



AMC
ADVENTURE
TRAVEL

VOLUNTEER-LED EXCURSIONS WORLDWIDE

Fabulous Day Hiking in the French and Swiss Alps

An AMC Adventure Travel Trip #1838

August 11-20, 2018

Thank you for your interest in our trip to France and Switzerland! We're looking forward to a fantastic trip visiting Europe at its finest! Swiss chalets, French pastries, gorgeous flower boxes, quaint towns, and spectacular scenery. The hills are alive in this European tour! Join us for an amazing journey through two of the most scenic countries in the Alps.

This prospectus should answer most of your questions about our trip. Please read the information carefully and contact us with any questions or to request application materials. Our contact information is at the end of the prospectus. We look forward to you joining us on this fabulous adventure.



The Matterhorn © Michael Portmann

Trip Description

Our trip will be based in Chamonix, France, and Zermatt, Switzerland. In Chamonix, we will be surrounded by Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in the Alps and many of our hikes will have views of the mastiff and its glaciers. We'll then head over to Zermatt where we will have views of another great mountain – the Matterhorn (the sixth highest peak in the Alps and one of the best known because of its unique shape) – while we hike through charming Swiss villages, past alpine tarns (lakes) and through alpine meadows.

Anticipated highlights include hiking for five (5) spectacular days, rides in mountain gondolas and funiculars (an underground cabled railway), a tour of Geneva, a visit to Chamonix's [L'Aiguille du Midi](#) where you can choose to step out onto *The Void* and visiting "the most attractive hamlet" in Switzerland – Findeln. We will take time to

explore the towns, meet the locals and socialize! This trip is designed for social and fit people wanting some luxury of hotels and good meals at the end of the day.

We look forward to an exciting, fun trip and expect all who join us to pitch in to help each other have the best time ever.

Typical Participants

This is a trip for *experienced* hikers who enjoy an active vacation. You should be fit enough to walk up to 8 miles per day for several days in a row with a day pack in all different weather conditions. You will be required to carry your personal gear (i.e., rain gear, pack lunch, extra layers, water, etc.) for each hike. Elevation gains/loss will range between 1100' and 4300' over the course of the week.

Detailed Itinerary

Date	Activity	Details
Saturday, August 11	Depart your gateway city to travel by air to Geneva, Switzerland.	Meals included: None
Sunday, August 12	 <p>Arrive in Geneva and make your way to our first hotel, Hotel Edelweiss (subject to change based on availability). We are planning on a scenic boat ride and guided city tour to unwind from our long flight. Tonight we will gather for our first meal together.</p>	Meals included: Group Dinner Today's Mileage: <i>Approximately 0.5 miles</i>
Monday, August 13	<p>After breakfast, we will transfer by mini-bus to Chamonix, France. You can grab a quick lunch before we head to our afternoon trailhead for a quick leg stretcher. After, you are free until we gather for our group dinner. We're anticipating staying that the Hotel de l'Arve Chamonix (subject to change based on availability).</p> 	Meals included: Breakfast, group dinner Today's Mileage: <i>Approximately 3.1 miles</i>
Tuesday, August 14	 <p>Today we'll be taking a cable car up to L'Aiguille du Midi – an observation area at 12,500' where we'll be able to see the French, Swiss and Italian Alps. We'll cable car partway down then to hike to Montanvers where we'll stop for lunch before hiking back down to Chamonix. Free time and dinner on your own once we're back. Overnight at Hotel de l'Arve Chamonix (subject to change based on availability).</p>	Meals included: Breakfast, group lunch Mileage: <i>Approximately 6.2 miles</i>
Wednesday, August 15	<p>Today we hike the “most famous walking objective in the Chamonix Valley” – the trail <i>Le Sentier des Lacs de Montagne</i>. On the trail, we'll pass alpine lakes (where you can take a dip) and stop at a mountain hut (Refuge du Lac Blanc). Once back, you'll have free time before meeting up for our group dinner. Overnight at Hotel de l'Arve Chamonix (subject to change based on availability).</p> 	Meals included: Breakfast, pack lunch, group dinner Mileage: <i>Approximately 4.5 miles</i>

