

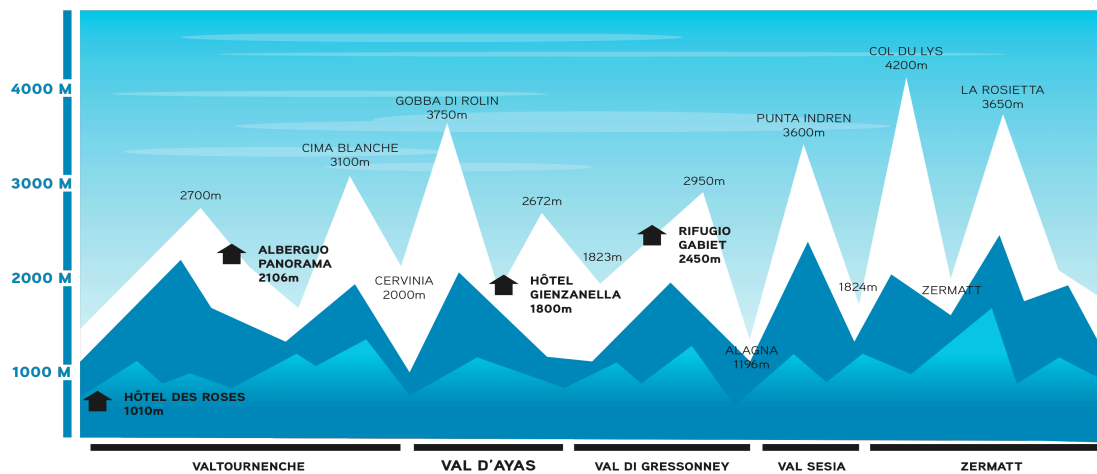
MONTE ROSA TOUR SAFARI

>> DISCOVERING THE MONTE ROSA AREA

On the Italian side of the Monte Rosa Massif, each valley has its own ski resorts and it is possible to ski from one valley to the next using the ski lifts, which go up as high as 3820 mts.. There is a wide variety of untracked skiing to be done on vast terrain at all altitudes, depending on the weather and the snow conditions, either up on the glaciers and high snow fields or down below tree-line.

The imposing summits of this massif are all over 4000 mts. high, Matterhorn, Breithorn, Castor, Polux, Lyskamm and the various peaks of Monte Rosa. Some of them can be reached on touring skis or by helicopter, to highlight the week and descend 2400 vertical metres.

A tour of the whole massif is planned for a day of good weather, beginning in Gressoney, landing on Col de Lys (alt. 4250 mts.) and skiing down the immense Swiss glaciers to Zermatt, then taking lifts up to the Klein Matterhorn (alt. 3820 mts.) to ski down the Italian side towards Cervinia.



>> WHAT WILL YOU DO DURING THE SKI SAFARI

- Explore undeveloped mountain sides and descend 1500 to 2000 vertical metres in untracked snow.
- Discover four or five valleys of the beautiful Monte Rosa area, which have been preserved by the surrounding of high mountain glaciers.
- Ski off-piste for six days discovering the highest peaks and new valleys with small villages each day.

- Experience three nights in comfortable mountain huts.
- Enjoy the hospitality of the Val d'Aosta inhabitants, its local food, and grappa!

