



BORNES MASSIF self-guided

In the footsteps of the Resistance




In 1943, during the Second World War, France established the Compulsory Work Service (STO). Almost immediately, resistance groups known as "maquis" began forming across the country to oppose and evade the STO. Remote and hard-to-reach locations were needed to shelter and hide the résistants. The Plateau des Glières became one of these iconic sites, thanks to its geography: close to Annecy, surrounded by steep cliffs, and dotted with alpine farms. Many resistance fighters decided to take refuge there during the winter of 1943–1944. In March 1944, the end of the maquis unfortunately came with violent battles, which are still commemorated today.


But to reduce the plateau solely to its wartime history would be limiting. Nestled in the heart of Reblochon country and offering breathtaking views of Lake Annecy and Mont Blanc, it is now a prime destination for hiking. The final night of the trip is spent at the perched Parmelan refuge, where you'll enjoy a panoramic view stretching all the way to the Jura mountains. A perfect getaway for an extended weekend in the Haute-Savoie mountains!

 4 Days

 Self-guided / without guide

 Without baggage transportation

 Accommodation : Classic (dormitory)

 Level : **

 From : 395€

You will like

- A mountain range that has preserved its authentic alpine spirit
- A land shaped by history
- A landscape alternating between alpine pastures and remote forests
- Stunning views over Lake Annecy and Mont Blanc

The route

Day 1

Departure from the Chesnet car park in Orange.

Meet at La Roche-sur-Foron railway station for a short taxi transfer if arriving by train.

ORANGE – POINTE DE SUR COU – CHALET DE BALME

The tour begins with a fairly steep climb through the forest and then across a mountain pasture to the Col de Sur Cou. The 360° panorama stretches from Lake Geneva to Mont Blanc. A descent through hay fields takes you back to the Col de Cou and finally to your overnight accommodation. You can extend the day a little by passing through the hamlet of Les Mouilles. Overnight in a small dormitory.

4h walk / Distance : 6km / Dénivelé : +640 m ; -320 m

Day 2

COL DU FREU – PLATEAU DES GLIERES

The Col du Freu, just above the refuge, leads to the Champ Dairy, a wide, wild perched valley. A final passage through the forest leads to the Plateau des Glières, an emblematic site of the Resistance in the Alps. It is possible to go over the Sous-Dine mountain (2hrs 30mins and an additional 500m of ascent).

Overnight in room at Glières mountain cottage, famous for its local cuisine and resourcing spa.

5h walk / Distance : 13km / Dénivelé : +550 m ; -650 m

Day 3

COMBE D'ABLON – REFUGE DU PARMELAN

A long day in the heart of the massif's lapiaz through the Plateau des Glières, the Combe d'Ablon, the Vallée du Pertuis and finally the Plateau du Parmelan, which offers the best views of Annecy and its lake. Overnight in a dormitory at the refuge, on a promontory above the valley.

6h walk / Distance : 16km / Dénivelé : +950 m ; -500 m

Day 4

NAVES PARMELAN – LAC D'ANNECY

Descent via the Grand Montoir, a steep but well-equipped passage through the cliffs (with the option of avoiding it via the Petit Montoir a little further on) through the forest to Nâves-Parmelan, site of the last Maquis battle in the massif.

3.30 walk / Distance : 6km / Dénivelé : +50 m ; -1150 m

7.30 walk / Distance : 18km / Dénivelé : +280 m ; -1650 m walking down to Annecy

Transfer to Annecy or back to the departure's point.

The trip

LEVEL ***

Elevation: +/- 500m - 1000m approximately per day.

Walking time: 4 to 6 hours per day.

Type of trek: mountain hike on marked trails including gravel paths.

You have to be in a general good fitness level. Please practice a cardio sport such as hiking, running, cycling, from 3 to 4 hours a week.

Your physical preparation will enable you to enjoy your trek to the maximum.

Please find the description of the levels by clicking here: [levels of difficulty](#)

The roadbook provides sufficient information on the itinerary of your hike. However, it is essential to be able to read an 1:25,000 map and to be sufficiently autonomous in the mountains to be able to tackle the itinerary with confidence, whatever the weather (fog, snow, etc.). You will be crossing areas with no telephone network. For your own safety, you may wish to bring along a radio or the latest generation telephone with a satellite connection.

ROAD BOOK

Before departure, we send you a travel folder containing:

- 2 IGN TOP 25 with the route highlighted.
- 1 road-book containing all the information necessary for the trek.
- 1 waterproof map holder.
- Accommodation list.

TRAIL MARKING

All the paths are well-marked, a part of the trek takes the GR9. You must know how to read a topographical map at 1/25000.

LUGAGGE TRANSFER

Without luggage transfer: you carry all your luggage

ACCOMMODATION

2 nights in dormitory accommodation in mountain refuges (no showers at the Parmelan refuge).

1 night in a private room in a 3-star hotel with spa on the Plateau des Glières.

