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Website: [www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk](http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk)  
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# 2024 trip dossier | **Winter Ice Weekend £649**

Website link | <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/wintericeweekend.html>

## Key features

- **An exciting weekend climbing frozen waterfalls or alpine routes.**
- **2 full days guiding with 1 night spent in Chamonix accommodation.**
- **Flexibility to allow you to ascend the types of route of your choice.**
- **Led by top qualified guides (IFMGA), 1:2 guiding ratio throughout.**
- **Free loan of avalanche safety kit, if required by guide during weekend.**
- **Scheduled dates are listed on the website. More dates on demand...**
- **Cogne Italian job?** Prefer an Italian based weekend? Spend the night half board night there (the guide also stays), instead of the night in Chamonix. The course would also include the tunnel and driving tolls, travel costs from Chamonix to Cogne. This Italian option costs £799 per person.



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**24 years**  
established in 2000





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## Course overview

- For those looking for an exciting weekend adventure, you can't get much more exhilarating than a weekend climbing on iced up waterfalls or ascending Alpine routes!
- Course is designed to squeeze into a weekend. You meet your guide at 08:30 on Saturday morning, and leave on Sunday evening to be back at work for Monday morning. On Saturday and Sunday you have two full days of ice climbing or mountaineering, with one night spent in Chamonix on Saturday night.
- Your two Guided days are fairly flexible to allow you to ascend route types of your choice, be it long multi-pitch ice routes, shorter more technical routes or mountaineering routes at altitude.
- Although we ask for no previous experience for this course, if you have more experience but would like a weekend ice climbing in the Alps, we will try to match you with a suitable climbing partner
- Whatever your aim, you can rest assured that the conditions will be way better than Scotland, so even on a weekend, you will learn more than a week in Scotland dodging bad weather & searching for ice.
- As this course is operated on a 1:2 guiding ratio, if there is only one person who books on a date, we try to find a partner for you. In the unlikely event that only one person books on a date, we provide one full day of private guiding and the one night of accommodation, but the activity is guaranteed to operate.

## Sample itinerary

**Saturday** - Meet in Chamonix at 08:30am, for the guide to brief you and check equipment for the day. They will discuss with you the current conditions, and if they require you to wear an avalanche beacon (provided if required) during the weekend. You then set off for your two days climbing. Below are some of the most popular options. Other possibilities are available, so you don't have to repeat anything if you have been to the Chamonix region before. You can discuss direct with the guide which option you wish to select each day, to react to weather, experience and conditions, to ensure you achieve the maximum.

**Option 1** - Guiding ratio 1:2 max

Drive to the Val de Cogne in North Italy, and climb one of the classic icefalls, such as Cascade Lillaz or Patrie at the end of the valley, then return to Chamonix.

**Option 2** - Guiding ratio 1:2 max

Take the Plan Joran lift above Argentiere, to climb the left bank icefalls above the glacier, e.g. Mini Couloir & Deferlande. Night is spent in Chamonix.

**Option 3** - Guiding ratio 1:2 max

Spend the day ice climbing at the Cremerie icefalls, in order to climb multi-pitch ice, and to learn about ice anchors and abseiling skills. Night in Chamonix.

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## Sunday

**Option 1** - Drive to Megeve or Resposoir for a second day ice climbing, before driving back to Chamonix c.17:00.

**Option 2** - Day of waterfall ice climbs, such as Micro Couloir on Col des Montets / Chatelard, and return to Chamonix c.17:00.

**Option 3** - Ascent of altitude snow / mixed route such as Arete des Cosmiques on the Midi, then return to Chamonix c.17:00.

All the guiding is scheduled to finish by 17:00, so you can return any hire kit, then airport transfers can be booked for any time after 17:00 (realistically this is for flights departing at 20:00) to allow you to travel home, in order to avoid taking time off work.

ITINERARY NOTES: Where possible we follow itineraries. Mountain adventures are weather & conditions dependant, so occasionally we are forced to alter the plans. If this is the case, suitable alternatives are offered. Please use this outline itinerary as a guide to the types of route / activity that you will attempt.