>> PROGRAMME

- **DAY 1** : We meet at the bar around 6/7 PM. This meeting will allow some two-way beeper training. Cars will be left at the hotel until our return at the end of the week.
The first and last nights of this ski safari will be spent in Hotel des Roses in Antey-St-André.
- **DAY 2** : Our first valley will be Valtournenche, (the valley that goes to Cervinia, below the Matterhorn). Off-piste skiing in the area of Chamois, village with no access by road. Short climbs with skins reward us with fantastic descents. The last run of the day will take us down to Cheneil, a secret snowbound village, that can be reached only on skis in winter. No luggage transport for this night. An unforgettable evening will be spent in the historical and picturesque Albergo Panorama, a high mountain-hut.
- **DAY 3** : We leave Cheneil on ski in the morning to explore the areas of Valtournenche and Cervinia. Final descent from Testa Grigia, 3300m to Saint Jacques in Val d'Ayas, the second valley. Night in gastronomic Hotel Genzianella, where our luggage has been transported.
- **DAY 4** : Skiing in the Val d'Ayas area. Or, if weather seems perfect, helgrand tour via Zermatt. Second night in Hotel Genzianella.
- **DAY 5** : Lifts to Bettaforca. ½ hour climb to Punta Bettolina, descent to Stafal in Val Di Gressoney, the third valley. A glimpse of the immense Gressoney area. Night in Rifugio Gabiet, above the pistes of Gressoney, where our luggage is waiting (transported by bus, gondola or ski-doo).
- **DAY 6** : Skiing from Gressoney to Alagna in Valsesia, the fourth valley, which may be reached by Punta Indren, 3600m, and long wild valleys for a vertical drop of 2400m. Other routes may be reached by a short climb with skins or by helicopter. Second night in Rifugio Gabiet.
- **DAY 7** : If we have not yet managed to make the big tour via Zermatt, this is our last chance! In that case, we ski down to Valtournenche at the end of the day and get the bus back to Hotel des Roses, where our luggage will have been transported. Another possibility is landing on La Roisetta to ski down to Valtournenche. Otherwise, another day of grandiose skiing in the Gressoney area awaits us. Transfer of skiers + bagage at the end of the day, (1¾ hour) back to Hotel des Roses, where we spend the last night.
- **DAY 8** : End of your Safari after breakfast

Programme subject to change, in order to make the best of prevailing weather and snow conditions.

>> HOTELS AND HUTS

We have chosen cozy hotels or lodges in each valley, which will allow you to have an authentic mountain experience and be received by the inhabitants of these high valleys. Each place of stay is run by a local family that has played its part in the history of the valley. The atmosphere will be warm and friendly, yet the comfort will be, like in olden times, a little rustic. However, the home cooking, often done by the grandmother and other members of the family, is exquisite ! Each dinner will be sort of a feast, well deserved after a tough day in the mountains.

As we will be staying in 4 different places, one night without baggage transfer, be sure to pack what you need during the week in one bag, which is light and practical.

- HOTEL DES ROSES in Antey-St-André : very practical for the day of arrival and departure, right on the main road of Valtournenche. Comfortable rooms for 2 or 3 persons with shower and toilet. Excellent dinner.
- ALBERGO PANORAMA in Cheneil, a preserved hamlet reached on skis in the winter. At the origin of this hotel, was Sir Whimper himself, explaining to the farmers that they should have rooms to receive mountaineers and tourists. The present owner is a mountain guide, who runs the hotel with his family and has even bought a snow cat to take skiers up to the Chamois ski area. Bathrooms and toilets inside the house ; some of the rooms have a wash basin. 2 to 3 persons per room. A unique chance to be received with the genuine simplicity and hospitality of the olden days. In the morning we ski away from Cheneil towards Valtournenche.
- HOTEL GENZIANELLA in Saint Jacques at the upper end of Val d'Ayas : has been run for generations by a Walser family. These Germanic immigrants settled this wild place centuries ago and kept their own language and traditions. The highlight of this hotel is its very fine restaurant with local specialities. Rooms for 2 or 3 persons with shower and toilet.
- RIFUGIO GABIET above the pistes of Stafal in the Gressoney Valley : the fun atmosphere of a mountain hut with the advantage of commodities like a big bar for after-skiing, a cozy video room with fireplace, spacious hot showers in a unisex washroom with one long sink where you just have push to get space... The rooms are tiny with 2 to 6 bunk beds covered with a sheet and puffy quilt. We arrive at the Rifugio in the evening when all the other skiers have gone down to the valley. In the morning we put on our skis in front of the door to glide away before any one is up from the valley....snow covered peaks, in the realm of mountaineers.

