

# AIGUILLE DU MIDI

❄️ WINTER ❄️

## → The atmosphere

- a 360° panorama over the mountain tops of the Mont Blanc massif.
- a rocky spur perched at an altitude of 3842 metres.
- access to the Vallée Blanche, high mountain itinerary (not patrolled).



## → FINDING YOUR BEARINGS

### • North peak

- 1 Cable car arrival-departure station
- 2 Chamonix terrace
- 3 Le 3842 : restaurant
- 4 Cafeteria
- 5 Sandwich vendor

### • Central peak

- 6 Centre footbridge
- 7 Lift ticket booth
- 8 Lift
- 9 Summit terrace
- 10 Mont Blanc gallery

### • Rébuffat belvedere

Located on the other side of the central peak (not visible on the map)

### • Vallée Blanche

- 11 Departure gondola
- 12 Mont Blanc terrace



The Mont Blanc, seen from the summit terrace of the Aiguille du Midi.

## → Getting to the site and visit

### • Cable car

- **1<sup>st</sup> section** : the cable car starts off from Chamonix (1 035 m) then, crossing the forest above the treetops, reaches an altitude of 2 317 m in 8 minutes. The Mont Blanc massif can be seen to the right with the Bossons glacier at the bottom and the Mont Blanc at the top (4 810 m). On the left : the Aiguille Verte, the Drus and the Aiguilles de Chamonix (Grands Charmoz, Aiguille de Blaitière and Aiguille du Plan). You are now at the Plan de l'Aiguille, arrival point for the first cable car section.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> section** : this second part reaches an altitude of 3 777 m in 8 minutes. This is a highly spectacular trip over the seracs and last tongue of the Pélerins Glacier, hanging glaciers and north side of the Aiguille du Midi.

### • Visit

Once you reach the Aiguille du Midi, you will have access to 4 different sites :

- **the north peak** : which houses the cable car landing/boarding platform, the cafeteria where you can buy takeaways and souvenirs, and the Chamonix terrace (view over the valley).
- **the central peak** : with a lift and panoramic terrace at the top of the Aiguille du Midi (3842 m). Access via the Mont Blanc gallery over the footbridge and to the right.
- **the Mont Blanc terrace** : the most outstandingly grandiose view of the Mont Blanc, should not be missed at any cost. Access via the Mont Blanc gallery : take the corridor to the end.
- **the Vallée Blanche and Rébuffat belvedere** : the White Valley gallery (access on the left after the centre footbridge) leads to the Mont Blanc Panoramic cable car (open in summer only), the ice tunnel (access to the White Valley for skiers) and the Rébuffat footbridge (plunging view over the Cosmiques ridge).



## ? Did you know ?

The name of the Aiguille du Midi (South Needle) originates in the way which it points, i.e. South. A concession for the "Glacier cable car" was granted in 1909. Construction work began in 1911, was suspended during the war and resumed in 1923. The cable car ran from 1924 to 1954, linking the Pélerins area to the foot of the Aiguille du Midi. It was replaced in 1954 by the present cable car, which underwent major renovation work in 1990 and 1991.

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## WINTER

### → The Vallée Blanche

The famous Vallée Blanche starts at the Aiguille du Midi and is a high mountain skiing itinerary open between December and May.

It runs for 20 km over the Géant glacier and the Mer de Glace in the heart of a spectacular snow and ice environment, and is neither upkept, marked out, patrolled nor monitored. Being a highly dangerous area (crevasses and seracs), we strongly recommend taking a guide and using appropriate mountain equipment : ARVA (instrument for seeking avalanche victims), spade, probe, harness, crampons, rope, etc.).

On arriving at the Mer de Glace at the foot of the Montanvers, you can descend either by ski to Chamonix, depending on snow conditions, or by the glacier cable car (reaches the Montanvers in 3 minutes), then by the Montanvers rack-rail train to reach Chamonix in 20 minutes.



### → Restaurants

- at the top : cafeteria and takeaways (tel. 04 50 55 82 23).
- at the foot of the cable car in Chamonix : *Le Blanchot* (tel. 04 50 55 33 58).



## IMPORTANT

### + Further information

For more information on the Aiguille du Midi and other Compagnie du Mont-Blanc sites, please consult :

- the **Winter guide\***, which includes information on the skiing areas and altitude sites, descriptions of the slopes, suggestions for itineraries and safety advice.
- **www.compagniedumontblanc.com**. The Compagnie du Mont-Blanc's website provides information on the sites and skiing areas (slopes and ski lift opening, snow cover, etc.), and is updated daily.

\*Available at the ski lift cash desks.

## OUR ADVICE

### ! Good reflexes in the mountains

#### • Useful numbers

- The Aiguille du Midi : +33 (0)4 50 53 30 80
- weather bulletin : +33 (0)8 92 68 02 74
- snow cover bulletin : +33 (0)8 92 68 10 20
- mountain rescue (PGHM) : +33 (0)4 50 53 16 89

#### • EQUIPMENT

Ensure you have warm clothing and sturdy boots, as it gets very cold very, very quickly at an altitude of 3 842 m. Don't forget your sunglasses, sun screen and... camera !

#### • HIGH MOUNTAIN AND GLACIER SKIING ITINERARY (Vallée Blanche)

You will be skiing under your own responsibility. Take a guide with you and use the appropriate equipment : ARVA (instrument for seeking avalanche victims), spade, probe, harness, crampons, rope, etc.

#### • YOUNG CHILDREN AT HIGH ALTITUDES

We advise against taking children under 2 years of age above 3000 m. Take sweets or a drink to avoid earache during the trip.

#### • PEAK DAYS

On peak days, you will be given a boarding card with your cabin number along with your ticket. **Please arrive ten minutes before your cabin is due to depart** (the numbers are displayed on the backlit sign at the front of the station).

#### • BOOKING

You can book your ascent up to the day before your visit on +33 (0)8 92 68 00 67 (0,34 € per minute, reservation charge 2 €).



See the Aiguille du Midi in summer



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# AIGUILLE DU MIDI

## 1035 M - 3842 M



WINTER

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