

WINTER TREKKING - BRIANÇON



Start point: Briançon / 6 days trekking / Grade T2



INTRODUCTION

Using the mountain hub of Briançon as our base, this 8-day trek is designed for active walkers looking to experience some of the Alps' finest crowd-free winter wilderness.

As the week progresses, we venture deep into the alpine environment. You will trace rugged routes up to panoramic mountain passes, snowshoe past silent summer hamlets tucked deep inside a spectacular national park and explore frozen high-mountain lakes.

The absolute highlight of the trip is a memorable, two-day mini hut adventure. Here, you will spend a night tucked away in a traditional mountain refuge, enjoying a warm alpine welcome and the peaceful silence of the mountains far above the valleys. If you are looking for wild, tranquil landscapes, superb winter snow, and a true alpine journey, this winter escape delivers that perfect mountain experience.

INTRODUCTION

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the tour or your suitability for it, please contact us by telephone:

+44 (0) 114 276 3322

Alternatively, contact us via our website:

www.jagged-globe.co.uk



WINTER TREKKING WITH JAGGED GLOBE



Regular, fit hillwalkers and trekkers can enjoy the Alps in Winter by boot and snowshoe. If you are an experienced, robust walker and used to all weathers, you too can enjoy reaching a winter alpine summit without the need to be a very good off-piste skier.

Our Alpine Winter Treks, by snowshoe, are not leisurely, recreational rambles following forest trails; they are tough, high-mountain explorations. They will take you up, above the treeline and through the alpages to the snow-bound crests of the ridges beyond, or on mountain journeys linking cols and cwms as you move from hut-to-hut.

From ridges, crests and tops, you will enjoy stunning views of the Alps in Winter, feeling as though you might reach out and touch the highest mountains in Europe. Our Alpine Winter Treks are ambitious and aspirational, requiring you to have previous hill-walking experience and to be fit, robust and determined.

PRE-COURSE TREKKING ABILITY

You do not need to have previous experience of alpine winter walking or using snowshoes.

Participants must be equipped with an avalanche safety kit (ARTVA transceiver, shovel, and probe) and should have basic familiarity with how to use them. We can provide an Avalanche Safety kit for you, upon request.

Participants should have a good level of hiking fitness, capable of handling 4 to 6 hours of walking per day with continuous elevation gains of up to 500–800 meters.

Leading up to this course, you should hill-walk regularly. You should aim to be able to ascend 600 to 800 metres and walk for 6 to 7 hours a day. Stringing together several hills and consecutive days as you gain fitness would be ideal.

OUTLINE PROGRAMME

Day 1

Arrival & Welcome in Briançon

Arrive at Hotel Vauban in Briançon, meet your guide, and go over an overview of the week's conditions. We'll perform a quick equipment and safety check to ensure everyone is ready for the trail, followed by dinner.

Day 2

Snowshoe Training and Avalanche Skills

After breakfast, take the regional shuttle bus to Serre Chevalier, approximately 15 minutes away.

Today is a training and familiarisation day. For those new to snowshoeing, there will be an introduction to the equipment and an opportunity to practise using snowshoes for the first time. You will also cover the basics of avalanche awareness and rescue, including practical training in the use of avalanche transceivers, shovels and probes.

Throughout the day, your leader may introduce a number of realistic scenarios designed to test and develop teamwork, decision-making and your response in an avalanche situation.



Return to Briançon for the evening.

Please note: A lift pass may be required for part of the day's programme and is not included in the cost of the trip.

Day 3

Col de la Trancoulette

Elevation: +700m | Distance: 10km | Approx. 4.5 – 6 hrs

Today marks your first full mountain adventure, with the objective of reaching the Col de la Trancoulette (2,316m), to the west of Briançon.

Your ascent begins in the hamlet of Le Puy. From here, you head north-west, initially following the eastern flank of the Combes des Sachas. At approximately 1,900m, you cross the Torrent des Sachas before turning west and beginning a steeper ascent. The route then arcs around the northern side of La Roche Jaune (2,421m) before reaching the Col de la Trancoulette.

For a strong group making good progress, there may be the opportunity to continue a further 1.25km to La Croix d'Aquila (2,466m).

You then descend by the same route to Le Puy before returning to Briançon. After a rewarding first day in the mountains, there may even be time to treat tired legs to a sports massage in preparation for the adventures ahead.

Day 4

Pelvoux and Pré de Madame Carle

Elevation: +650m | Distance: 12km | Approx. 6 hrs

Discover the magic of winter in the Écrins on a spectacular snowshoeing journey from Pelvoux to Pré de Madame Carle.

