

# Hikes of the Haute Savoie Alps - Rail Travel from London

**Tour Style:** Guided walking

**Destination:** France

**Trip code:** MZLRL

2 & 4



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Spectacular views and superb walking trails are a given in the Alps. So it's easy to see the appeal of staying in Morzine, the charming Alpine village set deep in the Chablais mountain range, between Lake Geneva and Mont Blanc. This remarkable guided walking holiday showcases the very best of this outdoor playground; lush pastures, glimmering rivers, freshwater lakes, and soaring mountains. Another highlight is travelling from London to Paris on Eurostar and onwards to Geneva on the high-speed TGV Lyria service, making it more magical for those who like to gaze out and watch the landscape change.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Full programme of guided walks led by local HF Holidays Leaders
- Fully escorted travel from London with an HF Holidays Tour Manager
- Comfortable accommodation
- 7 breakfasts & 7 dinners
- Return rail travel from London to Geneva and transfers to/from the hotel

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## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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- Rail travel from the UK to Geneva
- Staying in the charming French alpine village of Morzine
- Soaking up views of the Chablais mountains and the mighty Mont Blanc
- Walking the Super Morzine ridge
- Climbing the Col de Joux Plane
- Discovering the peaceful and nature-rich La Manche Valley
- Sampling authentic French and Savoyard cuisine

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## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: LONDON TO GENEVA BY TRAIN AND TO THE FRENCH ALPS

Meet your HF Holidays Tour Manager and fellow travellers at London St Pancras International railway station. After check-in, baggage checks, and passport control, we'll wait for our train. We'll board the Eurostar to Paris Gare du Nord station, where we'll disembark and transfer across Paris by coach to Paris Gare de Lyon station. Here, we join the high-speed TGV Lyria service to Geneva in Switzerland. From Geneva, the final part of our journey will be by coach across the border into the French Alps. Our base for seven nights is the Alpine village of Morzine.

### Day 2: Morzine

#### Option 1 - Above Morzine

**Distance:** 5.5 miles (9km)

**Total Ascent/Descent:** 1,150 feet (350m)

Leaving directly from the hotel on foot, we'll enjoy a circular walk above the town through forest and ski slope. We'll walk to Nyon waterfall and pass hamlets such as Attray. Continuing north we'll pause at a viewpoint above Les Mouilles before descending through Les Lys farm and back to the hotel.

#### Option 2 - Le Pleney

**Distance:** 8 miles (13km)

**Total Ascent/Descent:** 1,900 feet (570m)

This walk follows the same route as option 1 to Attray. From there we'll climb to the top of Le Pleney and walk on the wide ridge which offers magnificent views of the Chablais mountains and the mighty Mont Blanc range.

### Day 3: The Manche Valley

After a short bus transfer, today's walks explore the wild areas at the foot of the Terres Maudites (Cursed Lands) ridge and the Tête de Bostan peak.

#### Option 1 - Chardonnière Hut And Chalet Les Mines D'Or Lake

**Distance:** 5 miles (8km)

**Total Ascent/Descent:** 1,100 feet (340m)

This circular walk first takes us to the Chardonnière hut situated amongst beautiful meadows, surrounded by

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jagged peaks where cattle graze. We follow part of the famous GR5 trail that goes from Lake Geneva down to the Mediterranean. We'll reach the lovely, small lake of Chalet Les Mines d'Or before heading back down to our starting point.

### Option 2 - Golèse Pass

**Distance:** 7 miles (11km)

**Total Ascent/Descent:** 2,150 feet (650m)

Also a circular walk, this route heads up to the chalets of Vigny at the foot of the impressive Golèse ridge. We continue our climb to the Golèse pass (1,662m) to be rewarded with beautiful views toward Samoëns. We continue following part of the famous GR5 trail and reach Chalet des Mines d'Or lake before heading back down to our starting point.

## Day 4: Col De Joux Plane

Today starts with a short transfer to the Col de Joux Plane (1,712m) for the start of our walk, with breathtaking views of the Mont Blanc mountain range.

### Option 1 - Chamossière Peak

**Distance:** 5.5 miles (9km)

**Ascent:** 1,000 feet (310m)

**Descent:** 2,200 feet (670m)

We'll first climb the Chamossière Peak (2,010m) from where we'll be treated to views of the north face of the Mont Blanc range. A pleasant walk to the hamlet of La Combe then sees us going down to the hamlet of Le Grand Pré for our transfer back to Morzine.

### Option 2 - La Bourgeoise And Pointe De Nyon

**Distance:** 7.5 miles (12km)

**Ascent:** 2,150 feet (650m)

**Descent:** 2,600 feet (790m)

Climb of La Bourgeoise Peak (1,772m) before following a circular walk to Pointe de Nyon (2,019m). Our local guide will lead us through a relatively technical ridge walk down to the hamlets of La Combe and Le Grand Pré for our transfer back to Morzine.

