Secret Alps - Snowshoe Trails of Haute Savoie

Trip Code: SAM

Version:

WINTER	GUIDED GROUP	5 MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Voted number 1 in The Times - Will Hide's '20 of the best winter holidays'
- Snowshoeing in France with a wide range of spectacular and very quiet snowshoe routes
- Up to four summits in one week including Pointe Ratti and outstanding views of the Mont Blanc

massif
- Centre based with beautiful french food every evening

AT A GLANCE

- 6 days snowshoeing
- Max altitude - 1923 metres
- Join at Samoens

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

A stunning one week snowshoe holiday in the beautiful Haute Savoie region of France. Our base for this eight day holiday is in the idyllic mountain village of Samoëns, situated near the impressive Cirque du Fer a Cheval in the heart of the French Alps. The terrain here is excellent for snowshoeing and promises some great days and the possibility of reaching the summit of up to 4 peaks, including Pointe Ratti which is one of our guides favourite days in the area, a day when it is very rare to see anybody else snowshoeing and with views over to the impressive massif of the Roc d'Enfer we can understand why it is high on their list! On the final day of snowshoeing we aim to summit Tete de la Sallaz; the area's proximity to the Mont Blanc range on this day means excellent views, and with the opportunity of one of the best hot chocolates in the area on the way back to the hotel, this is sure to be another favourite day. Quiet trails, lovely French food and wine, expert guides and crisp white snow - surely the ingredients of a truly fantastic holiday.

Is this holiday for you?

This week of centre-based, guided snowshoeing is designed to appeal to regular mountain walkers wishing to learn snowshoe techniques as well as those with previous snow-shoeing experience. During the holiday we will cover a variety of ground from relatively easy snow covered trails to steeper mountain slopes, the summits however are easily attained for those who have a reasonable level of hill walking fitness. The trip is suitable for novices and also those people with previous snowshoeing experience.

The itinerary will be flexible and during the week the guide will use their expertise and local knowledge to determine the best routes to take advantage of prevailing snow conditions and the abilities of the group. A suggested itinerary for the week is given, but may be subject to change. If snow conditions do not permit snow-shoeing on any of the routes, the group will follow an alternative winter hiking itinerary.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- Professional guiding with full snowshoe instruction
- All land transport (not airport transfers)
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the meal plan
- Snow shoes and ski poles.

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Airport transfers
- Some meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Tips for local staff
- Personal spending money and miscellaneous expenses - drinks souvenirs etc.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

TRAVEL TO YOUR DESTINATION

In some cases you may choose to take a ferry and/or train to your holiday start and end destination. Please see further information on Travelling by Train.

If flying from the UK there are low cost airlines available to the start and from the end of your holiday.

To benefit from full financial protection, ease your holiday planning, and avoid dealing with airlines, we can book scheduled flights from the UK as part of a flight inclusive package. Scheduled flights are usually more expensive than low cost alternatives, however potentially less stressful if your flight is cancelled or delayed. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

The group will meet at the group hotel in Samoens on the evening of Day 1 of the holiday itinerary. For clients arriving by air, the easiest way to get to Samoens is to fly to Geneva Airport and make use of an airport transfer service. There are various companies which offer this service, such as Go Massif, and the cost is about 45 Euros each way (please book this in advance of travel).

Meal Plan

All meals except lunches are included in your holiday price. You will need to purchase lunch and snacks for each day. These can easily be bought locally. We recommend an allowance of €15 to €20 per day for lunches, snack food and soft drinks.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

When in the towns and villages all tap water is drinkable. In mountain huts there is usually not a sustainable drinking water supply. Water in plastic bottles is brought in to the hut. All huts have a recycling point. If you have to purchase water in plastic bottles please buy the largest bottle you can so as to use less plastic. Please take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a Water-To-Go bottle) to treat your water if you can fill from a local stream. Bottled water is not provided. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles. Local authorities are working to find solutions to using plastic water bottles in huts. We monitor the situation carefully for updates.

Breakfast will be taken in our hotel each day and will be continental-style. Lunch (not included) will be packed lunches purchased from the hotel or can be taken at cafes or mountain restaurants where there will be a choice of different dishes to suit your tastes and budget. Dinner each evening will be at the restaurant in our hotel, which boasts beautiful Savoyard cuisine.