<p>Thursday, August 16</p> <p>Rest day</p>	<p>Today we transfer to Zermatt, Switzerland. Once in Zermatt, you are free to explore the town on your own or join the leaders in an afternoon activity (cost is <i>not</i> included in trip price). We are anticipating staying at the Hotel Bristol (subject to change based on availability).</p> 	<p>Meals included: Breakfast</p> <p>Mileage: <i>Free day</i></p>
<p>Friday, August 17</p>	 <p>Today we'll be taking a ride on the Gornergrat railway to the observation platform (at 10,100'). We'll then head to our trailhead at Riffelberg where we'll enjoy "several scenically spectacular sites" in the area. Once back in Zermatt, you'll have some free time until our group dinner. Overnight is anticipated to be at Hotel Bristol (subject to change based on availability).</p>	<p>Meals included: Breakfast, pack lunch, group dinner</p> <p>Mileage: <i>Approximately 5.6 miles</i></p>
<p>Saturday, August 18</p>	<p>Today is a bit different from the other days as we'll be taking an <i>underground</i> funicular, hiking along alpine lakes and meadows, and visiting Findeln "one of the most attractive hamlets in the neighborhood." Once back in town, you're free to relax, have dinner and get packed up to go for the next day's early start back to Geneva. Overnight is anticipated to be at Hotel Bristol (subject to change based on availability).</p> 	<p>Meals included: Breakfast, pack lunch</p> <p>Mileage: <i>Approximately 8.1 miles</i></p>
<p>Sunday, August 19</p>	 <p>This morning, we take the train back to Geneva. You'll have free time to explore Geneva before we gather for our final time together over a group dinner. Overnight is anticipated at Hotel Edelweiss (subject to change based on availability).</p>	<p>Meals included: Breakfast, group dinner</p> <p>Mileage: <i>Travel day</i></p>
<p>Monday, August 20</p>	<p>We say goodbye to each other today. Fly home or extend your stay in this beautiful country.</p>	<p>Meals included: Breakfast</p>

What to Expect

Our pace will be moderate so that we may enjoy the scenery and gain an appreciation for these beautiful countries. If you enjoy a fast pace, you may be disappointed as we intend to stop and take time to take pictures, meet the local residents, and socialize with each other.

Our accommodations will be at comfortable inns and hotels. The towns we are visiting are small but very popular. All single travelers will be paired with a same gender roommate.

Switzerland has a very good public transportation system which we'll be using for some of our travels. *Everyone must be able to carry/drag their own luggage.*

Cost of the Trip

The trip will cost \$2,950 which includes: eight (8) nights of lodging, eight (8) breakfasts, three (3) pack lunches, one (1) group lunch, five (5) group dinners, five (5) hiking days, one (1) Geneva lake/city tour, all in-country ground transportation, and emergency medical and evacuation insurance.

Your round-trip airfare to Geneva which we currently estimate at \$1,000 *is not included* (leaders will be glad to provide information on suggested airlines and schedules and/or assist you in booking your flights).



Important Note – mileages shown in the itinerary *are estimates only*. Leaders reserve the right to change our daily itinerary due to weather and/or other hazardous circumstances. We appreciate everyone's cooperation in this matter.

Because of the number of miles we'll cover each day and the elevation changes, the hiking is rated moderate to strenuous.

You should be comfortable with heights, climbing ladders on the trail and potential narrow paths.

The trip fee includes an AMC overhead charge to cover the administrative expenses of offering AMC Adventure Travel excursions and, in accordance with AMC policies, you are subsidizing some of the leaders' cost. The trip fee also includes emergency medical and evacuation insurance coverage which is required by AMC (you will be sent a brochure describing this insurance).

Note:

The trip cost ***does not*** include insurance for travel delay, interruption or cancellation of the trip, or baggage loss. Purchasing such insurance is strongly suggested. The leaders can send you information to help you purchase this insurance through a preferred AMC vendor or you can purchase through your own preferred vendor.

