

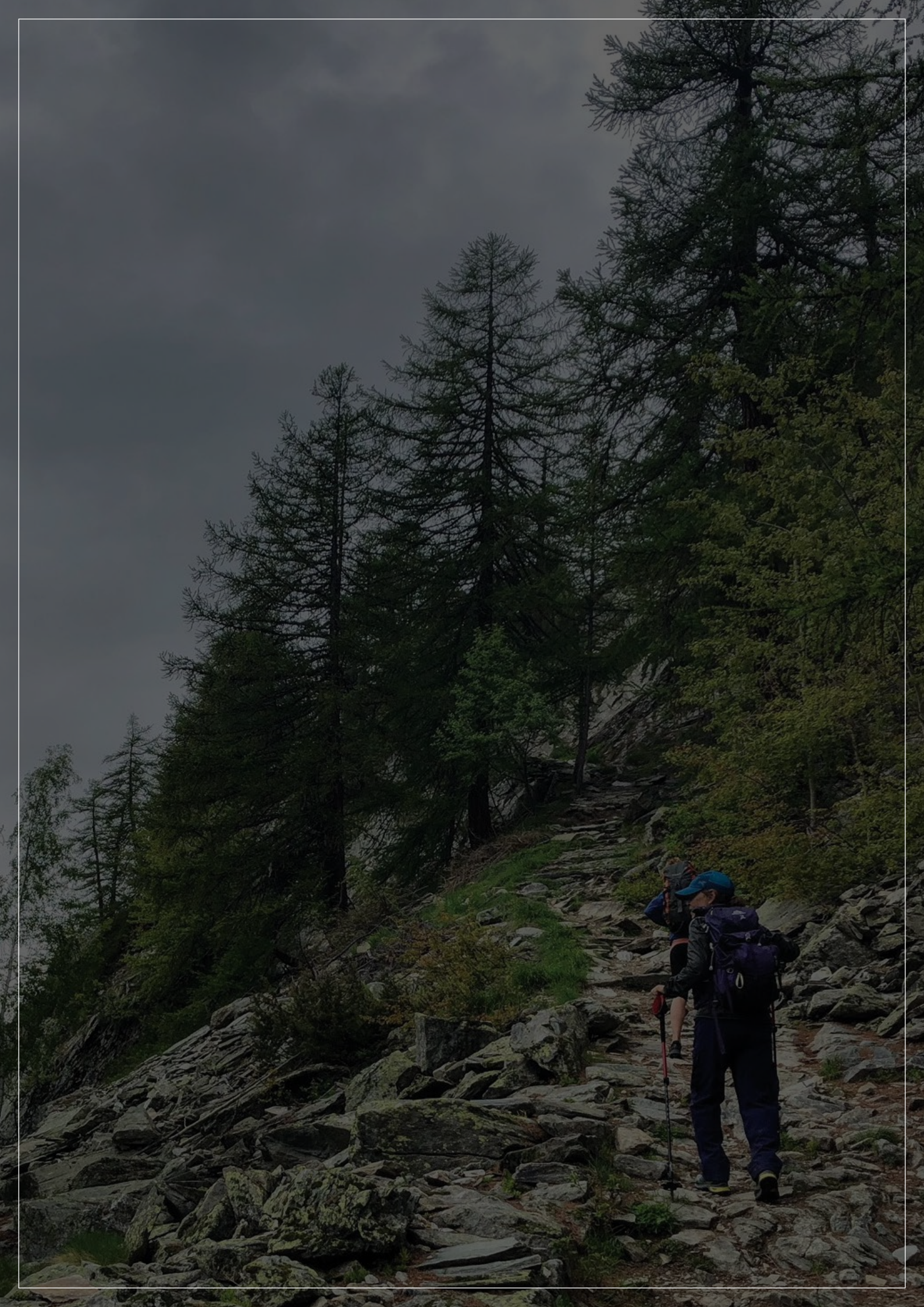


SUMMER HAUTE ROUTE

3,796M / 12,454FT



2022 TRIP NOTES





SUMMER HAUTE ROUTE NOTES

2022 TREK DETAILS

Dates: Available on demand
July to September

Duration: 7 days

Departure: ex Chamonix, France

Price: €2,550 each 1:4 guide to trekker ratio
€2,770 each 2:6 guide to trekker ratio
€2,420 each 2:8 guide to trekker ratio

Cross glaciers and passes from Chamonix to Zermatt. Photo: Olivier Baroni

This alpine classic follows the original route pioneered over 150 years ago through the French and Swiss Alps from Chamonix in France to Zermatt in Switzerland. The Haute Route is a demanding route, crossing glaciers and high passes deep in the Alps. Our efforts are rewarding with endless panoramic views, unique and remote mountain huts and a route steeped in alpine history.

