

Joint Alpine Meet - Argentiere

Dates 18th July to 8th August 2015.

Co-ordinator Keith Lambley alpinemeet@yahoo.co.uk

Clubs Alpine Club, ABMSAC, Climbers' Club, FRCC, SMC, LSCC & Wayfarers

Camp Site Camping du Glacier D'Argentiere www.campingchamonix.com The campsite is very friendly with free hot water, showers and Wi-Fi, bread and croissants are available in the morning, there is even a pizza van on site twice a week, booking is not possible but there is usually spaces available and we will have the group tent again for use as a meeting place. The guest card gives free bus and rail travel within the Chamonix valley, ask for it on arrival.

Weather A good daily forecast for the French side of Mont Blanc aimed specifically at mountaineers is available online at http://chamonix-meteo.com/chamonix-mont-blanc/weather/forecast/evening/6_days_weather_forecast.php And for the Italian side of Mont Blanc <http://meteo.regione.vda.it>

Information Argentiere centre is within walking distance of the campsite and has a small tourist office (free Wi-Fi 24/7) shops and a small supermarket.

Chamonix itself has more shops and supermarkets and is quite unique in having the "Office de Haute Montagne" which is located in the centre next to the church and just across the road from the Tourist Office, Maison de la Montagne, 190, place de l'église 74400 Chamonix Mont-Blanc +33(0)4.50.53.22.08. The office posts weather forecasts outside in French and English, inside there is access to synoptic charts etc on a computer. The office is manned by guides who will advise on route conditions, they have lots of guidebooks and maps and maintain a logbook so you can see what others have been doing. There also a great model of the whole of the Mont Blanc range.

There is also a lot of information available on their website ohm-info@chamoniarde.com such as mountain conditions, routes notebook, telepherique's and lifts, huts etc.

There is a similar website for the Italian side <http://www.fondazionemontagnasicura.org/>

Websites AC member Gus Morton has worked hard to compile a mass of up to date information on mountaineering, climbing routes, huts etc in English <http://www.alpine-club.org.uk/funalps/> much of the information is taken from <http://www.camptocamp.org/> Another good source of information is <http://www.summitpost.org/>

Events Throughout the summer of 2015, Chamonix Mont-Blanc will be celebrating the 150th anniversary 1865; an eventful year when the Golden Age of mountaineering (1854 – 1865) reached its climax, see <http://1865.chamonix.fr/en/> for further information

Some people will have pre-arranged climbing partners, others not. In practice those with pre-arranged partners will have different hit lists so may end up climbing with other attendees. My general advice is that those travelling out without prearranged climbing partners should endeavour to make the start of the meet to then achieve acclimatization at the same time as other people. This then makes it easier to arrange partners. For rock climbing that is less of an issue! In the past we have also attempted to co-ordinate travel for those who wish to make up a car load.

Although it is not essential to book please let me know if you are coming.

If you are in the area, please drop in and make yourself known.

Coffee table books

Mont Blanc Massif The Hundred Finest Routes – Rebuffat

Originally published in French in 1973 and English 1974 and now out of print, these versions are very out of date due to the changing conditions, there is a newer version published in 2005 by Baton Wicks which has some updates ISBN 10: 1898573697 ISBN 13: 9781898573692.

Mont Blanc The Finest Routes - Philippe Batoux

Published in English in 2013 this is an up to date book similar in style to the Rebuffat book listed above, although maybe the standard of the routes is a bit harder than the Rebuffat book. Vertebrate Publishing ISBN 10: 1906148643 ISBN 13: 9781906148645

Climbing Guide books (listed roughly from high alpine to valley)

Mont Blanc Massif Volume 1 Selected Climbs – The Alpine Club

ISBN 10: 0900523573 ISBN 13: 9780900523571

Mont Blanc Massif Volume 2 Selected Climbs – The Alpine Club

ISBN 10: 0900523581 ISBN 13: 9780900523588

The latest guides from The Alpine Club published in 1990 but now out of date due to the changing conditions, available to AC Members at discount price from the AC office and to AC, FRCC and CC members at discount price from Cordee.

The 4000m Peaks of the Alps – Martin Moran

New edition of the guide first published in 2007 revised 2012 by The Alpine Club which covers all the 4000m peaks in the Alps. ISBN 10: 0900523662 ISBN 13: 9780900523663 available to AC Members at discount price from the AC office and to AC, FRCC and CC members at discount price from Cordee.

Alpine 4000m Peaks by the Classic Routes - A guide for mountaineers – Richard Goedeke

Another guide which covers all the 4000m peaks in the Alps, a bit out of date now, published in English in 2003 by Baton Wicks. ISBN 10: 1898573565 ISBN 13: 9781898573562

Les 3000 des Alpes - Toutes les voies normales des plus beaux 3000 des Alpes – Richard Goedeke. A

guide which covers a selection of the 3000m peaks in the Alps including many in the Chamonix area. Published in 2007 in French. ISBN 10: 284799159X ISBN 13: 9782847991598

Snow, Ice and Mixed Volume 1

Eastern section of the Mont Blanc Massif from Trient Orny Basin to Geant Basin

Published in 2006 by Jmeditions ISBN 10: 2952188122 ISBN 13: 9782952188128

Snow, Ice and Mixed Volume 2

Western section of the Mont Blanc Massif from Envers des Aiguilles to the Tre-la-Tete Basin. Published in 2006 by Jmeditions ISBN 10: 2952188149 ISBN 13: 9782952188142

Fairly up to date pair of guides in English with lots of good photo topos, they do not cover any rock routes.