Starting from where the road closes near Pelvoux, you snowshoe into the heart of the Écrins National Park. The route takes you through the summer village of Ailefroide, beneath the impressive slopes of Mont Pelvoux, before continuing deeper into the high valley towards Pré de Madame Carle.

Surrounded by some of the most dramatic scenery in the Écrins, this promises to be a memorable day of winter exploration.

Day 5

Grande Lac and the Massif des Cerces

Elevation: +750m | Distance: 10km | Approx. 6 hrs

Today you head into the spectacular Massif des Cerces, beginning from the Pont de l'Alpe.

The route takes you towards the Refuge du Clot des Vaches, beneath the Arête de la Bruyère, before continuing into the high mountain landscape around the Grand Lac. Depending on conditions and the strength of the group, there may be the opportunity to extend the day towards the Col de la Ponsonnière.

A wonderful day of snowshoeing in one of the region's most beautiful and remote mountain environments.

Day 6 and 7

Mini Hut Adventure

The next two days offer the highlight of the week: a mini hut-to-hut



adventure in the beautiful Ceres and Haute Névache valleys.

On Thursday, set out on a full day of snowshoeing through spectacular mountain terrain before arriving at your mountain refuge for the night. Depending on conditions and the planned route, your overnight stay may be at the Refuge du Clot des Vaches, Refuge Buffère or Refuge du Chardonnet.

After a rewarding day on the snow, enjoy the unique experience of spending the night in the mountains. Relax in the warmth and atmosphere of the refuge, share stories of the day's adventure and enjoy the peaceful surroundings far from the valley below.

On Friday, continue exploring the beautiful winter landscapes of the Haute Névache Valley before descending back to the valley and returning to Briançon.

Day 8

Departure

After breakfast, we depart Briançon and take our airport transfer back to Turin, in time for your morning flight home.

Please note that the exact routes and objectives may be adjusted according to snow conditions, weather, avalanche risk and the ability of the group.

AVALANCHE AWARENESS & RISK

As soon as you head into the mountains, you need to be aware of avalanche risks. Your guides are all well versed in avalanche avoidance and will educate you in safety matters and rescue procedures. However, by its very nature, off piste skiing and ski touring is a risky business, not just because of avalanche danger, but also from the danger posed by hidden rocks, streams, small cliffs or tree branches, not to mention other skiers.

WHAT THE PRICE INCLUDES

- » 6 nights hotel accommodation in Briançon on a twin-sharing, half-board basis.
- » 1 night of accommodation in a mountain refuge on a twin-sharing basis, half-board basis.
- » 6 days' guiding (including all the guide's fees and expenses). Ratio 1:6 maximum.
- » 1 return group transfer to the hotel in Briançon from Turin Airport.
- » Use of a vehicle to fulfil the course programme, as described.
- » Loan of Avalanche Transceiver, Shovel and Probe.
- » Loan of Snowshoes and Poles.

WHAT THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- » Lunches and Picnics.
- » Ski Lifts (if needed for an alternative itinerary).
- » Travel Insurance
- » Tips (discretionary)
- » Tourist Taxes collected locally by the hotel and other accommodation providers
- » Hotel/Accommodation extras (bar/ laundry / room service etc)

COURSE BRIEFING

At 7pm on Saturday evening you will meet your Course Director, who will brief you on the week's activities. They will also check your equipment.



TRAVEL

From the UK, we recommend that you fly to Turin Airport. A group airport transfer has been arranged to take you from the airport to your hotel in Briançon in time for your course briefing at 7:00 PM. Please arrive at Turin Airport by 3:30 PM at the latest.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in Briançon is at Hotel Vauban. The accommodation is provided on a twin-share, half-board basis with participants of the same sex sharing. Single rooms are available on request, subject to availability.

Hotel Vauban

13 Avenue du Général de Gaulle

05100 Briançon

France

<https://www.hotel-vauban-briancon.com/en>

Tel: +33 4 92 21 12 11

EQUIPMENT

	Snowshoes*	Composite or plastic models designed for off-piste conditions. These must have: • Front crampons and side traction teeth/steel rails for firm or wind-crusts sections. • Heel lifter (essential for uphill sections). • A secure binding system that easily adjusts to hiking boots.
	Adjustable Ski Poles*	Adjustable poles allow you change the pole length on the go. You can shorten them for steep, uphill sections and lengthen them when descending.
	Trekking Boots	Waterproof insulated winter mountaineering or sturdy alpine trekking boots.
	Waterproof Gaiters	Optional if your trousers already have built-in internal gaiters.
You must have an Avalanche Transceiver, Shovel and Probe		



	Digital Avalanche Transceiver*	Please do not bring an old style, analogue transceiver, as these are not suitable. Please bring spare batteries.
	Avalanche Probe*	Preferably steel. Must be no less than 2.4metres.
	Metal Shovel*	Please do not bring a plastic shovel, as these are not suitable.

