

## **Costs and Budget For Participants-not including tuition** (current as of March 14, 2007)

This reflects the potential costs for the trip, to help you budget. Prices could go up or down this summer, but I am told these are going to be stable. Let's break down the trip into stages.

**1. Arrival from your city to Geneva.** We leave this up to you. Our travel agent, Rio Grande Travel, will charge you an extra \$60, but you will find better deals without paying a commission purchasing through the Web. You could also fly to Paris and take the SNCF high speed train, but this is complicated. More info for the train is at [www.sncf.com](http://www.sncf.com)

**2. Transportation from Geneva to Chamonix** using the bus ranges between **19.50 to 42 euros** each way (about 50 miles each way). There are no direct trains; you can take a train, but it is a bit complicated, especially if your French is not good. Renting a car is expensive-about 100 euros a day for a small vehicle. See [www.chamonix.net](http://www.chamonix.net) for info, especially [www.chamonix.net/english/transport/transfers.htm](http://www.chamonix.net/english/transport/transfers.htm) for bus/van info. I recommend taking Alpy Bus at 19.50 Euros. When you get your baggage from the baggage claim area, go straight out to the airport exit, just left of the car rental/info desk. They hold a sign out and the driver is a nice English bloke. To get this rate, call 44 (0) 1509-21-3696 to reserve your spot. "Just showing up" is 25 Euros. They will drop you off at the hotel. By the way, there are free Mac Internet computers at a kiosk just to the right of the baggage exit point. Taxis are about 50 or more Euros.

There is excellent local transportation within the Chamonix valley, and walking is easy, too.

**3. \*\*\*Lodging and Meals: VERY IMPORTANT!!!** \*\*\*Note a change from the last writing in February: WE WILL NOT BE AT THE MERCURE CHAMONIX. They confused our dates and sold our spots (and there are no spots left).

ALSO NOTE THAT ROOMS ARE SELLING OUT FAST (THIS IS A VERY POPULAR PLACE THIS SUMMER) AND YOU MUST MAKE HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS IMMEDIATELY IF YOU WANT TO BE IN CHAMONIX!!!

There are other nearby villages where you can "google" for accommodations (Argentiere, Les Houches, Saint Gervais, Servoz, Megeve-this latter place is expensive): the closest of these is 15 minutes away, the furthest is half an hour away. PLEASE LET US KNOW WHERE YOU WILL BE STAYING. We can then help you with transportation if you stay outside of Chamonix.

We have made reservations at local chalets, and there are only 6 doubles left! Our staff headquarters, and the chalets will be the Chantel Chalets, 391 Route de Pecles, CHAMONIX 74400). The price is 86 euros, including breakfast. Please email Bene at

[benevdbc@comcast.net](mailto:benevdbc@comcast.net); she will be happy to arrange your stay. Please title your email with a notation that includes the word CHAMONIX.

Hotels: The Alpina Hotel (79 av. du Mont-Blanc 74404 **Chamonix** Mont-Blanc tel. +33 (0)4 50 53 47 77 fax : +33 (0)4 50 55 98 99) still had rooms as of this writing.

Hostels:

Chalet Les Frênes (*637 Route de Vers le Nant, Chamonix*) is located in the tranquil hamlet of Les Bossons two miles from the centre of Chamonix. The Hotel du Bois (*475 Avenue des Alpapes, Chamonix*) is located in the charming village of Les Houches, 5 km from Chamonix. *Kosciusko Lodge, Chamonix* is a beautiful alpine lodge situated in the heart of the Chamonix valley. Built in 1929 and now completely refurbished to an excellent standard. Please look these up on the internet if you wish to reserve a spot, and make your own reservations.

**4. Meals.** Meals can be “cheap” with the excellent supermarkets and breadshops (boulangeries) around, but are not bargains like a Super Wal-Mart. There is a McDonald’s (why eat there if you are in France?), and a meal can cost anywhere from 10-30 euros (for a good meal...of course you can spend more and splurge).

**5. Meeting Rooms.** The Ecole Nationale du Ski et d’Alpinisme (ENSA) is the meeting venue, located at 35 route du Bouchet (cross street is off of Av. du Mont-Blanc, just east of the Alpina Hotel). You will receive an orientation packet with more information on this.

**6. Transportation to Field Trip Venues.** Participants will be responsible for transport to:

Montenvers/Mer de Glace

Aiguille du Midi

Train from Chamonix to St. Gervais up to Nid d’Aigle (Eagle’s Nest), which will get you to the start of the Mont Blanc climb.

**The Montenvers Mer de Glace train** is spectacular, and not to be missed. We will be doing some outdoor didactic/scenario sessions, along with a great hike and the possibility of ice climbing for the more experienced. The ticket is about **20 euros round trip**; however, if you email us, we can ultimately get a large discount on a group rate.

**The Aiguille du Midi tramway** will serve as an acclimatization sojourn, and is also a phenomenal journey. The IFREMMONT mountain telemedicine clinic is located there, too. **Roundtrip cost is 37 euros.** Tickets are bought through the “Compagnie du Mont Blanc.” However, there is a **combo round trip ticket for** both the Mer de Glace and the Aiguille du Midi for **52 euros** (children 36 euros, teens 44 euros and family 156 euros). This is a good deal, and will fit our itinerary well. For more info look at the website <http://montagne.chamonix.com>. To facilitate obtaining these tickets, we will have each person pay one of our administrative assistants, who will obtain the tickets for you.

**7. The Mont Blanc Climb.** First, it is necessary to get to the Mont Blanc Train. We will first take a train from Chamonix to St. Gervais-Le Fayet for a 5 Euro cost for each person. Then we go across the street to the Le Fayet train station to take the train to the Nid d'Aigle. We take the hour train for 25 Euros round trip.

After arriving to the Nid d'Aigle, we approach either the Gouter or Tete Rouse (for non Mont Blanc ascensionists). As of this writing, the cost for the overnight lodging up at the Mont Blanc refuge (Gouter refuge) is about **100 euros**. This includes dinner, but the beds are first come first serve (extra people sleep on the floor). The refuge can get noisy and crowded (supposedly space for 120 climbers), so the price is high, but it is the only place to sleep for the early required summit bid. A free option is to hike upwards 200 yards from the refuge, where many bivouac and tent camp. The refuge folks frown on the use of their bathrooms when you camp outside. A price for the Tete Rouse will be available in the spring, for those not climbing up to the summit, or for those who want to stay an extra day on the mountain after the climb. **LET ME KNOW IF YOU INTEND TO USE THE HUT AND LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE: SPACE IS LIMITED!**

**A UIAGM climbing guide** is 750 Euros for two people for the Mont Blanc ascent. Unfortunately, you have to pay for their food and transport. They provide a rope. If you are not too experienced, I highly recommend them, and there are English guides. I have priced American guides like Mountain Madness and other well known companies...they will charge you over \$3000 for this same climb.

**Equipment** (helmet, boots, crampons, harness and ice axe) is about 25 Euros a day...for two days it is 50 Euros. Keep in mind that you can find experienced climbers that might take you for less. You can find them at the Maison de la Montagne (more details if you email us).

This should give you an idea of your budget needs. Good luck. Email me at [dmacias@salud.unm.edu](mailto:dmacias@salud.unm.edu) for more questions.