Grandes Jorasses – North Face - Julien Désécures

Published in 2013 by Jmeditions, French and English ISBN 13: 9782918824152

Mountaineering in the Mont Blanc Range, Classic Snow, Ice and Mixed Climbs

Popular snow, ice and mixed climbs in the F to AD+ grades, up to date book published in English, new edition in 2014 by Vertebrate Publishing ISBN 10: 1906148813 ISBN 13: 9781906148812

Mont Blanc Easy Ascents & Glacier Hikes - Francois Burnier and Dominique Potard

Mt Blanc's Ordinary Route, together with 15 other "easy", and 14 other "slightly difficult" routes in the range. Published in English in 2009 by Vamos. ISBN 13: 978-2-910672-17-1

Mont Blanc 4810m - Five Routes To The Summit - Francois Damilano

Published in English in 2010 by Jmeditions. ISBN 10: 2918824038 ISBN 13: 9782918824039

Mont Blanc Classic & Plaisir - Marco Romelli

Up to date guide describing 67 routes, rock, ice and mixed, in the lower to middle grades, up to D and F6a. Published in English in 2012 by Idea Montagna ISBN 13: 9788897299219

The Aiguilles Rouges 1 - Opposite Mont Blanc - Michel Piola

In English 2008 – ISBN not known, also published in French

The Aiguilles Rouges 2 - Col des Montets to Vallon du Passet - Michel Piola

In French 2013 – ISBN not known.

Envers des Aiguilles - Michel Piola

In English 2007 – ISBN not known, also published in French

This series of 3 guidebooks cover mainly the multipitch bolted routes in the higher mountains.

Mont Blanc Super Cracks - Idee Verticali Edizioni

New book in 2014, the name says it all! ISBN 10: 8895224159 ISBN 13: 9788895224152

Schweiz Plaisir West

Although titled as a guide for Switzerland it also covers the Chamonix area and the valleys south and west, generally the multi pitch sport climbing. New version of the guide published in 2012 by Filidor ISBN 10: 3906087395 ISBN 13: 9783906087399

Crag Climbs in Chamonix - Francois Burnier & Dominique Potard

Covers all the low level sport climbing in the Chamonix valley, 2011 edition ISBN 10: 2910672212 ISBN 13: 9782910672218

Vallee de l'Arve – 1500 Voies, 3000 longueurs - Gilles Brunot

Sport climbing guide to the Arve Vallee below Chamonix, useful if the weather is bad in the higher areas, published in French in 2004 by Association Ekiproce ISBN 10: 2903420548 ISBN 13: 9782903420543

Walking & Via Ferrata Guide Books

Tour of Mont Blanc – Kev Reynolds

Published in 2014 by Cicerone ISBN 13: 9781852846725

Mont Blanc Walks – Hilary Sharp

Published in 2012 by Cicerone ISBN 13: 9781852845971

Haute Route: Chamonix – Zermatt - Glacier Trek - Francois Matet

Published in 2013 by Jmeditions, French & English ISBN 10: 2918824135 ISBN 13: 9782918824138

Chamonix to Zermatt - The Walker's Haute Route – Kev Reynolds

Published in 2013 by Cicerone ISBN 13: 9781852845131

The Walkers Haute Route - Mont Blanc to the Matterhorn - Alexander Stewart

Published in 2008 by Trailblazer ISBN 10: 1905864086 ISBN 13: 9781905864089

Chamonix-Zermatt - Randonnee – Hiking - Francois-Eric Cormier

Published in 2011 by Jmeditions, French & English ISBN 10: 2918824062 ISBN 13: 9782918824060

Walking in the Haute Savoie - South - Book 2: Annecy-Chamonix – Janette Norton

Published in 2005 by Cicerone ISBN 13: 9781852844110

Chamonix Mountain Adventures - Hilary Sharp

Published in 2013 by Cicerone ISBN 13: 9781852846633

Via Ferratas of the French Alps – Richard Miller

Published in 2014 by Cicerone ISBN 13: 9781852846480

Maps

IGN 1:250000 http://loisirs.ign.fr/top-25-serie-bleue.html?ign_departements=1449

These maps are available in paper and waterproof versions, all now GPS friendly.

IGN Top 25 3630OT	Chamonix, Massif du Mont-Blanc – Paper March 2012
IGN Top 25 3630OTR	Chamonix, Massif du Mont-Blanc – Waterproof April 2013
IGN Top 25 3531ET	St-Gervais-les-Bains, Massif du Mont-Blanc – Paper July 2008
IGN Top 25 3531ETR	St-Gervais-les-Bains, Massif du Mont-Blanc - Waterproof April 2013

Mini versions of these maps are available for the weight conscious mountaineer (!), they cover smaller sections of the popular areas of the range. Only available in paper versions.

IGN Mini Top 25 M3630OT	Mini Argentiere
IGN Mini Top 25 M3531ET	Mini Mont Blanc
IGN Mini Top 25 M3531OT	Mini Megeve
IGN Mini Top 25 M3530ET	Mini Samoens

1:25000 L'Escursionista Editore

Monte Bianco - Courmayeur - Val d'Aosta (1) 1:25000 October 2004