



Fred Jacobson

ALPINE TRAILS

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2012 – Our Destinations

Chamonix: Chamonix, in the French Haute Savoie, is arguably the most famous village in the Alps. Already in 1786, when Mont Blanc – at 4,800 meters named the “monarch” of the Alps – was first climbed, the village was preparing itself for the wave of tourism that was to come. Farmers, hunters and crystal seekers gave way to mountain guides, ski instructors, lift operators and of course, hoteliers. Today, Chamonix offers a huge network of trails, as well as buses and mountain lifts to facilitate their use by hikers of all levels. Argentiere – our calmer village of choice – is just a few minutes away.

Matschertal: Once the private domain of the Trapp family (no relation to the “Sound of Music” family), this pastoral valley is primarily agricultural, but hikers are welcome. A side valley of the renowned Vinschgau, it is adjacent to the Austrian Oetztal. Its location is ideal for visiting the nearby Reschen Pass and Lake and the Langtauffer Valley. The complete absence of lifts assures a tranquility rarely found in the Alps.

Meran: Meran is truly the jewel of the Sud Tirol – that portion of Italy that belonged to Austria until 1919. It is a cosmopolitan city – complete with ancient churches, castles and museums, a spa, a horse racing track, an arcaded shopping district, a promenade along the Passer River which flows through the center of town. Only 300 meters above sea level, in a valley which opens to the South, Meran has a tropical flavor, with palm trees and gardens filled with exotic flowers. The region is known for its huge apple production (70,000 tons annually!), and it also boasts fig stands, vineyards and apricot orchards. Meran is reached from Milan via Verona and Bolzano in about five hours, although our private bus takes an hour less – and the ride along the Po Valley and north through the Adige Valley is a highlight in itself. German and Italian are spoken by virtually all the inhabitants, and the dual cultures give the area a great interest.

Sils Maria: The Engadine has long been the preferred mountain region for the Swiss. Less developed than the nearby St. Moritz, Sils is a perfect combination of unspoiled Old World charm and modern convenience. Lakes abound. Beautiful pine forests and deep valleys set off the stunning mountains which are capped by the famous Piz

◆ SAMPLE ITINERARY ◆

DAY 1: Depart North America to Italy or Switzerland.

DAY 2: After arrival at your gateway city, transfer by train or bus to your hotel. Fred Jacobson will hold a brief orientation meeting at your hotel this evening.

DAY 3 AND FOLLOWING: Daily hikes.

LAST DAY: Transfer to your gateway.

Bernina, itself surrounded by some of the most impressive glaciers in Switzerland. The last major village before the Oberengadine plunges to the Bergell at the Maloja Pass, Sils Maria lies at the foot of the greatly admired Fex Valley, virtually on the shore of the beautiful Lake of Sils. Both the Engadine and Bergell Valleys are hiked from here.

Soglio: Truly a picture book village with cobblestone streets, Soglio lies high above the romantic Val Bregaglia (Bergell), opposite the Val Bondasca, perhaps the wildest in the Swiss Alps. Dating back more than five hundred years, the village is famed for its architecture, winding streets and Southern climate. Just a stone’s throw from Italy, it is an ideal base for wandering on both sides of the border, as well as for visiting the nearby renowned Engadine.

Sulden: At 1,844 meters above sea level, Sulden is one of the highest year-round villages we visit. It lies in Italy’s Sud Tirol, beneath the Ortler – the highest peak of the Eastern Alps – where Switzerland, Austria and the Italian Valtellina all converge. Although surrounded by glaciated high peaks, the valley floor is wide and sunny. Two chair lifts and a cable car enable the hiker to thoroughly explore the beautiful side valleys and climbing huts. The village is calm, secluded and endearingly Old World.

Tiers: Tiers is the principal village in the valley of the same name. Just minutes from Bolzano, the Tiersertal lies between the Eggental, the Karer Pass and the Groednertal (Val Gardena.) Because of its central location, it gives easy access to a wide variety of gorgeous hikes. Weisslahnbad lies five minutes above the town. It is nestled between two symbols of the Dolomites – the Schlern and the Rosengarten. Formerly a thermal spring, today it remains an island of tranquility with spa facilities.

Vent: This tiny village lies at the head of Austria’s Oetztal, home of the celebrated Ice Man. At nearly 1,900 meters, it is our highest year-round destination village. Surrounded by high mountains, the trails are well maintained and generally at user-friendly angles. There are a half dozen climbing huts, and gorgeous waterfalls are everywhere. With only one small chairlift, it is an unspoiled, low-key hiker’s paradise.

For further information, contact:

Fred Jacobson or Alpine Travel, or check our website
www.alptrails.com

TRIP DATES – 2012	RESORT(S)	LAND PRICES*
April 14 – 27	Soglio (S)	\$ 4,000
June 20 – July 5	Chamonix (F)/Saas Fee (S)	\$ 4,800
June 20 – July 1	Chamonix Only	\$ 3,600
July 14 – 29	Sulden/Tiers (I)	\$ 3,500
August 3 – 18	Matschertal (I)/Vent (A)	\$ 3,600
Sept. 8 – 23	Sils Maria (S)	\$ 5,500
8 – 19		\$ 4,500
Sept. 28 – Oct. 13	Meran (I)	\$ 4,100

*Schedule of supplementary charges for single rooms – when available – may be requested from Alpine Travel.