HISTORY

The original or Classic Haute Route was first developed as a summer mountaineering route by the British Alpine Club in 1861. Then known by its English name, the High Level Route, the trail traversed from Chamonix to Zermatt via glacial passes through the Pennine Alps.

In 1911, the journey was completed as a winter ski tour for the first time, after which it became better known by its French title, the Haute Route, and it has become a must-do for both winter and summer visitors to the Alps ever since.

ITINERARY

Private departures are available on demand from July to September.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 0

Arrive at your hotel in Chamonix, where your guide will meet you in the evening to go over the details of the Haute Route Trek and answer any questions.

Day 1

Your guide will help arrange any last minute equipment hire before we travel to the village of Le Tour located just outside of Chamonix. We take a lift to Col de Balme (2,191m/7,188ft), where we begin our trek. We take a high traverse to Albert Premier Hut (2,702m/8,865ft), enjoying vistas of Mont Blanc and Chamonix before us. From here, we head upwards and over the Col Supérieur du Tour (3,288m/10,787ft) to Switzerland, before descending crevassed slopes to the Trient Hut (3,170m/10,400ft) for the night.



▲ Enjoy magnificent views across the Alps. Photo: Olivier Baron

Day 2

We start by descending the Glacier d'Orny, giving spectacular views that stretch all the way to the Matterhorn on a clear day. We then descend to Champex-Lac (1,466m/4,810ft), where we will have lunch before taking a taxi to the Lac de Mauvoisin (1,961m/6,434ft) and then ascend to Chanrion Hut (2,471m/8,107ft) for an overnight stay. This is one of the longer days of the trek, covering 15km/9 miles and with significant descent and ascent.

Day 3

Today we follow yesterday's route for a short distance back to the small Col de Tsofeiret (2,596m/8,517ft) and then head up the trail to the Col de Lire Rose (3,115m/10,220ft). Traversing scree slopes below the south west ridge of La Ruinette, we then climb steeply to the day's high point; the Col du Mont Rouge (3,326m/10,912ft). From here the terrain eases as we cross the open slopes of the Glacier du Giétro to the Col de Cheilon (3,230m/10,597ft). We finish the day with a steep descent to Dix Hut (2,928m/9,606ft).

Day 4

Although short in distance, today is one of the longer days of the trek as we climb steeply to the Col de la Serpentine (3,529m/11,578ft); one of the most technical sections of the trek which can be steep and icy. Your guide may use a belay for additional security here. From here, glaciated slopes ascend to the highest point on the Haute Route, the summit of Pigne d'Arolla (3,796m/12,454ft) to enjoy panoramic views of the European Alps before descending to Vignettes Hut (3,160m/10,367ft).

Day 5

A day of large ascents and descent, we begin with a long but gentle climb up the glacier to the Col de l'Évêque (3,392m/11,129ft), before a long and sustained descent of the Haut Glacier d'Arolla. We then face another steep climb from the Plans de Bertol (2,664m/8,740ft) up to the Bertol Hut (3,311m/10,863ft).

The final challenge is our last ascent to the hut itself, as we climb over boulders, steep snow and even several ladders before we reach the Col de Bertol (3,268m/10,722ft) and then a final section of steep ladders to the hut. The Bertol Hut overlooks a huge glacial expanse with the peaks of the Dent Blanche and Matterhorn dominating the skyline.

Day 6

Leaving the hut, we start with a gentle climb up the Mont Miné Glacier to the Col de la Tête Blanche (3,600m/11,800ft) and optional summit of Tête Blanche itself (3,707m/12,162ft). We then descend the Stockji Glacier and cross the moraine of the Schönbiel Glacier, before climbing the moraine wall to the Schönbiel Hut (2,694m/8,839ft) for our final night in the mountains, where we enjoy spectacular views of the Matterhorn.