## Course Inclusions

- ✓ 1) Hand picked IFMGA Mountain Guide for two days (1:2 ratio max)
- ✓ 2) Chamonix concierge service for logistics, advice and support
- ✓ 3) Pre course information dossier, with training plans and kit lists
- ✓ 4) Briefing the first morning, with latest updates and weather reports
- ✓ 5) Equipment discount voucher for our Windermere shop / online
- ✓ 6) One night room only accommodation in Chamonix on the Saturday
- ✓ 7) Preferential rates on technical equipment rental in Chamonix
- ✓ 8) Free 36 page technical Course Instruction Booklet
- ✓ 9) Pre-course online briefing in the month before your trip

## Course Exclusions

1) Travel to and from Chamonix, 2) Cable Cars (approx £30), 3) Kit hire as required, 4) Personal laundry, telephone calls, lunches, evening meals, & any purchases in mountain huts / hotels / restaurants, 5) Transport & tunnel tickets for travel outside Chamonix valley (not normally needed, e.g. Courmayeur c. 30 euros per person), 6) Activities insurance, & excess baggage charges.

## Group sizes

2 people per IFMGA mountain guide. For group sizes of over 2 people, there are multiple guides, climbing independently of each

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other.

## Climbing skill

These are outlined on this page; <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/courses.html>, and this course is;

Course level: **Beginner**  
Mountaineering: **No previous experience necessary.**  
Ice & Rock: **No previous experience necessary.**  
Fitness: **Good general fitness and stamina.**

## Fitness & stamina

The ideal fitness levels are detailed at; <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/trainingpreparation.html>, and there are links to general training advice and planners that you can adapt to suit and follow.

This trip is graded: **Level 2** - We suggest that people on courses of this grade can run 10km without a problem, but we stress that for courses of this level you do not need to be any fitter than this minimum level, though it is there to ensure a good basic level of aerobic fitness and training.

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## How to book

- All bookings are made securely online, and deposit of £250 is payable (with secure payments handled via our travel bonding by SinGS / Felloh). Ensure that when completing the form, you fill in all the required fields, in order for the 'SUBMIT' button to appear.
- All payments are protected by our Tour Operator travel bonding with ATOL and TTA, and your monies are held in trust until after you have travelled home. You are fully financially protected, in accordance with UK and EU laws.
- Website link: <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/booking.html>

## Before your trip

- As soon as you book online, you are sent confirmation of this, and attachments including joining instructions, course specific kit lists. If you haven't received this e-mail within half an hour of booking online, please check your junk / spam folder.
- At the office, we manually check all bookings, and you'll also receive a personalised e-mail from us formally confirming your course space, and sending you a deposit payment link. Once you have this office confirmation and paid the deposit, it's fine to go ahead and book your travel arrangements, and to arrange your activities insurance.
- Activities insurance is a requirement for all trip participants. Organise it as soon as you are booked, and ensure that it covers you for cancellation or curtailment, in case you injure yourself or get ill before your trip. This ensures you'd be fully reimbursed for the trip, and all travel costs.
- Website link: <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/insurance.html>

## Travel to the Alps

- The closest international airport to Chamonix, is Geneva (airport code GVA). There are many direct flights from the UK every day, and it's well served by the budget airlines e.g. EasyJet.
- Geneva is a small but busy airport, and it's only a very short walk from baggage reclaim into the arrivals area, where all the airport transfer companies meet. In the Course Information Booklet is a code for preferential rates from our reliable transfer partner Mountain Dropoffs.
- Chamonix is also very easy to travel to by rail, from the UK to Paris via Eurostar, then from Paris Gare du Lyon (or Austerlitz) to Saint Gervais by high speed TGV, then the local train up the valley to the Chamonix Aiguille du Midi (or Chamonix central) stop.

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- Driving can work out cheaper, if you're with others, and there's free parking close to the accommodation, on a first come first served basis. Generally a couple of laps, and a space will be freed up for you. See the Course Information Booklet map for the locations of this free parking.
- Website link: <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/travel.html>

## Meeting point

- Once you've booked, you'll receive the Course Information Booklet, which details the meeting point for Chamonix course clients.
- If you want an address for your airport transfer, provide the Aiguille du Midi cable car, on Rue Lyret, 74400 Chamonix. The accommodation nearby, and your course confirmation will provide details, so you can opt to be dropped at the door. If arriving on EasyBus, Ouibus, or Flixbus, these all arrive at the bus station in Chamonix Sud, Avenue du Courmayeur.