>> SKI TOURING OPTION

With touring skis and skins, one can experience total liberty. This equipment makes it possible to discover many unknown routes after sliding gently uphill on skins. It gives a whole new dimension to off-piste skiing. You may give it a try with « alpine trekkers » or « securafix » adapted to your own bindings and a pair of skins... All the freeride skis rented by Safari 9V are equipped with Diamir touring bindings ; ideal for carving and skinning.

If the members of your group are ready for this option, many magnificent summits of the Vanoise Massif may be reached in 1 to 3 hours with skins from the top of the lifts.

>> ADDITIONAL OPTION FURTHER PAYMENT REQUIRED (UNLESS BOOKED IN ADVANCE)

- HELI-SKIING: A helicopter flight to “Col du Lys” at 4200 mts high.

>> INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- MOUNTAIN GUIDE: Full-time Safari 9V guide, for 6/7 skiers (registered professional mountain guide or ski instructor), equipped with radio and safety equipment.
- ACCOMMODATION: Half-board for 7 nights in simple mountain hotels, 2 or 3 persons per room with shower or bath. Rifugio Gabiet is a wonderful lodge above the pistes of Gressoney, but is not a hotel.
- LIFT PASSES: 6 days ski pass for all the ski resorts crossed.
- TRANSPORTATION: During the safari, participants and bagages.
- 2-WAY AVALANCHE “BEEPER”: Lend to each participant for the week, If you own one please bring it. *Must be worn under your jacket and turned on at all times while skiing*

>> NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

- RESCUE INSURANCE is compulsory (for mountain rescue, assistance, transportation to nearest hospital,...).
- CANCELLATION INSURANCE may be subscribed privately for cancellation before the trip or interruption due to accident and repatriation. Highly recommended, as all subsisting costs will be charged in case of absence. Payment by credit card, Visa Premier or Gold MasterCard, may provide cancellation insurance. Check your contract.
- SINGLE ROOMS: Advise on the booking form, with extra cost.
- WIDE SKIS: Advise on the booking form, with extra cost.
- ABS BACK PACK: To rent, for the whole week 90€ or per day 15€.
- DRINKS: Skiing makes you thirsty ! For dinner, all the hotels have good wine. Usually, the participants make a kitty to pay for wine at the table.
- LUNCHES: Often picnics on the mountain when sunny, enhanced by specialities brought by the participants to be shared. Or home cooking in mountain villages.
The guide’s lunch expenses shall be funded by all participants during the safari.
- HELICOPER DROP (additional option): Price is updated every winter ... About 150€ per person payable to the guide.

>> INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

- **SMALL RUCKSACK** for daily necessities. 32 liters will be a good choice. Inside your pack you should have:
 - Goggles with double anti-fog screen orange for bad weather and mirror lens for sun.
 - Scarf or neck-warmer to protect against wind, cold, sun or powder.
 - Sun screen for lips and face (high protection).
 - Pocket knife for picnics.
 - Foil Blanket in case of accident (or even chair lift breakdowns).
 - Spare glove if you fall often!
 - Beverages, dried fruit, nuts, chocolate, muesli bars...
 - Shovel and probe. If you have your own, bring them. Your guide may give you such equipment to carry on.
 - Optional: Camera, video or binoculars.
- **CLIMBING HARNESS** for glacier skiing. *If you can bring your own please indicate on the booking form.*
- **ALPINE SKI BOOTS**, which are comfortable enough to walk with. Or:
- **ALPINE TOURING BOOTS**, have vibram soles and a « walk » position..
- **BINDINGS:** None of the connections make it necessary to use skins, but touring bindings enable you to climb easily to places where no other skiers go! Many short climbs in this area (1/2 to 1 hour) lead to very rewarding descents. *We recommend touring bindings.*
- **ALL-TERRAIN SKIS, FREERIDE CATEGORY:** There are many new models on the market. They make it much easier to enjoy deep snow and less tiring. If you are inexperienced you will learn more quickly. If you are an expert you will have more fun and an enhanced experience.
9V guides use and recommend freeride skis that make all kinds of deep snow fun, allow you to carve on piste and on any hard snow, are light enough to use with touring bindings to go uphill with skins. We like them with Diamir Fritschl® bindings, excellent for carving and for skinning. You may use your own alpine ski boots with these bindings.