Day 7

Our final day sees us follow an easy trail above the Zmutt Glacier to the quaint village of Zmutt and on into Zermatt, all the way with the Matterhorn looming above us. We arrive into Zermatt in time for lunch where we bid farewell to our guide and then enjoy the afternoon exploring the town.



Trek from alpine meadows to high mountain passes. Photo: Olivier Baron



▲ Climbing the Bertol Ladders. Photo: Paolo Pieroni



▲ Crossing glacial moraine. Photo: Olivier Baron

Day 8

It is the final day to enjoy breakfast and exchange photos with the group before departing for home.

PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE

Most days will involve roped glacier travel and although previous alpine trekking experience with an ice axe and crampons is useful, these skills are not required and your guide will teach these techniques along the way. You can expect to cross loose terrain, with some exposed sections that may require the use of a rope at times.

An excellent level of fitness is required and participants must be able to walk between 6-8 hours per day, with daily ascents/descents totally 1,000m/3,300ft or more. The terrain is varied and mostly off-trail, requiring a good sense of balance and agility.

It is imperative that you are pack fit and able to carry 15kg/33lbs for the trekking days, as this will make all of the difference to your enjoyment on the trek.

THE ADVANTAGES OF TREKKING WITH ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to expedition and ascent climbing and trekking. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our climbers and trekkers the best possible chance of success.

Our trekking guides are International Mountain Leaders or qualified under the BMG/NZMGA and/or IFMGA/UIAGM. They are professional trekking guides and operate to the highest industry standards.

Many of our trekkers and climbers come to us because they have seen us in action on a previous trip and decide to opt for our level of service and proven experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make our trips, expeditions, courses and guided ascents safe and successful.



▲ The remote alpine refuge, Dix Hut. Photo: Olivier Baron

TEAM SIZE

We cater for private groups with a maximum of 8 trekkers in each departure.

TREKKING SEASON

We operate on the Summer Haute Route from July through until September and other times as conditions allow. In early July, the high passes may still have snow on the ground and as temperatures rise up into the summer months from mid-July, we traditionally experience more settled weather and warmer temperatures.

WEATHER

Europe has a continental climate, which in general encourages more stable weather. However, the weather in the high mountains can be changeable and at times, very severe. July and August are traditionally the best months for trekking with settled hot weather.

COMMUNICATION & MESSAGES

Our guides are in cell phone communication with our operations base throughout the trip. This assists us with schedule and weather forecast updates, accommodation coordination and safety backup. Your own mobile phone should work in the region, though you may want to confirm with your service provider first.

EQUIPMENT LIST

Trekking in the European Alps requires high-quality clothing and equipment due to the extremes of weather conditions. Our focus is on having the essential clothing and equipment to keep you warm and comfortable during the trek.

You will be sent an equipment checklist on confirmation of your booking. Your guide will go through this with you at the beginning of your trip. You can rent technical equipment for the trek but you must provide your own clothing appropriate to trekking as per the equipment list.

FITNESS & HEALTH

To make the most of your trekking experience we encourage you to work on your fitness prior to the trip. You will find that training on hills with a 10–15kg/22–33lb pack is the best preparation for the mountains, with the aim of building your endurance. Your guide will be attuned to your fitness levels and will regulate the pace accordingly.

Our registration form requests that you advise us of any medical problems you may have and of any medications that you are taking. Any information you supply will be treated as confidential.

FOOD

Adventure Consultants will provide breakfasts and picnic lunches for the duration of the trek and evening meals on the hut/refuge nights while the trip is running. Should you decide to take a restaurant lunch that is not in the programme, this will be at your own expense.



A classic challenging and varied European trek. Photo: Olivier Baron

Evening meals on hotel nights are not included, so that you have the option to explore many of the wonderful restaurants in the region. Any additional food, beverages or meals you purchase that are not mentioned in the inclusions will be at your own expense.

We provide nutritious lunches and a supply of snack food throughout the trek. It is, however, a good idea to bring a small selection of your favourite snack food and hydration drinks with you to ensure you are fuelled by your preferred brands. Actual amounts required will depend on your consumption but 2 snacks per day in addition to the lunches that we provide would seem reasonable.