## Course accommodation

- Most course clients stay in Chamonix in a twin room, sharing with another course participant of the same sex. If you are a couple wishing a double, let us know at the time of booking.
- Check in time is from 16:00 (4pm) on the Saturday, and the meeting point to be shown into your accommodation is detailed in your Course Information Booklet, that is sent upon booking.
- If you do not require / wish to book your own accommodation in Chamonix, there is a £50 discount available for sourcing your own accommodation, which is applied to your invoice.

## Course briefing

- The course briefing for this trip is at 08:30 on the Saturday morning. The Course Information Booklet will confirm the exact location for this briefing. When you attend the briefing, take your passport and activities insurance details, for these to be noted.
- The briefing takes about 15 minutes, and it aims to answer all your queries about the course.
- Attendance at the course briefing is obligatory, and you are asked to sign a copy of the Terms & Conditions. These are the same as those you accepted online when you booked, but it's for us to have a signed paper copy on record.

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## Equipment checks

- Take any equipment to the briefing that you would like one of our guiding team to advise you about. For some people that may be very little, whilst others want to double-check a few bits of kit. It's always a good idea to take your boots and crampons, so we can check the fit for you.
- If you've your own safety equipment, it's worth having one of the team check this over for you.
- Note that if you require any hire equipment, or any kit that is loaned on a course, you need to attend the course briefing, as it's straight after this that is when it is allocated.
- Website link; <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/hire.html>

## Cable cars

- For the days you are in Chamonix and any extra days you may choose to stay the most cost effective cable car pass is called the Mont Blanc multi-pass.
- Website link: <https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/montblanc-multipass>

## Breakfasts

- When you are in town and accommodation is included on a room only basis. There are a great range of cafes, bakeries, and coffee shops in town, where you can get breakfast, and there are a few offering cooked breakfasts too. Alternatively you can upgrade to have breakfast in a hotel.

## Lunches & drinks

- Everyone has their own idea of what they would like for lunch whilst in the mountains, varying from a stack of Mars bars to a large ham sandwich. For this reason we let you choose your own lunches, which may be easily purchased locally from shops and supermarkets.
- Website link: <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/chamflat.html>

## Evening meals

- In town clients normally take advantage of the excellent variety of local restaurants, and also the town's bars to celebrate your achievements. We are also happy to book places in restaurants for you, should you wish an evening on your own.
- Website link: <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/chamonix.html>

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## Weather & conditions

- It's natural for you to be avidly checking the weather on the weeks and days preceding your course, and we try and keep our social media channels updated daily, so you can see what's going on, and how the conditions are evolving. The website links below give you trustworthy weather forecasts.
- Website link: <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/webcams.html> and [http://chamonix-meteo.com/chamonix-mont-blanc/weather/forecast/morning/5\\_days\\_weather\\_forecast.php](http://chamonix-meteo.com/chamonix-mont-blanc/weather/forecast/morning/5_days_weather_forecast.php)

## Maps & guidebooks

- You don't need to take any maps and guidebooks for your trip, as you are being guided, but it's always a good idea from a safety perspective to have a map with you. Here are the key links;
- Chamonix map; <https://shop.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/79/BooksMaps/Maps/Alpinemaps/IGNChamonix3630Omap.html>
- Instructional book; <https://shop.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/165/BooksMaps/Books/Instructional/AlpineClimbing:TechniquetoTakeYouHigher.html>

## Equipment lists

- You will be sent a precise course specific kit list upon booking, but we have a huge amount of kit advice on our website; <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/boots.html>
- Website link: <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/icicleshop%2BKIT%2BMTR.html>

## Any questions?

Even if you've read all the detail here and in your Course Information Booklet, and on the website, you may still have some queries about your trip, so don't hesitate to get in touch.

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- Facebook message <http://m.me/iciclemountaineering>
- Here's our office hours, and online chat <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/contact.html>
- When you're on a trip, you'll also be provided an in resort WhatsApp number for our team, so if you haven't already, please ensure that you download this free app to your phone.



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