



Ukalpine Monte Rosa Circuit Valais Switzerland 11 days in the region of £990

11 days: Situated in the Swiss Alps, just east of the mighty Matterhorn & located in one of the most heavily glaciated areas in the Alps is the beautiful peak of Monte Rosa. We will need full days of walking to complete this superb but hard trek which makes a complete circuit of Monte Rosa, giving views of legendary 4000m peaks throughout. (Matterhorn, Dom, Taschhorn, Weisshorn & Monte Rosa) In a lovely area of the Swiss Alps, east of the Matterhorn it should be a challenge to remember.

I can only take small numbers on this trip so if you are interested please try to book early. Accommodation will be mainly in mountain huts, with occasional basic hotels. Breakfasts, Evening Meals & most packed lunches will be included. I've said 'most' rather than all because on a few days we will want to eat at cafes or berg restaurants. Final evening meal not included.

Dates are: 29th July-8th Aug 2007 Estimated Cost is in the region of £990. No Local Payment.

NOTE: Uplifts not included in price.

Beginning in the famous resort of Zermatt, our route follows the Europaweg - a high level path offering some great views of the Valais's most spectacular summits. We then cross into Saas Fee on a dramatic path carved into the rock with up close views of the nearby glaciers. We walk from Switzerland into Italy & through the delightful Piemonte region with its mixture of Italian & Germanic cultures. Trekking west we encounter a different culture as western Piemonte was once part of French Savoy. Then, after ascending the lower flanks of the Matterhorn & crossing Theodul Pass we descend back into Zermatt.

ITINERARY

DAY1 Arrival

Meet in Zermatt. For those traveling via Geneva a train or minibus transfer can be arranged. On arrival in Zermatt 'you'll be met by your guide & transferred to your overnight accommodation. After dinner there will be a trip briefing and all being well, time to relax.

DAY2

After an early start we will ascend to the Europaweg. (You may choose to ascend by lift). During the walk we will take the time to enjoy the magnificent views of both the Matterhorn and the Mischabel. We will spend the night at Europa Hut, perched high above the valley.

DAY3

We continue our trek along the high balcony trail of the Europaweg, a route linking remote herding hamlets, open hillsides & lush forests, offering great views across the upper Rhone to the Bernese Oberland. Our destination is Grachen, the driest village in Switzerland which lies on a shelf overlooking the Mattertal.

DAY4

Today we follow the Grachen Hohenweg, from which we will be able to admire the Mischabel range, its glaciers & high peaks, including the Dom. Our overnight destination is in the vicinity of Saas Fee.

DAY5

We leave Saas Fee, by a rocky mountain trail, which leads us towards the Monte Moro pass. We follow the pass, a trade route, dating back to the Middle Ages, through boulder fields & imposing granite slabs, whilst enjoying the dramatic views of the east face of the Monte Rosa. We will continue our trek towards Staafa, where we will be spending the night.

DAY6

Following the ancient road over the Turlo pass towards Valsesia. We pass amongst some beautiful flora, sadly abandoned alpine huts & remote stone farmhouses. All day we should have impressive views of Monte Rosa, along with other major peaks in the Pennine Alps.

DAY7

Today we ascend along the picturesque pass of Col d'Olen, which may prove to be one of the most challenging routes of the entire trek. The pass at 1700m, is one of the highest points in the trek, with some magnificent scenery; however for those who prefer there is a lift to take you to over the demanding pass. After traversing the panoramic ridgeline, we will descend towards the village of Gressoney.

DAY8

This morning we will ascend through herding hamlets to a high pass with expansive views over the majestic summits of the Pennine Alps. We descend to the Val D'Ayas and our overnight accommodation.

DAY9

Today we will pass over another high point of our trek, along the Theodul Pass. This will be a relatively demanding day, however the views that we will gain of the surrounding summits will be more than worth the effort. Once we have crossed the glaciated pass, we make our descent towards Zermatt.

DAY10

Today we finish our walk in Zermatt. Taking time to absorb the last views of the surrounding mountain ranges, with snow-capped mountains, before exploring the local facilities of this bustling town.

DAY11

Those who are returning to the UK from Zermatt can transfer by rail or road to the airport, for the return flight home. For those lucky enough to be able to stay for extra nights ukalpine will endeavour to help with your plans.