**These items can be borrowed from Jagged Globe*

CLOTHING

You should work on the general principal of wearing 3 or 4 layers, which complement each other as opposed to one layer of bulky clothing, which does not allow for adjustment according to the weather.

	Weatherproof Jacket	A mountaineering jacket, as opposed to a ski jacket is recommended. Windproof and waterproof, Gore-Tex or similar. A good hood is essential.
	Softshell Trousers	Windproof, water repellent and breathable softshell trousers, Schoeller or equivalent fabric. Ensure that it will be possible to fit the ankle over the top of a ski boot. A small side zip helps with this.
	Lightweight hard shell overtrousers	Waterproof lightweight shell trousers, Gore Tex or similar with full length side zips. To be layered over your mountain trousers in bad weather.
	Primaloft Jacket, Pullover or Gillet	A mid-weight (approx. 300 – 500gms) primaloft in case of cold conditions. Alternatively, a lightweight down pullover or jacket.
	Mid-weight fleece	A mid-weight fleece pullover with a half-zip.
	Thermal tops and underwear	Merino wool or polyester. Cotton is not advisable as it absorbs moisture, keeping it close to the skin and creating a cooling effect.
	Socks	At least 2 pairs of ski socks.
	Ski Gloves	You will need to ensure that your gloves are warm, waterproof and breathable. Gore-tex gloves with a primaloft liner are recommended.
	Lightweight gloves	A pair of thermal gloves with a sticky palm are useful for skinning.
	Hat/headband	A warm, windproof hat with ear protection that stays on in high winds is essential. A headband to keep the ears warm is also nice.
	Sun Hat	A broad brim protects best but make sure that it stays on your head in a breeze.

	Neck scarf/Buff	Optional, but a good way to stop your neck getting sun burnt or your face getting cold!
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GENERAL EQUIPMENT

	Rucksack	Alpine rucksack of approximately 35-40 litres, suitable for carrying spare gear, lunch and water. Spare compartment for probe and shovel.
	Mountaineering sunglasses	One pair with perhaps a spare cheaper pair in case of loss or damage. Full UVA/UVB protection. Make sure they have side protection or wrap very closely to the face to prevent light or snow reaching the eye from the side.
	Water bottle	1 or 2 litre bottles. One and a half litres should be enough for a day out in the mountains.
	Thermos	Optional. Half a litre
	Sun cream and lip block	You should be using something in excess of factor 30.
	Head Torch	LED headtorch, such as the Petzl Tikka XP.
	Camera	
	Whistle	
	Insurance Certificate / EHI card	
	Passport	
	Credit card	

TRAVEL INSURANCE

In the Alps, insurance for helicopter rescue and 3rd party liability is mandatory. We will need a copy of your insurance policy please to keep on record whilst you are away. We will not check your policy to ensure it is valid for this course – you are responsible for that.

The British Mountaineering Council, Snowcard and Global Rescue (3rd party liability not included – membership of the BMC includes this) all provide insurance policies for Alpine Mountaineering

www.thebmc.co.uk

www.snowcard.co.uk

GLOBAL  **rescue**

<https://partner.globalrescue.com/jaggedglobe/index.html>

UK GLOBAL HEALTH INSURANCE CARD (GHIC)

UK citizens should ensure that they have a UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) before travelling. The quickest and easiest way to apply is online:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>

The GHIC lets you get state healthcare in Europe at a reduced cost or sometimes for free.



PASSPORT VALIDITY FOR TRAVEL TO THE ALPS

You should have at least 3 months left on your UK passport and it must also be less than 10 years old on the day after you leave. If you renewed your current passport before the previous one expired, extra months may have been added to its expiry date. Any extra months on your passport over 10 years may not count towards the minimum period needed. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/passport-rules-for-travel-to-europe>

IF YOU DRIVE TO THE ALPS

To avoid a possible fine or having your vehicle impounded:

Check if you need an International Driving Permit before you drive in the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein.

Put a GB sticker on the back of your vehicle if it is registered in the UK, even if your number plate already shows GB with a Euro symbol.