

Discover secret Alps

OVERVIEW :

Want to take the family on an adventure in the great outdoors on a trip the kids will never forget ?

This walk has been specially tailored for families with children aged 5-12. Our guides will take you off the beaten track to explore the wild and stunning landscape of the Vercors massif.

Looking up for the ante ? Choose to stay a night under canvas in the heart of the wilderness to observe the stars in the clear Alpine sky.

Group : 8 to 12 people – 7 days – Suitable for all fitness – Price : 1250 euros/adult



ITINERARY :

Day 1 : Transfer from Valence TGV station to the Vassieux village, ideally located at the center of the Vercors Massif.

Day 2 : Font d'Urle. Positive elevation 220m. Distance 5 km. Walking time 3h.

Located at the extreme south of the massif, Font d'Urle is the perfect place to understand the geology of the Vercors and discover the Alps wildlife. Your guide will lead you through the plateau up to the Pas du Follet. Easy walk through undulating alpine meadows. Stunning scenery at the Pas on the south of the Alps. Enjoy observing the marmots in their natural habitat. Your guide will help to find them and comment about their incredible adaptation to the rough mountain environment.

Day 3 : Rochers de la Sausse. Positive elevation 200m. Distance 5 kms. Walking time 3h.

We will start our day at the Col de la Bataille at 1330 m high. We will follow a gentle track on the edge of the Rochers de la Sausse cliffs. Impressive view on the Plateau d'Ambel and the omblèze valley. Your guide will lead you to the secret and remote arch of Rucla, carved in the limestone cliffs by the million years time work of erosion. Good opportunity to learn about the history of the karstic massif and to take time to feel our connection to nature . On our way back, if time available, we will stop at the Gardiol refuge where second world war fighters used to hide from German forces.

Day 4 : Resting day. Option visit museum of the Resistance of Vassieux

This day can be the opportunity to have on short visit of the Museum of the Resistance of Vassieux. Why has the Vercors been a formidable natural fortress against German forces ? How french fighters die to defend their republican values ? A fascinating story of the second world war.

Day 5 : Gorges de la Bourne. Positive elevation : 200m. Distance : 5 km. Time : 3h.

The river Bourne has carved a 1000 m deep valley crossing the limestone Vercors Massif. Our route will start at the village of the Meaudret and goes through a beech forest up to the edge of impressive vertical cliffs of the Bourne canyon. You will learn about how the canyon was formed, its 100 millions year history perfectly visible on the strata of the limestone cliffs. Fascinating !

Day 6 : Habert des Ramées. Positive elevation : 300m. Distance : 5 km. Time : 3h.

Starting at 1400 meters high at the Lans en Vercors station, we will follow a forest track with a gentle gradient up to the massif eastern ridge. Once on the ridge, mind blowing view on the Alpine landscape including the Ecrins, Mount Blanc and Grenoble valley. One of the best place to get a full picture of the Alps geography. Ask your guide a geographic lesson on all Alps major summits ! He will explain how 1000 meters high vertical limestone cliffs you are walking on have been carved by gigantic glaciers during the quaternary era.

Day 5/6 : Bivouak Option

Want to stay a night in the heart of the wilderness ? We propose a bivouak under the stars in the Natural Reserve of the Hauts Plateaux. Far away from civilisation, the lighting conditions are perfect to observe and learn about our universe. Our route will start at the Parking de la Coche close to the village of Saint Aignan and walk up to the Jasse de la Chau or Gerlan Alpine meadows. Option to be reserved up front for organisational purpose. Please contact us.

Day 7. Transfer to Valence TGV station.

DIFFICULTY :

This tour has been specially tailored for families and kids 5 to 12. Gentle 2 or 3 hours walks (not including breaks). Positive Elevation from 1 to 300 meters. 5 to 8 kms distance. You will walk on regular tracks and smooth off tracks terrain. Your guide will adapt the pace to the level of the group and will plan breaks at any time needed to make the tour enjoyable.

FOOD AND ACCOMMODATIONS :

All inclusive tour including nights and meals.

Our organization has pre-selected family and group cottages around the village of Vassieux en Vercors, at the center of the Vercors Massif. Our organization will select the cottage according to availability at booking date. List of pre-selected cottages available on request.

GUIDE :

A qualified guide (French State Diploma in Alpinism) will guarantee your safety all along the journey. Even in remote areas where mobile phone network is not available, our guides are equipped with a radio allowing to reach rescue services if required. Our guides have a deep knowledge of the massif and will be pleased to comment about fauna, flora, geology of the massif.

Please note that your guide can adapt the program according to weather conditions and group fitness level.

WHEN TO GO :

Tour available from May to October. Minimum number of participants is 8 people. Maximum 12 people.

WEATHER :

Mostly dry and hot weather in summer time. As we are progressing in a mountain environment, rapid change of weather can happen with a wide range of Temperature from 5 to 25 degrees. We need to be equipped for both hot and cold weather, as well as dry or humid weather.

TRANSPORTATION : Possibility to pick you up at the Valence TGV station. All transfer to the walks departure point included in the price.

PRICE :

adult : 1250 euros

kids (under 12) : 950 euros

Included : guide fees, food and accommodation

Excluded : transportation from UK up to the Valence TGV station, insurance, taxes, equipment rental (if required)

CO2 FREE AND ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLY TOUR :

One of our strong values is the protection of the environment. We strongly recommend to travel by train to the Valence TGV station based a few kilometers away from the Vercors Massif. Our car transportation will be limited and compensated.

We will not set up camp fires. A minimum distance to wild life (wild ungulates, chamois, ibex, ..) will be respected. Obviously no garbage will be left during the trek. Off trail routes are chosen to limit our impact on the soil. Finally, our food will include a limited quantity of meat.

Total CO2 estimation : 25 kg CO2 per person fully compensated

Train : 5 kg CO2

Car transportation : 4 kg CO2

Food and Accommodations : 9 kg CO2

Equipment : 7 kg CO2

Compensation : 25 kg CO2 per person

EQUIPMENT LIST :

Backpack with a hip belt.
Adjustable trekking poles
Sunglasses
Sunscreen
Sun hat
Head lamp
Water bottle

Hygiene kit

Medical kit :

Antiseptic wipes and bandages
Medication for pain, fever, inflammation, diarrhea
Compeed (or equivalent) for blisters
Elastoplaste (o equivalent) for blisters
Survival blanket
Medical tool (chisel, ..)

Clothing and footwear :

Mountain shoes
Moisture-wicking underwear
Moisture-wicking T shirts
Quick drying pants/short
Long sleeve shirt (for sun)
Socks

Rain jacket
Warm insulated jacket
Fleece sweater
Tee-shirts
pant
Gloves
Warm Hat

Binocular (optional)
Navigation tools (optional)
Cell phone (even if remote area are outside coverage zone, cell phone is part of safety equipment)