MEALS

Breakfast and dinner are provided in each accommodation. Picnics are not included and can be pre-ordered at each accommodation in the evening. Please inform us about your food allergies and special diets **at the time of booking**. We do our best to accommodate special diets (gluten-free, vegetarian, etc.). However, we encourage you to bring some additional products for your own picnics.

PERSONALISED TOURS

We can personalise a tour according to your requirements (number of days, participants, level of route, accommodation,

etc.)

MAPS

IGN Top 25 - 3431OT Lac d'Annecy et 3430ET La Clusaz

Practical information

ACCESS TO DEPARTURE POINT

Start of the hike at Le Chesnet car park in Orange.

Taxi transfer possible to the departure, from La Roche Sur Foron railway station.

BY TRAIN

Direct TGV from Paris to Annecy or Annemasse then TER to La Roche Sur Foron.

Local trains (TER) from Grenoble, Lyon...

Timetables must be checked on www.oui.sncf

BY CAR

Take the A410 motorway from Annecy or Annemasse to exit 19. Follow signs for La Roche Sur Foron, then Orange, Parking du Chesnet.

CAR-SHARING

Get in touch with people to share a lift! www.blablacar.fr www.roulezmalin.com

CLOSEST AIRPORTS

Geneva (GVA)

Lyon (LYS)

End point in the afternoon at Nâves-Parmelan.

RETURN TO DEPARTURE POINT

Transfer by taxi to the departure point or to Annecy train station.

ACCOMMODATION BEFORE AND AFTER

Annecy [hébergements](#)

TO CONTACT US

If you are late please contact the agency as soon as possible on: **+33 (0)4 50 79 09 16 or +33 (0)6 42 49 76 07**

Dates & prices

DEPARTURE AND PRICE

Departure any day except Sunday, from mid-May to the end of October 2025

Without luggage transfer, in classic accommodation

€395 per person

Information and booking available by phone or email

THE PRICE

The price includes:

- Accommodation with half board from dinner the first evening to breakfast the last day;
- One printed roadbook provided per group of 1 to 4 people, plus a digital version available for each participant to download; additional printed copies available on request.
- Tourist taxes;
- Organisation and booking fees.

The price does not include:

- Picnic lunches;
- Guiding : you are responsible for your own safety;
- Personal expenses, drinks, touristic visits, etc;
- Cancellation insurance.

The price is all inclusive from departure to end point.

Equipment and luggage

EQUIPMENT LIST

Clothing

- Walking trousers
- Shorts (Bikini/swimsuit, just in case!)
- Breathable or merino wool t-shirts
- Breathable or merino wool leggings
- Fleece or jumper
- Lightweight down jacket
- Wind stopper or Goretex jacket
- Waterproof poncho + gaiters or Goretex trousers + waterproof rucksack cover
- Pair of gloves and a warm hat
- Sun hat or baseball cap
- Walking socks (1 pair per day)
- Sturdy walking boots with a good sole, already broken in
- 1 change of clothes for the evening
- A pair of comfortable shoes for the evening

Other Equipment

- Toilet bag
- Quick drying towel
- Sunglasses and sun cream
- Water bottle or Camelback (1.5 litre minimum)
- Knife, fork and spoon
- Plastic lunch box/plate for your picnic lunches (0.40L to 0.50L)
- Plastic cup for coffee
- Small First Aid kit (antihistamine, ibuprofen, Compeed type blister pads...)
- Survival blanket
- Head torch or hand torch
- Sleeping bag liner sheet and pillowcase (blankets provided at accommodation)
- Two adjustable walking poles (highly recommended)
- Identity card or passport

BACKPACK

Bring a comfortable backpack of 40 to 50 litres for your personal belongings for the day (including warm clothes, waterproofs, water, plate and cutlery for your picnic, sunscreen and your identity papers) and please keep a little room to carry a picnic and snacks.

HOW TO REGISTER

- By internet: www.altitude-montblanc.com

- By telephone: +33 (0)4 50 79 09 16

- By post: Please provide your details

- Surname, First Name, Date of birth
- Address
- Email
- Telephone
- Mobile

If you wish to register by post, please complete the form below and return it to:

Altitude Mont-Blanc
62 Passage du Nant Devant
74110 MONTRIOND
FRANCE

Please specify whether you wish to take out an optional cancellation insurance (4.2% of the tour price).

On receipt of your registration we will email an invoice (per couple) with a request for a deposit of 30% in association with your account details at Altitude Mont-Blanc ('My Account'). Payment can be made by credit card, bank transfer or by cheque. On receipt of your deposit you will receive a registration confirmation.

The balance must be paid one month before departure without a reminder from us.

For self-guided tours, we will then send your tour pack (includes maps, descriptive book etc.)

Our terms and conditions of sale can be found on our website.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.



Registration by mail form

Last name:

First name:

Date of birth:

Address:

Phone number:

Mobile phone number:

Email address:

Requested tour:

Number of days:

Insurance:

Price:

x 30% =

Deposit

Locality where signed:

Date

Signature:

Return with your deposit to:

Altitude Mont-Blanc, 62 Passage du Nant Devant, 74110 Montriond, FRANCE