

ACTIVITIES FOR NON-SKIERERS IN AND AROUND CHAMONIX

Where better to start when talking about **sightseeing in Chamonix** than the highest mountain in Western Europe, the **Mont Blanc**. Chamonix is located 4808m below the pinnacle of this famous mountain. Its Alpine town atmosphere and its spectacular scenery attract people from around the world. It boasts having one of the highest cable cars in the world – the **Aiguille du Midi cable car**.

Aiguille du Midi

For spectacular views of the Mont Blanc, take the cable car to the summit of the Aiguille du Midi at 3842m. This high mountain site offers a unique 360° panorama of the majestic Mont Blanc range and its summit. You can ‘Step into the Void’ - a glass room with a glass floor and over 1000 feet of emptiness beneath you.

Quite often you will be able to spot a rope party on their way to climb this prestigious mountain. A word of warning, temperatures will be very low so do wear your ski gear.



The Montenvers Railway to the Mer de Glace

Since 1908, this charming red train has been transporting passengers right to the edge of the Mer de Glace. This quaint train journey takes 20 mins and enables passengers to wonder in awe at the surrounding spectacle. At the summit there are various exhibitions such as an ice grotto, Crystal gallery and an exhibition of Alpine fauna as well as a bar and restaurant at the Terminal Neige - Refuge du Montenvers.

Tramway du Mont Blanc

Built in 1909, the Mont-Blanc Tramway is one of the oldest mechanical uphill rides in the Valley and the mountain rack railway is the highest in France. Take it from Saint-Gervais or le Fayet and alight at Bellevue for a lunch with stunning views.

Mont Blanc Express to Montroc

Take this little valley train to Montroc and then walk or snowshoe to Vallorcine through the lovely hamlet of Trélé champs and col des Montets. You will be able to have an excellent lunch at The Café Comptoir. If you are feeling less energetic take the train all the way to Vallorcine!

Sports Centre

The Centre Sportif Richard Bozon has a swimming pool and ice rink, opening times and rates on the websites. Again, prices are discounted with the Carte d'Hôte (Guest Card).

Helicopter Flights

For spectacular views Chamonix Mont-Blanc Hélicoptères offers panoramic helicopter flights from a 15 minute circuit of the Grandes Jorasses (4203m) to a 30 minute circuit of Mont Blanc Massif (4810m).

Parapente

For paragliding there are three existing schools, all well-established, try Les Ailes du Mont Blanc.

Fat Bike

These were very popular when the lifts were shut, mountain-biking on snow! With fat tyres and electric motors, this kind of mountain bike offers guaranteed grip and stability on snow, and lots of fun. Chamonix Guides know the valley like the back of their hand and can take beginners and experienced riders to the very best spots. Join a group in Les Houches for a half day including bike hire, guide, helmet and lift pass.



Restaurants

Chamonix is renowned for its food and some of the best restaurants have very reasonable set menus at lunchtime (see separate restaurant guide for favourites).

Spas

QC Terme opened their first spa in Chamonix, and what a beautiful place it is, situated on a 3000 m² plot in the centre of Chamonix and close to our Chalet Valhalla. There are wonderful views from its infinity pool up towards the mountains and glaciers. Here you can also enjoy sensory baths, saunas, steam baths, water massages, a salt room, relaxation rooms, treatments and more. Open 9am – 10pm Sun-Thurs, 9am – 11pm Fri-Sat.

Non-residents can use Le Bachal Spa at the 5* Albert Premier / Maison Carrier hotel when treatments are booked. There is a swimming pool which looks out onto Mont Blanc, a Jacuzzi, a hammam and several beauty therapists offering everything from massage and body scrubs to shea or green-tea body wraps, a head massage or foot reflexology.

Massage at your Chalet

If you would like any treatments including massages in the comfort of your chalet, please let us know and we can arrange this for you.

Chamonix Tourist Office

This office in the centre of Chamonix has a wealth of information for further activities. They also arrange Heritage Guided Tours, which provide a fascinating insight into the history, architecture and geography of Chamonix.

Saturday Market

There is a bustling open-air market in the Place du Mont Blanc on Saturday mornings, a colourful affair selling fresh fruit and vegetables, a myriad of cheeses, local crafts and textiles.

