returned to her ancestral home, where the mountains now form an integral part of her life. She has led nearly 50 trips to the Alps, not counting how many times she has done this trip for her own fun! In addition to being an accomplished hiking guide, Flo is a skier and climber. As a member of the Compagnie des Guides, she follows in the footsteps of her forefathers.

Florence Simond

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Itinerary

**DAY 1**

**ARRIVE IN GENEVA & EXPLORE GRINDELWALD**

After your arrival in Geneva, transfer by private van to the picturesque village of Grindelwald (3,392’). Located in Switzerland’s Bernese Alps, this postcard-worthy alpine village is a popular outdoor enthusiast’s destination year-round. Dominated by the north face of the Eiger looming in the background, Grindelwald is the perfect entree to the ultimate Alps adventure. Check into the hotel and enjoy some down time or explore the area before our welcome dinner.

**Meals:** D

**DAY 2**

**FOLLOW TRAILS TO KLEINE SCHEIDEgg**

Start your trilogy adventure with a hike from Holenstein (5,340’). Follow an easy trail that leads to Kleine Scheidegg, a splendid mountain pass located in the Bernese Oberland region and the lookout point of the Eiger’s impressive north face. Admire icefalls and epic peaks, following beneath the great north face before heading back to Grindelwald, for a great night’s sleep after a full day’s adventure.

**Activity:** 6 hours/8 miles hiking with 1,500’ elevation gain & 1,500’ elevation loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

**DAY 3**

**HIKE FROM GROSSE SCHEIDEgg TO BORT**

Today transfer by local bus to Grosse Scheidegg (6,437’), a mountain pass in the Bernese Alps where you hike a series of trails past verdant meadows and alpine lakes. Stop for lunch near the tranquil Bachsee Lake (7,470’) before hiking down to Bort (5,180’) with its striking views of the Eiger, where a gondola will whisk you back to Grindelwald.

**Activity:** 6 hours/9 miles hiking with 1,400’ elevation gain & 2,300’ elevation loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

**DAY 4**

**LAUTERBRUNNEN VALLEY & THE NORTH FACE TRAIL**

Head to the Lauterbrunnen Valley, with its 72 waterfalls cascading from rocky cliffs. Ride the lift to Gimmelwald (4,500’) for a hike to Rostockhutte (6,517’). After a break at the hut, follow in James Bond’s footsteps on the legendary North Face trail, where On Her Majesty’s Secret Service was filmed. Look out for the impressive peaks of Eiger, Monch and Jungfrau. Hike down to Murren (5,400’), ride the lift to the Lauterbrunnen Valley, and transfer to the hotel.

**Activity:** 7 hours/7 miles with 2,500’ elevation gain & 1,500’ elevation loss

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DAY 5  ARRIVE IN ZERMATT, GATEWAY TO THE MATTERHORN
This morning, take a 2-hour private van transfer along the beautiful mountain road from the Bernese Oberland to the German-speaking part of the Wallis region, and the renowned mountain resort of Zermatt (5,276') — gateway to the iconic Matterhorn. One of Switzerland's most vibrant resort towns, it’s packed with boutiques and restaurants. Starting in Täschalp (7,300’) you will hike a fairly flat path along the edge of the forest, following the famous Europaweg. That path takes us to Tufteren (7,300’) where you’ll continue down to Zermatt. This evening, you’ll have the chance to explore the restaurant scene in Zermatt on your own.

Activity: 3.5 hours/6 miles hiking with 1,500’ elevation gain & 2,500’ elevation loss
Meals: B, L

DAY 6  HIKE ALPINE PASTURES WITH MATTERHORN VIEWS
Depart from the Swiss alpine capital to hike up the canyon trail to the rocky saddle of Trift (7,712’). From this side of the valley, admire amazing views of the Mishabel and Monterosa ranges to the east while the north face of the Matterhorn rises majestically in the south. Indulge in lunch with a view near the Trift restaurant before continuing on to Hoh-Balmen (8,800’). Keep an eye out for the elusive edelweiss growing in the alpine pastures. Return to Zermatt for dinner.

