

APOGEE ADVENTURES

2023 Alps Explorer

Summarized Itinerary

Trip Begins: Geneva, Switzerland

Trip Ends: Geneva, Switzerland

- Days 1-3:** Arriving into Geneva's International Airport, we'll gather our gear and make our way to the in-airport train station, where we'll transfer directly into the heart of the Alps and the mountain town of Zermatt. Zermatt is in the heart of Switzerland's picturesque Valais region, and it will serve as the perfect base as we get to know one another and start our hiking adventure in the shadow of the world-famous Matterhorn. Climbing out of the valley and up above tree-line, we'll feel the burn of a tough climb, but be more than adequately rewarded by cool Alpine air and striking views of the Matterhorn and its neighboring mountains.
- Days 4 & 5:** On the morning of Day 4, we'll transfer by train to the small town of Fiesch, Switzerland, where we'll take a cable-car up to the Fiescheralp, several thousand feet above the valley floor. From there we'll walk the length of the majestic Aletsch Glacier, one of the largest glaciers in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll walk to the car-free mountaintop village of Bettermeralp and take the cable-car back down to our campsite in the valley.
- Day 6:** From Fiesch, we'll take the train back to the small Swiss city of Martigny, where we'll take a day to catch our breath and get provisioned and geared-up for the days to come. The cultural capital of the Valais region, we'll also make time to explore the vibrant street of Martigny during our day in town.
- Days 7-18:** Well-provisioned, we'll set off on the full *Tour du Mont Blanc*. Climbing out of Switzerland, we'll travel ancient footpaths through quiet valleys, climb high mountain passes, bask in unending Alpine vistas, and hike into France. We'll take in the hustle and bustle of the resort town of Chamonix, trek through pine forests and alpine meadows, and continue over the high pass into Italy and the small hikers' town of Courmayeur. There, we'll take time to pause for a real Italian pizza before crossing back into Switzerland, relishing the last leg of our trek.
- Days 19 & 20:** We'll spend our final full day together in the historic and beautiful city of Geneva. The famous, high-shooting "Jet d'Eau" water fountain will punctuate our celebration (as will one final gelato) as we explore the city and reflect on the many highlights of our unforgettable journey.

Please note that we often run Alps Explorer with two groups in the field concurrently, an "A" and "B" group. Both groups will include very similar activities but might be in a different order. Students will be placed into groups and will receive their night-by-night itinerary a few weeks before the trip begins. All itineraries are subject to change.

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