

# APOGEE ADVENTURES

## 2024 Alps Explorer

### Summarized Itinerary

**Trip Begins:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Trip Ends:** Geneva, Switzerland

- Days 1-3:** Arriving into Geneva's International Airport, we will gather our gear and make our way to the in-airport train station, where we will 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 4-6:** On the morning of Day 4, we will transfer by train to the small town of Brig, 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. After a second night in Brig, we'll take the train back to the small Swiss city of Martigny, the cultural capital of the Valais region, where we'll take a day to catch our breath, get provisioned and geared-up for the days to come, and explore the vibrant streets.
- 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, absorb seemingly unending Alpine vistas, and hike over the border 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 enjoy a few well-deserved days off by taking an epic cable car trip to Punta Helbronner at nearly 3,500 meters to experience 360 views of Mont Blanc, Aiguille du Midi, Grandes Jorasses, and the rest of the Alps. After sampling plenty of authentic Italian pizza, we'll hit the trail again and cross 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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