>> GROUP EQUIPMENT (PROVIDED BY 9V)

- **TWO-WAY AVALANCHE BEEPERS:** Must be worn by each participant at all times off-piste. Our beepers work with all other recent 2-way devices. *If you have your own, please bring it. Indicate whether or not on booking form.*
- **SAFETY AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT:** Each guide will have all that is necessary for the safety of his group in his rucksack : radio or mobile phone, first aid kit, tools for repair, space blanket, rope, shovel, avalanche probe...). The guide may ask you to carry such equipment in your rucksack. *If you are an experienced mountaineer with your own equipment, bring it with you.*

>> WHAT YOU SHOULD BRING

- **BAGGAGE** *Please travel light!*: As you will be staying in 4 different places during the Safari, make sure that your baggage is practical, quickly packed and easy to carry.

It will be transported from one hotel to the next, but there are no "porteurs" to and from the rooms, and please think of the bus driver who will be loading and unloading all the baggage.

Please, only one baggage per person to be transported and no loose belongings likely to get lost.

- **CLOTHING:** Remember that most of your time will be spent in ski wear. At any time of the season, weather can be sunny and warm, or bitterly cold, windy, snowy or rainy. If properly equipped, you'll enjoy the skiing, whatever the weather. We ski in all conditions. Bring bad weather gear with you, as during major snowstorms we ski fantastic powder in the forest.

Plan to have extra clothing and gear in your rucksack each day, which will enable you to adapt to all changes in temperature and weather.

Temperature varies with altitude about 10°C. per 1000 mts. Therefore, the difference in temperature between the valley and the summits will be about 20°C., and even more considering wind chill factor.

- **SPECIALITIES FOR THE "GRAND 9 VALLÉES BUFFET":** On Sunday, lunch will be made up of all the specialities brought by the participants, from the homeland or elsewhere. All will be spread out on a table to share. They must be transportable in your rucksack and edible without cooking or drinkable. This lunch will be one of the finest meals you can imagine.

Share your favorite local specialities, as anyone who arrive empty handed may be asked to pay the bill for whatever is lacking.

>> HOW TO REACH HOTEL DES ROSES – FRAZ POUTAZ – I 11020 ANTEY-ST-ANDRÉ, AOSTA, ITALY

- **BY PLANE:** to Milano or Torino (closest), then by train to Chatillon and regular bus (Valtournenche - Cervinia line) or taxi (see phone numbers below under "By train") for the 7 km up to Hotel des Roses, on the right hand side of the road after the village of Antey-St-André.

For groups, we can send a taxi or minibus to take you directly from the airport to the hotel for €100 to €150. *Reserve in advance.*

- **BY CAR:**

- From Switzerland : Martigny - Grand St Bernard Tunnel - Aosta - autostrada to Chatillon-Valtournenche exit.

- From Austria : Brennerpass - Milano - direction Aosta, but exit before at Chatillon/Valtournenche.

- From Germany : San Bernardino Tunnel - Milano - direction Aosta, exit Chatillon/Valtournenche...

- From France :

- Chamonix - Mont Blanc Tunnel – Autostrada →Courmayeur – Aosta – direction Milano – Torino. Exit at Chatillon/ Valtournenche...

- Maurienne Valley to the Fréjus Tunnel - autostrada - Torino direction Aosta, but exit at Châtillon/Valtournenche...

...From Chatillon, drive up the Valtournenche road about 7 km past the village of Antey-St André and you will find Hotel des Roses on your right.

- **BY TRAIN:**

To Chatillon Station, regular bus (Valtournenche-Cervinia line for 7 Km to Antey-St-André. Hotel des Roses is after the village on the right. Or a taxi : G. Lavallo (+39-0166-61330), L. Dufour (+39-0166-62895), M. Bertuletti (+39-0166-62915).