If you have any special dietary requirements, please advise us at the time of registration. If your dietary requirements are especially strict, you may be advised to bring a supply of your required food types with you to ensure you are provided for.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is provided on a twin share B&B basis from the evening of Day 0 through to the morning of Day 8 after breakfast.

Accommodation in the mountains is in alpine huts in shared bunk or dormitory rooms. Blankets are provided and no sleeping bag will be required. There is no single supplement (or private rooms) available in the mountain huts, but we can arrange this for you at additional cost on hotel nights during the trek. Please enquire about costs at time of enquiry.

TRAVEL

We commence our Summer Haute Route from Chamonix in France. The closest international airport is at Geneva, just over the border in Switzerland. Regular shuttles operate between Geneva airport and Chamonix, with the trip taking about 1½ hours. Your shuttle driver will drop you directly at your accommodation.

The trek ends in Zermatt, Switzerland. The closest major airports are in Zürich and Geneva, which both offer services to a wide range of international destinations. Trains are the cheapest and fastest mode of transport from Zermatt to these hubs. Services transfer at Visp and will see you arrive in Zürich in 3½ hours and Geneva in 4 hours.



The Matterhorn from Zermatt. Photo: Olivier Baron



▲ Rope up to cross glaciated terrain and high passes. Photo: Olivier Baron



▲ Trekking high above the Chamonix Valley. Photo: Paolo Pieroni

Alternatively, taxi/shuttle services are available from the airports, and offer a door to door service to your accommodation. Transfer costs are at your own expense, but we can provide advice and assistance with your transfer arrangements.

INSURANCE

We strongly recommend that you take out Trip Cancellation Insurance and Travel Insurance, as well as Medical and Rescue Insurance to protect yourself in the event of injury or mishap prior to or during your trip.

While our focus is on safety and our track record supports this, the mountains do have hazards and there is the potential for mishap. Should you be injured whilst on the trip, there is a very efficient rescue service nearby.

PRICE

The cost of the trek ex Chamonix is:

€2,550 per person at a 1:4 guide to trekker ratio
 €2,770 per person at a 2:6 guide to trekker ratio
 €2,420 per person at a 2:8 guide to trekker ratio

NOTE: All prices subject to change without notice.

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- IFMGA Guide
- Breakfast and lunch during mountain component of the trek
- Dinners in mountain huts and refuges
- Mountain hut nights as per the schedule
- 2 nights hotel B&B on a twin share basis
- Transport during trip dates as per schedule
- Lifts/taxis as per the schedule
- Transfer of luggage from Chamonix to Zermatt

The trek fee **does not** include the following:

- Any lift, hut, hotel or transport costs additional to the programme due to weather or logistics (any changes will be actioned only after you have been consulted by your guide)
- Personal equipment and clothing
- Evening meals in Chamonix or Zermatt
- Airport transfers to/from Chamonix and Zermatt
- Any extra hotel nights prior to and after the trip
- Any hotel single supplement costs
- Extra additional meals, snacks or drinks purchased
- Travel insurance
- Gratuity



PAYMENT DETAILS

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
42 Willis Street
Spark Central
Wellington
New Zealand

For the account of Adventure Consultants Limited

Account Number: 1000-594771-0002

Account Type: Euros

Swift Address: BKNZNZ22

NOTE: All bank transfer charges are for the remitter's account.

We also accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Amex) plus a 3% card charge.

DEPOSIT

A deposit of €500 will secure a place on the trek.

BALANCE

The balance of payment is payable 60 days prior to your trip start date.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

Once you have paid your deposit your trip is confirmed, subject to payment of the balance of fees owing 60 days prior to your trip commencement date. A trek member may then cancel their participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 60 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
- For cancellations made within 60 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the full fee.
- For cancellations made within 30 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 75% of the full fee.
- For cancellations within 15 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

We strongly recommend you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent if you wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons.