## Day 5: Free Day

Each week there is a free day when no guided walks are offered. This is an ideal opportunity to relax around the hotel, walk independently, or visit local places of interest. Options include:

**Morzine:** You may wish to relax and make use of the hotel's spa or explore more of Morzine, the location of our accommodation.

**Montriond:** home to a beautiful emerald-green freshwater lake, this charming village is just a five-minute drive from Morzine or a 1.6-mile (2.7km) walk away.

**Les Gets:** A popular ski resort in winter but equally popular during the summer. Less than a 15-minute drive from Morzine, Les Gets offers upmarket shops, restaurants, laid-back cafés and artisanal shops, not to mention an unusually charming Mechanical Music Museum.

**Local transport:** Throughout summer and winter, local buses run along the Aulps valley connecting St-Jean d'Aulps, Montriond, Morzine, Avoriaz and Les Gets

## Day 6: West Of Les Gets

A short transfer takes us to the Col de l'Encrenaz (1,433m), from where we'll walk to the more undiscovered west of the village of Les Gets.

### Option 1 - Mont Chéry

**Distance:** 5 miles (8km)

**Ascent:** 1,300 feet (400m)

**Descent:** 1,300 feet (400m)

We'll make a relatively steep ascent to the top of Mont Chéry peak (1,826m), with its orienteering table. We'll then descend a gentle track with open views across the Taninges valley. When we reach the hamlet of Mont Caly we'll head north back to our starting point.

### Option 2 - Col Ratti And Golette

**Distance:** 6 miles (10km)

**Ascent:** 1,700 feet (520m)

**Descent:** 1,700 feet (520m)

We walk on the north side of the Col de l'Encrenaz. The first part climbs the south face of Les Pré de l'Aup meadow up to the Col Ratti pass (1,916m). We'll savour the impressive Alpine views as we make our way up to Golette (1,992m). The descent follows a similar route, offering views into Switzerland.

## Day 7: The Super Morzine Ridge

After a short transfer to Avoriaz we'll walk the Montagne de Séraussaix before walking back to the hotel.

### Option 1 - Avoriaz To Morzine (Shorter Walk)

**Distance:** 5 miles (8km)

**Ascent:** 230 feet (70m)

**Descent:** 2,600 feet (800m)

From Avoriaz we'll walk up to the Col de la Joux Verte on the Super Morzine Ridge and the Zore viewpoint (1,764m). From here we'll see Morzine with Mont Blanc in the background. We'll then descend to Morzine along an easy gravel road.

### Option 2 - Avoriaz To Morzine (Longer Walk)

**Distance:** 8.5 miles (14km)

**Ascent:** 750 feet (230m)

**Descent:** 3,500 feet (1,070m)

From Avoriaz we'll walk to the Montriond viewpoint, offering superb lake views. We'll then walk up to the Col de la Joux Verte on the Super Morzine Ridge to the Zore viewpoint (1,764m). From here we'll see Morzine with

Mont Blanc in the background. We'll then descend to Morzine along an easy gravel road.

## Day 8: From The French Alps Back To London Via Geneva

We leave the French Alps and transfer by coach across the border into Switzerland. At Geneva railway station, we join the high-speed TGV Lyria service for the journey to Paris Gare de Lyon station. After a coach transfer across Paris, we board the Eurostar service at Paris Gare du Nord station. Sit back and relax as we travel back to London St Pancras.

## ACCOMMODATION

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### Hotel Névé

Experience a warm welcome at the Hotel Névé, a family-run establishment in the heart of Morzine. Guests can look forward to comfortable rooms, and an inviting restaurant serving authentic, seasonal cuisine. Relax in the indoor pool and hot tub, unwind with a drink at the bar, or enjoy a rejuvenating spa complete with a sauna, sensory showers, and massage rooms. Whatever way you spend your time at the Névé, you can always expect a cosy home-from-home atmosphere.

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Essential Information

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider packing.

#### Essentials

- Walking boots
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Insulated jacket/top
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- Gloves/mitts and warm hat
- Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity)
- Headtorch
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses with a dark lens
- Rucksack (15-30 litres)
- Mobile phone
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (**formerly known as EHIC**)

#### Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles
- Swimwear and travel towel
- Snacks
- Dry bags
- Rubbish bags
- Insect repellent

## Optional extras

- Camera
- Sit mat
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Gaiters
- GPS device

## Useful Information

### Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so, and advise us of the insurance company and policy number.

We work with Campbell Irvine to provide you with competitive single and annual multi-trip insurance. Please see our website for more information and details of how to contact them for a quote:

<https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/about-us/booking-information/insurance>.

For more information about healthcare abroad and its costs, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/>.

### Local Currency

The local currency is the Euro (€)

## TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

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These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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