

# Our team advice to discover the Northern Alps

Your Dream Place

# Taking seasonality into consideration

Our region suffers from a strong seasonality in two times: winter with winter sports in the ski resorts and summer by the lakes (Lac du Bourget & Annecy in particular). These two very attractive periods of the year are the most expensive; there are nice alternatives to avoid this price increase. If you are looking for a ski trip, prefer the end of the season or periods outside school holidays. Spring and autumn are great times too to discover the mountain or large lakes. Unless you are looking for beach times... because yes, there are some! In this case, chose summer period and try Aix les Bains Riviera des Alpes for example!

## **Enjoy gastronomy**

YES, you will certainly gain weight during your vacation in the Alps. You will find not only excellent cheese, cold meats and wine but also many starred chefs who will offer you to discover our favorite dishes in a gastronomic manner. Fortunately, there are many ways to eliminate calories in a mountain region!

#### Don't neglect summer

Unfortunately, the mountain is still essentially associated with winter. Too bad! Summer is a magical season if you are looking for a dynamic destination. Beyond the sport and discovery aspect, you will also find many water points, streams & lakes to refresh yourself. The towns & villages will allow you to visit charming places while the medium and high mountains will offer you real Alpine experience. The landscapes are as beautiful in winter as in summer, although very different!

## Taking travel time into consideration

To talk about the practical and logistical aspects, it is common for visitors to be surprised by the travel times. On the map everything seems to be quite close, but it can be tricky! Do not look at geographical proximity because it is often misleading. Moreover, especially in winter, traffic can be very dense on the roads leading to the stations. It's better to be well informed to avoid unpleasant surprises!

#### Beware of the climate

Except for certain micro climates areas (Annecy or Aix-les-Bains), the territory enjoys a mountain climate which can surprise. The weather is quite unpredictable and requires some organization for mountain walks! Always have a B plan on mind if you planned outdoors activities.

## Plan to adapt equipments for winter sports

It may sound silly, but the equipment is too often neglected! When you come to practice winter sports, temperatures can get very low. It is necessary to be well covered, to have warm and impermeable shoes, gloves, a good jacket, scarf, hats & sunglasses. Sunscreen is also essential!

## Choosing the right base camp

The territory is large, and the base camp is very important depending on what you want to visit. It may be appropriate, depending on your interests, to change accommodation once or several times to avoid long travel times on the same day. This rule also applies to groups!

# Don't rush... you will come back!

It is the worst idea trying to see everything in a very short period of time. If there is one thing we have learned at GOTOMONTBLANC it is that in the end, everyone comes back...