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Website: www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk
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2020 trip dossier | **Silvretta Ski Tour £1290**

Website link | <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/silvretta%2Bski%2Btour.html>

Key features

- Tour in the Silvretta Alps on the Austria – Swiss border and bag some 3000m peaks.
- 5 days guiding (Monday - Friday), suitable for both skiers and split boarders.
- A challenging ski tour with the chance to develop your route finding and avalanche safety skills.
- Led by top qualified guides (IFMGA), 3 – 6 clients maximum per guide.
- Mountain hut accommodation on a half board basis.
- 2020 dates; 23 - 29 Feb, 22 - 28 Mar, 5 - 11 Apr.



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Course overview

- The Silvretta Alps on the Austria / Switzerland border, boasts lots of 3000m peaks, so is an ideal choice for those wanting to bag some peaks. The terrain is ideal for intermediate level ski tourers, and the huts are amazing as they are infamous for their great food and hot showers!
- Our tour starts and ends in the Ischgl valley, just across the Tirol mountains from Klosters. The meeting point and first night is in a hotel in Landeck, about a 2.5 hour transfer from Zurich airport.
- This tour is ideal for those wanting an intermediate level ski tour. As the course is based in mountain huts throughout, this course will also appeal to those wishing to escape the hustle of the Alpine valley towns.
- You can contemplate this tour after only a few days touring experience. Skiing ability should be fairly good as there is some steep skiing, and the powder on this route is legendary.
- The ski touring guide will also try to develop your technical abilities, allowing you to improve your route finding, fine tune your off piste and ski touring techniques, and become efficient at avalanche prediction.
- The accommodation in the mountain huts on the route is half-board throughout. This level of comfort is important, as you really need a good cooked meal after the efforts of each day of ski touring.

Itinerary notes and options

There are many route variations and options on the Silvretta ski tour, such as using the alternative start point of the Partenen. The guide can alter the tour to take advantage of the best weather and snow conditions. In this way the itinerary can be flexed so that you achieve as much as possible on your ski tour. All our Silvretta tours are run by guides who know the region really well, so rest assured that you will have the best trip possible, benefiting from great local knowledge. The itinerary below is for guidance, but should give you a clear idea of the possibilities.

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Sample itinerary

Sunday

Travel to Landeck in Austria to arrive for the 19:00 check-in at the accommodation. The guide meets you in the hotel, and over dinner today or breakfast tomorrow they discuss the itinerary and plans for the week. They will brief you on the weather forecasts, and on exactly what kit to pack. Night in Landeck.

Monday

Transfer to Ishgul ski area. Enjoy a few runs to check the kit and get your ski legs back, then take lifts to Paulinerkopf and ski tour over several cols along the Austria-Switzerland border, before descending to the Heidelbergerhütte at 2264m. The hut has hot showers, a good choice of drinks, and great food.

Tuesday

Today the aim of the tour is to reach the Jamtalhütte, and the route ascends up the glacier to reach the Kronenjoch col. If you are feeling strong, you ascend the peak of Breite Krone, and return to the col. From here you ski down to the Jamtalhütte, where you stay for the night.

Wednesday

You have a choice of ski touring summits to aim for today, including the Hinter Jamspitz 3156m, Augstenspitze 3228m, or the Gemsspitz 3107m, before returning to the Jamtalhütte for the evening. Using this hut as a base for two nights enables you to travel and ski with a light pack today.

Thursday

An early start to ski tour up to the summit of Dreiländerspitze 3197m. This is quite a technical ascent, and you can leave skis just below the summit, to reach this narrow top using crampons. There are several other peaks to select from instead. The mountain scenery in this section is absolutely stunning. After the summit, you ski down to reach the Wiesbadnerhütte where you spend the night.

Friday

Today is a little easier on the legs, with only a short ascent, then the long descent over the Bieltaljoch down to the Galtür valley via Bielerhöhe. The normal descent reaches the town of Wirl, from which the ski bus and transfers will take you back to the hotel at Landeck for your last night and evening meal.

Saturday

Breakfast in Landeck, hotel check out 10:00am, then free to depart whenever suits your travel plans

ITINERARY NOTES: Where possible we follow itineraries. Mountain adventures are weather and 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.

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Course Inclusions

1) IFMGA / Ski Touring guide for five days, 2) Pre course information booklet, 3) Equipment discount voucher for UK shops, 4) Two nights hotel in Landeck, Austria on half board basis (inc. bedding & towels) based on 2 or 3 people sharing, 5) Four nights half board accommodation in mountain huts including three course cooked evening meals. 6) Free 36 page technical Course Instruction Booklet.

Course Exclusions

1) Travel to and from Landeck, Austria, 2) Cable Cars and valley transfers (budget on £60), 3) Ski hire, 4) Personal laundry, telephone calls, lunches, & any purchases in mountain huts / hotels / restaurants, 5) Activities insurance, & excess baggage charges, 6) Sunday pre-dinner drinks & Friday celebratory meal & drinks.