Accommodation

On this holiday we are based at the beautiful Chalet-Hôtel Neige et Roc situated on the edge of Samoëns, the base for this week. Sample French village life, with the centre and its shops only a short walk away. The hotel has all the feel of a traditional Alpine chalet with its exposed timber, open fire and extensive use of bright pinewood. The owners, Françoise & Olivier Deffaugt, take pride in welcoming guests to their charming family-run hotel and studios.

In low season we book the hotel standard rooms for single use and superior rooms for twins and doubles. In high season we book the hotel studios which are private apartments that sleep up to 2 people in twin or double beds. These are in an annexed building but still have access to all of the 4* hotel facilities and meals.

There is a single supplement available (please see the 'Dates and Prices' page for exact pricing), as this can be a very busy hotel in winter please do let us know if you would like to book single rooms as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Group Leader & Support Staff

Professional, English speaking guide

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Spending Money

We recommend an allowance of €15- €20 per day for lunches, snacks, water etc. You can change money at Geneva Airport, although please note that you can only take swiss Francs out from the ATMs here; there are however ATMs in Samoens where you can get Euros.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Luggage with wheels is useful for this holiday. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

Climate

The temperatures we can expect to encounter during the day will be in the range -10 to +15 degrees celcius/ 14 -59F, though it can feel much warmer than this in the reflected sunlight high on the slopes. In the evening the temperatures will drop. January to March is statistically the time of the lowest precipitation but mountainous areas do generate their own weather systems so occasional rain, snow and even stormy weather cannot be ruled out.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Private Groups Information

Make this KE Adventure holiday your own!

- Do our normal group departure dates not fit?
- Would you prefer to travel with just friends and/or family?
- Are you looking to organise a trip for your local walking, biking or mountaineering club?

It's really easy to make a trip your own. Simply select from our full range of adventure holidays and choose the dates that work for you and your group.

We are experts in creating holidays for groups of friends, families, charities and clubs. Our personal service means you'll be fully involved as we make the arrangements for your perfect adventure holiday.

Independence with Security

Travelling as a KE Private Group allows you more flexibility and choice, but still with the peace of mind that everything is pre-planned and arranged for your group by a reputable adventure travel company.

To take your first step to an amazing adventure with your friends and family complete the private group enquiry form, or call our **Sales Experts on: 017687 73966**

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through our international partner. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

You must bring the following items:

- Hiking boots (must be waterproof)
- Gaiters
- Trainers (for valley use)
- Socks
- Walking socks (2 or 3 pairs)
- Spare laces
- Trekking trousers
- Lightweight waterproof overtrousers
- Underwear
- Thermal baselayer - leggings
- Thermal baselayer shirts
- T-shirts and/or casual shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Waterproof jacket
- Warm jacket (eg. down)
- Daypack of approximately 30 litres capacity
- Water bottles 1 Litre (x2) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Warm and waterproof gloves or mittens
- Lightweight thermal gloves

- Basic First Aid Kit - Our professional tour leaders hold first-aid qualifications and will carry a basic medical kit. You should bring your own personal first aid kit consisting of the following: throat lozenges, painkillers (anti-inflammatory), antiseptic cream/spray, plasters, blister treatment/tape, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite). Glucose tablets are a good idea.
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Fleece hat
- Sunglasses with side protection
- Ski goggles
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sunhat
- Ski poles (provided)

The following items are optional:

- Earplugs (particularly if you are not the one snoring!)
- Waterproof liner for your daypack
- Camera
- Travel clothes
- Spare clothes
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Notes:

Specialist Equipment: Snowshoes, ski poles, and standard safety equipment including an avalanche transceiver, probe and shovel will be provided by KE, and available to collect at the group hotel.

Please note you will be liable for any damage caused to the specialist equipment due to negligence.

If you wish to take your own walking poles, make sure that they have snow baskets fitted.

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

We sell this holiday on a Land Only basis and recommend that you book your flights to Geneva Airport which is approximately 1.5 hours drive and about 2.5 hours by train from Samoens.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

The Times journalist Will Hide featured this holiday as number 1 in his '20 of the best winter holidays' article in December 2016. He said "You can tuck into guilt-free meals of fondue and red wine when you've been snowshoeing all day." Read the full travel feature.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change