Please note that most of these types of travel insurance require you to purchase the insurance within a certain number of days after booking your trip – once you are accepted onto the trip, please do not delay in purchasing your insurance.

How to Proceed

To apply to the trip, email the leaders letting them know that you are interested in applying. We will send you the application, risk release, and medical forms which you will need to print, complete, sign and return along with the required deposit check of \$1,000 made payable to the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Your official acceptance onto the trip will not happen until the leaders have determined by a telephone conversation with you that you and the trip are a good match.

Once you have been officially accepted plus the trip has the required number of qualified participants to make the trip 'a go', your check will be deposited and the trip's cancellation policy will take effect. The rest of the trip fee (\$1,950) will be due according to this schedule:

By January 1, 2018 \$1,000

By April 10, 2018 \$950

Please note: Airfare, if booked by leaders for you, is due at time of booking.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The price of the trip is subject to an increase should the value of the US Dollar versus the Euro and/or Swiss Franc decline significantly from the estimated exchange rate.

Conversely, any unspent funds resulting from exchange rates being more favorable than our estimate will be refunded to the participants.



Will you step into *The Void* when we visit l'Aiguille du Midi in Chamonix (optional)?

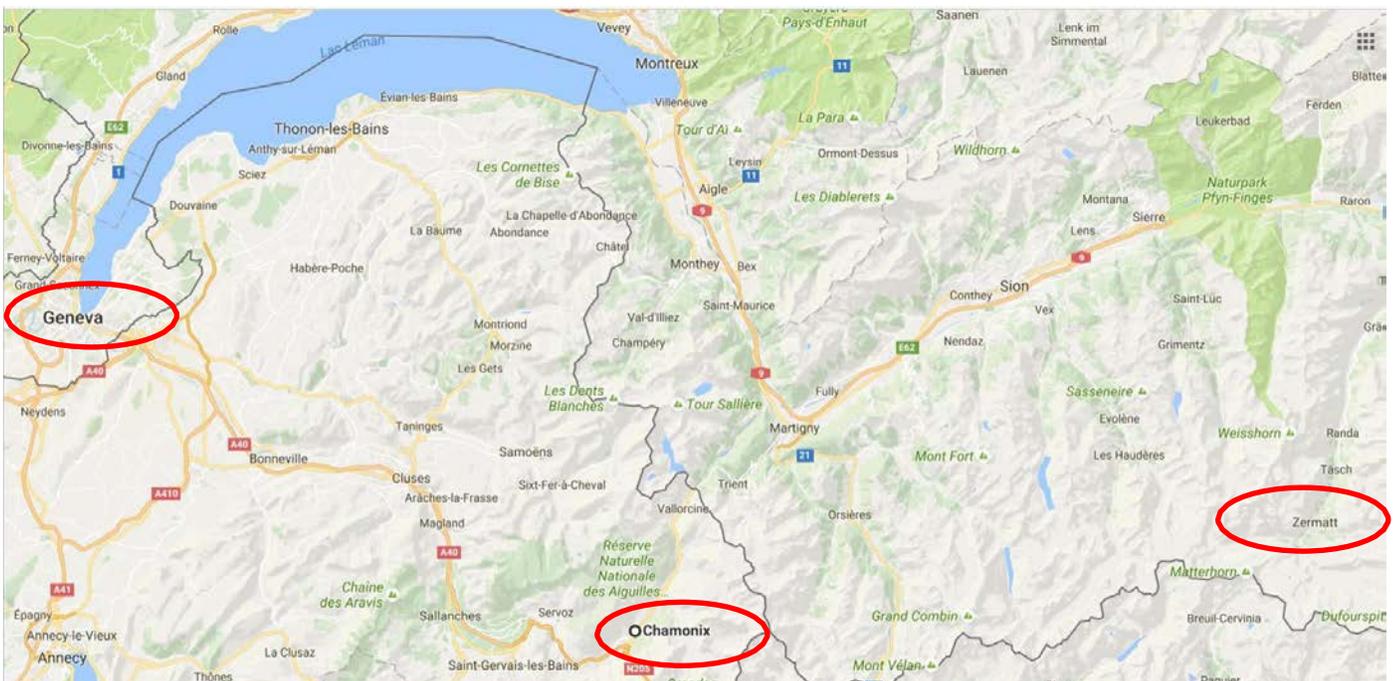
Cancellation Policy

The AMC Adventure Travel cancellation policy is based on several considerations.