Group sizes

3 - 6 people per IFMGA mountain guide. For group sizes of over 6 people, there are multiple guides, and the teams travel independently of each other. Note that if just 2 people book on a date, or wish a bespoke trip without others, this can be operated on any date for a £500 supplement per person, i.e. £1799pp.

Skiing skill

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

Course level: **Intermediate**
Skiing : **2 weeks off piste experience and 1 week ski touring.**
Ice & Rock: **Use of ice axe and crampons and rope work.**
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 3** - At this level your fitness should be somewhere between running a fast paced 10km run, and half marathon fitness. Typically you'll enjoy more hill training, and so would be able to run for about an hour and a half of cross country, and enjoy big hill days out too.

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How to book

- All bookings are made securely online, and deposit of £250 is payable (with secure payments handled via WorldPay). 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, and a separate WorldPay receipt. If you haven't received these two e-mails within half an hour of booking online, 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. Once you have this office confirmation, 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 is situated in a pedestrianized area, so you cannot be dropped off at the door, and the cable car station, or Chamonix Sud bus station are the closest access points. If arriving on EasyBus, Ouibus, or Flixbus, these all arrive at the bus station.

Course accommodation

- Most course clients stay in Chamonix in en-suite rooms, in a purpose built ski village in Chamonix Sud. These have a small kitchenette, for those wishing to self-cater.
- Check in time is from 16:00 (4pm) on the Sunday, and the meeting point to be shown into your accommodation is detailed in your Course Information Booklet, that is sent upon booking.
- The flats are normally twin rooms for two people sharing. If you are travelling as a couple (or named friends), you will share. If travelling on your own, you will be matched with another course client of the same sex.
- This accommodation is small and basic, to provide you low cost accommodation in Chamonix, but it is functional and really well located. If you wish to upgrade to higher quality accommodation, there is a £100 discount available for sourcing your own accommodation, which is applied to your invoice.
- Website link: <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/chamflat.html>

Course briefing

- The course briefing for this trip is at 17:00 on the Sunday evening. 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 45 minutes, and it aims to answer all your queries about the course.

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- 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.

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>

Late arrivals

- If they are pre-booked days ahead, we can accommodate late arrivals. We will organise for you to be able to check into your course accommodation at any time that you arrive. We do however ask you to assess how necessary a late arrival is, and for you to consider the disruption to your flatmate.
- You will require a separate Course Briefing, which involves an early start for our team, to fit this in before your guiding. It's not an ideal start to schedule a late arrival, followed by an early start, and sets you on the back foot. If an early Course Briefing is required, this is billed at £20 for time involved.

Cable cars

- For the days you are climbing in Chamonix, the most cost effective cable car pass is called the Mont Blanc multi-pass. For this course you require a 3 day pass, from Monday to Wednesday (plus extra days if you arrive earlier). The 3 day pass costs 89.50€ (*2020 prices).
- Website link: <https://www.montblancnaturalresort.com/en/montblanc-multipass>

Breakfasts

- When you are in town and accommodation is included on a B&B basis, a starter pack of continental breakfast supplies is provided; fruit juice, milk, cornflakes, muesli, marg, jam, biscuit toasts. Tea and coffee is also provided. In a mountain hut, you get a similar type of light breakfast.

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- As the room is self-catering, it's yours for the week, so no need to check out when you are away in mountain huts. Should you use up any items from your breakfast or room supplies, there's a supermarket located just across the pedestrian square from the course accommodation.
- Website link: <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/chamflat.html>

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.
- You will be advised in the briefings as to how many days lunches you should plan ahead and purchase. There is never time to cook hot lunches while on a course, but you could take a thermos.
- 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 week's achievements. We are also happy to book places in restaurants for you, should you wish an evening on your own.
- Some clients want an early night or to budget, so opt to cook for themselves in the self-catering flats. In guarded huts, the cooked evening meal is normally three courses.
- Website link: <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/chamonix.html>

Mountain huts

- Mountain Huts are run by a 'Guardian' who cooks, cleans and is on hand for your assistance. On most courses, the itineraries detail a specific number of nights in mountain huts.
- Clients share rooms, which often are on tiered bunks. Each person is allocated a mattress with its own pillow and blankets, but you should take a sleeping bag liner for comfort.
- There are normally storage / drying rooms. Meals are on a half board basis, with a basic continental breakfast and a three course cooked evening meal. Any extras you order, such as bottled water, beer or wine, packed lunch, or chocolate, must be paid for by you.
- Website link: <http://www.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/chamflat.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

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/LGNChamonix36300Tmap.html>
- Gran Paradiso map; <https://shop.icicle-mountaineering.ltd.uk/149/BooksMaps/Maps/Alpinemaps/09-Valsavarenche.GranParadisomap.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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