2027 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 center 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 will feel the burn of a tough climb, but we will be more than adequately rewarded by cool Alpine air and striking views of the Matterhorn and neighboring peaks.

Day 4: On the morning of Day 4, we will transfer by train to the Swiss city of Martigny, the cultural capital of the Valais region, where we will take a day to catch our breath, get provisioned and geared-up for the days to come, and explore the vibrant streets.

Days 5-9: Well-provisioned, we will set off on the full, 110-mile *Tour du Mont Blanc*. Climbing out of Switzerland, we will travel ancient footpaths through quiet valleys, ascend high mountain passes, absorb seemingly unending Alpine vistas, and hike over the border into France. We will enjoy an evening at a charming French *refuge*, complete with a homemade three-course meal, before we make our way to the hustle and bustle of the resort town of Chamonix. With each day offering more breathtaking views, we will continue over the high pass into Italy and the small hikers' town of Courmayeur.

Days 10-12: In Courmayeur, we will enjoy a well-deserved day off, highlighted by authentic Italian gelato and exploring the quaint mountain town!

Days 13-15: After sampling plenty of the local cuisine (see: pizza), we will hit the trail again en route to our next indoor stay at an Italian *rifugio* overlooking the thousand-year-old Prè de Bard glacier. Finally, we will cross back into Switzerland, relishing the last leg of our trek and celebrating as we reach the point where it all started – the iconic pink church in Trient, Switzerland.

Days 16 & 17: Upon completion of the Tour du Mont Blanc, we will make our way to 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.

All itineraries are subject to change.

Questions? 207.725.7025 or info@apogeeadventures.com