▲ Magnificent views across to Mont Blanc. Photo: Olivier Baron

HOW TO JOIN THIS TREK

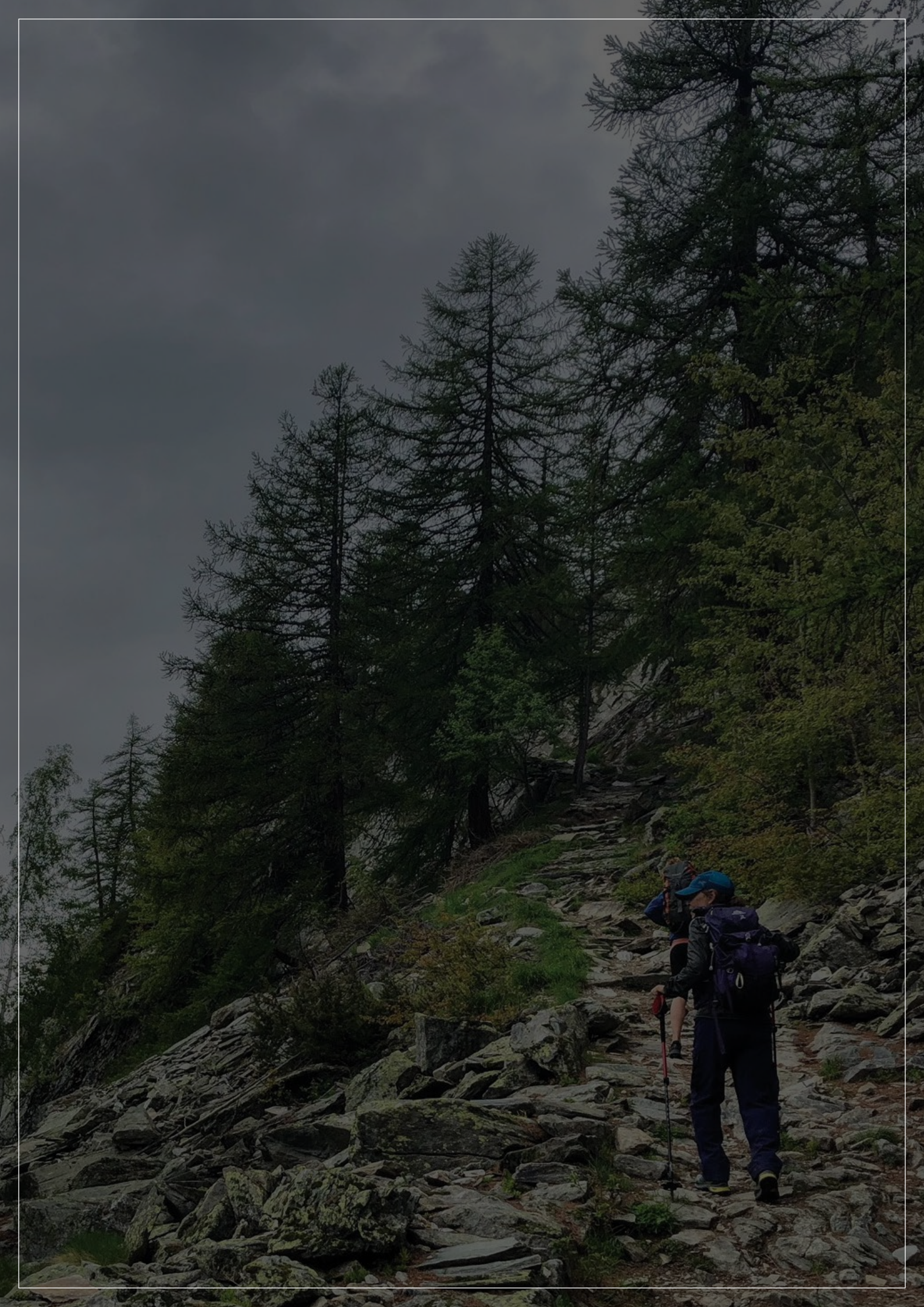
If you would like to join this trek please feel free to book using our online booking form at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/treks/european-alps-trekking/summer-haute-route-trek/book-now> and return your completed application to us with a deposit for the trip.

CONTACT US

If you require more information, please contact us at:

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▲ Silhouettes against a dawn sky on the Haute Route. Photo: Olivier Baron



Adventure Consultants is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their 'Revitalise a Village' programmes.

Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA/UIAGM standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.



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