Secret Switzerland - Tour des Combins

Trip Code: TDC

Version:

WALK & TREK	GUIDED GROUP	8 CHALLENGING



HIGHLIGHTS

- Be immersed in a tranquil and unspoilt Swiss Alpine wilderness
- Experience breathtaking scenery, including walking beside the immense Glacier de Corbassiere
- Hut-to-hut trekking, with a night at the famous Grand St Bernard Monastery
- Enjoy a much quieter alternative to walking the Tour du Mont Blanc

AT A GLANCE

- 6 days walking
- Max Altitude 2806 metres
- Join at Bourg-St-Pierre

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

The Tour des Combins is a relatively new long distance path which describes a complete walking circuit of one of the most famous peaks in the Alps, the Grand Combin (4314m). **One of the finest walking holidays in Switzerland,** this spectacular circuit offers a quieter alternative to more well known treks. Over 6 days of walking we travel through high Alpine meadows where edelweiss grows and ascend beside one of the largest glaciers in Europe, the Glacier de Corbassiere. Above this glacier we reach the Col du Grand St Bernard and the monastery which became famous for the dogs who would go out in wild conditions with a barrel of brandy strapped to their collars to find lost mountaineers. A great alternative walking holiday to the Tour du Mont Blanc, the beauty of this circuit around the Combin is that so few people are walking it - at the moment! Be one of the first to complete this new trekking circuit and enjoy sensational mountain scenery without the crowds.

Is this holiday for you?

The Tour des Combins is a new KE Alpine walk which is set to become a classic. This circuit of Switzerland's famous peak does not involve glacial travel but there is a fair amount of ascent and descent as we travel through a quiet wilderness area. It is not practicable to provide vehicle support for this circuit as nights are spent in inaccessible mountain refuges so this is an unsupported trek. You will have to carry all of your own equipment from the start of the trip to the finish. In practice, especially considering that neither sleeping bag nor camping mattress are needed for this trip, you should be able to keep the packed weight of your rucksack to as little as 8 kg. On average, we will walk for approximately 6 - 8 hours each day, with some longer days.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional English-speaking guide
- All transfers involved in the itinerary
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as detailed in the meal plan

What's not Included

- Travel Insurance
- Meals as detailed in the meal plan
- Visa fees (if applicable)
- Airport transfers
- Miscellaneous personal expenses

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.

Bourg St Pierre can be reached from Geneva by a train and bus combination via Martigny.

Tickets covering the whole journey including the bus can be bought online at http://www.sbb.ch/en/home.html or at the the railway station in the airport in Geneva.

Meal Plan

All meals are included except for lunches. Lunches can be easily purchased from supermarkets, bakeries or your accommodation along the way.
We do recommend you bring a few additional trail bars and snacks with you (not chocolate as it can melt) - these can of course also be purchased along the way, but it is sometimes nice to have your favourite hill food with you.

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.

As you might expect, the food available in restaurants, hotels and even in mountain huts in Switzerland and Italy is excellent. Continental breakfasts and evening meals are included everyday. Lunches can be easily purchased from supermarkets, bakeries or your accommodation along the way. Note that the water from taps in the huts is not always drinkable. Bottled mineral water can be purchased (approximately CHF6 for a one and a half litre bottle).

Accommodation

We spend 2 nights in comfortable hotels in Bourg St Pierre, 1 at the beginning and 1 end of the trip. Other accommodation during the trip will be in high mountain refuges. For the two nights in hotels accommodation is based on twin or triple share. If you are travelling by yourself you will be paired with another traveller of the same sex. Whilst in the mountains accommodation is normally in non segregated dormitory style rooms.

The refuges themselves tend to be full of character and serve tasty local dishes. Showers are a possibly at most of the huts and cost about 5CHF, please note however that they may not always be available. You can also charge batteries at most of the huts (but this will of course be more weight to carry with your charger and adaptor). They are always situated in stunning locations and the chance to enjoy a beer or glass of wine while watching the sun go down can provide a really special mountain moment. Single rooms are not available.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The holiday is led by an English-speaking International Mountain Leader.