- First, a cancellation shall not raise the cost to the other participants or to the leaders
- Second, we will charge a canceling participant for the expenses already incurred on his/her behalf and any unavoidable future expenses that will be incurred as a result of his/her registration and cancellation, unless they can be applied toward another acceptable participant
- Should the leaders be able to replace you, you may be charged a reduced or zero penalty (based on the penalty listed below) as long as all expenses for your reservation can be changed over to the replacement participant

Cancellation Penalty

- \$0 penalty if canceled before January 10, 2018, less any funds that fall into the category of the second bullet above
- \$250 penalty if cancelled from January 10, 2018, to June 10, 2018, plus any funds that fall into the category of the second bullet above
- No refund if cancelled after June 10, 2018



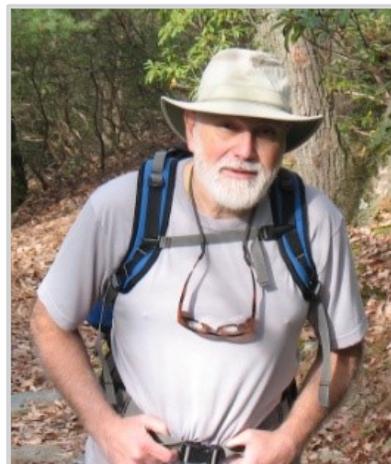
Quick itinerary:

Day 1, August 11 th	Depart your home base for Geneva, Switzerland (overnight flight)
Day 2, August 12 th	Arrive in Geneva
Day 3, August 13 th	Transfer from Geneva to Chamonix, France
Day 4, August 14 th	Chamonix
Day 5, August 15 th	Chamonix
Day 6, August 16 th	Transfer from Chamonix to Zermatt, Switzerland
Day 7, August 17 th	Zermatt
Day 8, August 18 th	Zermatt
Day 9, August 19 th	Transfer from Zermatt to Geneva
Day 10, August 20 th	Head home

YOUR LEADERS

Mike Darzi

Mike has been leading outings (mostly day-hikes, some paddling and backpacking) for the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Sierra Club for about 20 years. He has served as the Chair of the AMC Potomac Chapter, 2015-2016, and is currently the Chapter's Treasurer. Since retiring a few years ago, he spends much of his time (planning &) leading outdoor activities and as advocate for environmental issues. He has led numerous multi-day trips in the northeast and mid-Atlantic U.S., including the Berkshires, Acadia National Park, the White Mountains, Pine Creek Gorge, the lower Hudson River Valley, the High Peaks of the Adirondacks, Mt Rogers NRA, West Virginia, and Shenandoah National Park. He recently co-led an AMC Adventure Travel trek in Morocco. He has traveled extensively for work and adventure. Of relevance to our trip to the French and Swiss Alps, Mike has made numerous trips to France and Switzerland, and is fluent in French.



Len Ulbricht

With AMC Adventure Travel, Len most recently served as co-leader for a trip to Bryce and Zion National Parks and as a participant took in the Arches, Canyonlands, and Natural Bridges experience. Prior to becoming involved with Adventure Travel he and his wife took road trips to Gaspé Peninsular in Quebec, a northwest coastal road trip from Seattle to San Francisco, explored Nova Scotia, and spent a week each in the three treasures of Italy (Rome, Venice and Florence). He has been an AMC Southeast Mass chapter member since 2008 where he leads three season hikes in the White Mountain National Forest, both day hikes and multi-day hut trips, and has completed AMC's Mountain Leadership Training program. He has also served on the chapter's Executive Board as past Membership and Education chairs, and is a regular presenter at the chapter's annual Leadership Training workshop.



For More Information, Contact:

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