Activity: 7 hours/6 miles hiking with 3,254’ elevation gain & 3,524’ elevation loss
Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7  HEAD TO GORNERGRAT FOR AN UNMISSABLE MOUNTAIN PANORAMA
The Gornergrat (10,200’) is one of the most beautiful mountain panoramas in the Alps. Here the glorious views of the Matterhorn and Monte Rosa are unforgettable. To get there, you will take the cog train to Riffelberg (8,500’) and hike up to the top. On the way back, pass by famous Rieffelsee lake where lucky hikers can see the Matterhorn reflected in its surface! Return to Zermatt by train.

Activity: 5 hours/6 miles hiking with 1,800’ elevation gain & loss
Meals: B, L, D

DAY 8  EXPLORE VINEYARDS OF THE VALAIS

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After a short train shuttle to Tasch, transfer by local bus to the Valais wine region and the medieval town of Saillon, well-loved for its wines, fig trees, and festivals. Hike through vineyards until you reach the Farinet vineyard, the world’s smallest registered vineyard where you learn about the region’s unique combination of soil types, microclimates, and sun exposure. Visit the Caveau de Saillon winery for a tasting in a typical ancestral home, and transfer (1.5 hours) to Chamonix, the French mountaineering capital at the foot of Mont Blanc.

**Activity:** 3 hours/4.5 miles hiking with 300’ elevation gain & 300’ elevation loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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**DAY 9**

**TAKE IN VIEWS OF THE MONT BLANC MASSIF**

Set out from the hotel in Chamonix and head to Trelechamps. Here, the trail heads up into the larch-forest to reach the Posettes ridge and its breathtaking views of the Mont Blanc Massif. Continue to Aiguillette des Posettes (7,260’) and then along the ridge to Col de Balme (7,270’), via Tete de Balme, weather permitting (7,490’). After descending back down to Charamillon, ride the gondola to the traditional Savoyard village of Le Tour. Then transfer back to Chamonix for the night.

**Activity:** 6 hours/7 miles hiking with 2,650’ elevation gain & 1,200’ elevation loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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**DAY 10**

**HIKE TO THE BONATTI & BERTONE HUTS**

Buongiorno Italy! Today head to the resort town of Courmayeur (4,014’), spectacularly situated beneath the Grand Jorasses and Brenva Glacier. Here the views of Mont Blanc are steep and impressive, standing in staggering contrast to the Ferret Valley that sits 10,000 feet below. Today’s hike leads to Bonatti (6,600’) and the Bertone (6,560’) huts, ideal places to take in the stunning panorama and to experience Italian alpine hospitality at its best. Hike down the old goat trail back to Courmayeur, where the van awaits for the transfer back to Chamonix.

**Activity:** 5 hours/6 miles hiking with 1,600’ elevation gain & 2,000’ elevation loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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**DAY 11**

**TOAST AN EPIC ADVENTURE TRILOGY**

On the final hiking day, ride the gondola up to Planpraz (6,530’) and follow the trail to the top of the ridge. Winding down to Lacs Noirs (8,250’), stop for lunch in this serene alpine environment. Then head up to the rocky ridge that leads to Col de la Gliere (8,400’) and the alpine bowl that connects to Flegere. Take in this unforgettable panorama: Les Drus, Aiguille Verte and Grandes Jorasses laid out in all their grandeur, and Mont

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Blanc, always looming large in the distance. Transfer back to Chamonix. Tonight’s farewell dinner will be at a restaurant in town.

Activity: 6.5 hours/5 miles hiking with 1,900’ elevation gain & 2,000’ elevation loss
Meals: B, L, D

DAY 12  DEPART FROM GENEVA

After breakfast, transfer to Geneva airport for homeward-bound flights.
Meals: B
Dates

Jul 30 - Aug 10, 2019
Jun 23 - Jul 4, 2020
Jul 28 - Aug 8, 2020
Pricing

2019

$6,295 per person

Additional Cost

$640 Single Supplement

2020

$6,395 per person

Additional Cost

$700 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 5
- 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 group transfer
- Optional travel protection

For full terms and conditions please visit www.mtsobek.com/terms. Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

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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.

Awards

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