Altitude

This holiday involves going to moderately high altitude. During the course of your trip you will reach altitudes in excess of 2500 metres. Most people will have no difficulty with this level of altitude but before coming on the holiday, we recommend you read the advice on trekking at high altitude. You can also talk to one of our trekking experts if you have any concerns about altitude.

Spending Money

The package price includes all accommodation and all meals except lunches. You should also make an allowance for snacks, drinks etc Beer, wine and soft drinks are available every night. We estimate that 250 - 300 Swiss francs for the six nights in Switzerland and 35 - 45 Euros for the one night in Italy should cover all personal expenses. Please note that the majority of this holiday is in Switzerland where the unit of currency is the Swiss franc. Although Euros will generally be accepted you may not get a favourable exchange rate. There are cash point facilities at the Airport in Geneva (only Swiss Francs can be obtained from the cash machines here) and St Rhemy.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Since group members will carry all personal equipment during the trek, it is important to keep the overall weight of this equipment to a minimum. Neither a sleeping bag nor a camping mattress is needed and it should be possible to keep the weight of your pack to around 8 kg. At the start of the trip, you will leave your travel clothes and anything you do not need for the trek in your main bag at the hotel. Luggage with wheels is useful for this holiday.

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.

The unit of currency in Switzerland is the Swiss Franc.

Preparing for your Holiday

It makes a lot of sense to spend some time before coming on a walking holiday getting some additional exercise. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. We would suggest that you adopt a weekly exercise regime leading up to your trip. Jogging, squash and swimming are good for developing better stamina. Before departure, we suggest that you try to fit in a number of long walks in hilly country.

Climate

The temperatures that we can expect to encounter during the day will be reasonably warm, ranging from 15°C/ 59°F to 25°C/ 77°F. It can be cool in the evenings at our highest overnight stopping places, even falling close to freezing point outside the huts. The weather is usually stable between July and September, but mountainous areas do generate their own weather systems and occasional rain and even stormy weather cannot be ruled out. You should be prepared for all eventualities!

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.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As you will be carrying everything you need it is important to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum. Since all bedding is provided at the huts you should be able to keep the weight of your pack down to as little as 8kg. Travel clothes can be left at your hotel.

You must bring the following items:

- Hiking boots
- Socks
- Trekking trousers
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Underwear
- Baselayer shirts (1 short sleeve, 1 long sleeve)
- T-shirts and/or casual shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Waterproof jacket
- Warm fleece gloves or mittens

- Sunhat
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Daypack 40 litres
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 litre (x2) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries (including travel towel)
- Antibacterial hand wash
- Sheet sleeping bag or sleeping bag liner (compulsory in the mountain huts)
- Basic First Aid Kit including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters and blister treatment.

The following items are optional:

- Gaiters
- Spare laces
- Shorts
- Thermal baselayer - leggings
- Trekking poles (recommended)
- Insect repellant

- Camera
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

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

The dates above are for the LAND ONLY itinerary, joining at the group hotel in Bourg St Pierre. The nearest airport is Geneva. Please refer to Joining Arrangements and Transfers for further details.

Flights SHOULD NOT be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

If flying from the UK there are a number of low cost airlines offering flights to Geneva. These include Easyjet who have flights from London, Manchester, Liverpool, Bristol, Edinburgh & Glasgow. Other airports may be available.

If you would prefer to book a Flight Inclusive package using scheduled airlines from the UK, please contact our flights department for a quote. Whilst flight prices are likely to be more expensive you will benefit from full financial protection.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

We're one of the few operators to recognise that this lesser-known side of the Alps is an undiscovered marvel. An Alpine trek for the connoisseur, avoid the crowds and enjoy completing a circuit of the Gran Combin in an expertly-guided small group.

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