I=Italy S=Switzerland A=Austria F=France

TRIP PRICE INCLUDES...

Accommodations: In twin-bedded rooms with bath or shower at the following hotels: Le Montana in Argentiere/Chamonix, Glieshof in Matschertal, Aurora in Meran, Fletschhorn in Saas Fee, Waldhaus in Sils Maria, La Soglina in Soglio, Gertraud in Sulden, Dolomiten in Tiers and Post in Vent. Hotels have a limited number of single rooms with private bath or shower, which will be assigned on a "first come, first served" basis.

Transportation: Travel in Austria and Italy will be by private and public buses. Sils Maria guests will receive a round-trip ticket from Zurich and a pass for all local trains and buses. Travelers to Soglio and Argentiere/Chamonix will receive a one month Swiss Card, good for round trip transport from gateway to destination resort and 50% reductions on additional transport and mountain lifts.

Meals: Buffet breakfast and dinner at hotel.

TRIP RATE DOES NOT INCLUDE...

Local airport taxes, air fares, expenses of passports and visas (bearers of US passports do not require visas for Western Europe); laundry, wines, liquors, mineral water, after luncheon and after dinner tea or coffee, or food not on the menus of the included meals; additional baggage; expenses of carriages, guides, sightseeing, or other services than those specifically mentioned as being included in the itinerary; tips to guides and drivers; baggage and other personal insurance; airport taxes and all items of personal nature, plus those not listed above as being included in the trip price.

Special Insurance: For those passengers interested in obtaining additional insurance coverage for the length of the trip; trip cancellation; baggage insurance including sports equipment, medical expense coverage, accidental death and dismemberment, as well as specified fractures can be covered. Cost of insurance is very reasonable and brochures will be provided at time of booking.

HOW TO BOOK...

All reservations should be made through Alpine Travel, 415 Bedford Road, Suite 201C, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Tel: (800) 291-8126. E-mail: alpine.travel@verizon.net. They will handle the travel details pertaining to your trip. A deposit of US \$500.00 per person is required at time of booking. No order will be processed without a deposit. Balance is due in full 90 days prior to departure. Once your deposit has been received, you will get, in addition to your confirmation, a letter from Fred Jacobson in which he will spell out the equipment you will need (minimal), what kind of weather to expect, what to wear at night, etc.

Cancellations and Refunds of Land Arrangements: Refund in full up to 60 days prior to departure, less handling fee of US \$200.00 per person. If cancellation is received less than 60 days prior to departure, the cancellation fee is 50% of the total land cost, plus any charges incurred by hotels, cable fees, etc. Less than 3 weeks, 80% of total land cost, plus charges. **We strongly suggest that, to allow for unexpected contingencies, you purchase "trip cancellation" insurance. Information about such insurance will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation.** No refunds for unused portions during the course of our trip, except at the discretion of the trip operator. Claims must be made within 60 days following the termination of the trip program.

Trip Membership: In an honest endeavor to ensure congenial membership on the trip, Fred Jacobson Alpine Trails, Ltd. reserves the right to refuse application of anyone and/or expel from any party trip members whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the party as a whole.

Published Rates: Trip rates in this folder are based on two persons occupying one room and are quoted per person (in US\$). All trip prices are based on costs and currency exchange rates existing and in effect October 15, 2011. Any subsequent changes in the currency exchange rates may alter or change the rates published in this folder.

Responsibility: Alpine Travel and/or Fred Jacobson Alpine Trails, Ltd. and/or their agents act only in the capacity of agent for the passengers in all matters pertaining to travel whether by plane, rail, bus, steamer or any other means of conveyance. They shall not be liable for any injury, damage or loss occasioned by neglect or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the trip, or any hotel proprietor or car rental organization or other persons supplying services or materials in connection with the trip. Alpine Travel and/or Fred Jacobson Alpine Trails, Ltd. reserve the right to withdraw a trip or to make changes in the published itinerary if in their sole judgement conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of the passengers. *In the unlikely event of a trip cancelling, neither Alpine Travel nor Fred Jacobson Alpine Trails can take responsibility if a client has chosen to book a NON-REFUNDABLE AIR FARE.* The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchasers of the trips and/or the passengers.

Participating Carriers: All IATA carriers.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE MAGIC OF THE ALPS TRIPS

I WISH TO JOIN THE FOLLOWING TRIP(S):

Destination(s): 1. _____ 2. _____

Name: Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Address: _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Home _____ Business _____ Cell _____

Deposit: \$500 per person per trip: \$ _____ Age: _____ E-mail: _____

Accommodations Required:
 TWIN: (sharing with) _____
 SINGLE: _____ (If available, at a supplement)

Please make check/money order payable to: Alpine Travel • 415 Bedford Road • Suite 201C • Pleasantville, NY 10570

I have read the MAGIC OF THE ALPS Brochure and agree to its conditions.

Date: _____ Signature: _____