



# Montblanc-Skichallenge



. . . experience the mountain & yourself . . .



# Montblanc-Challenge



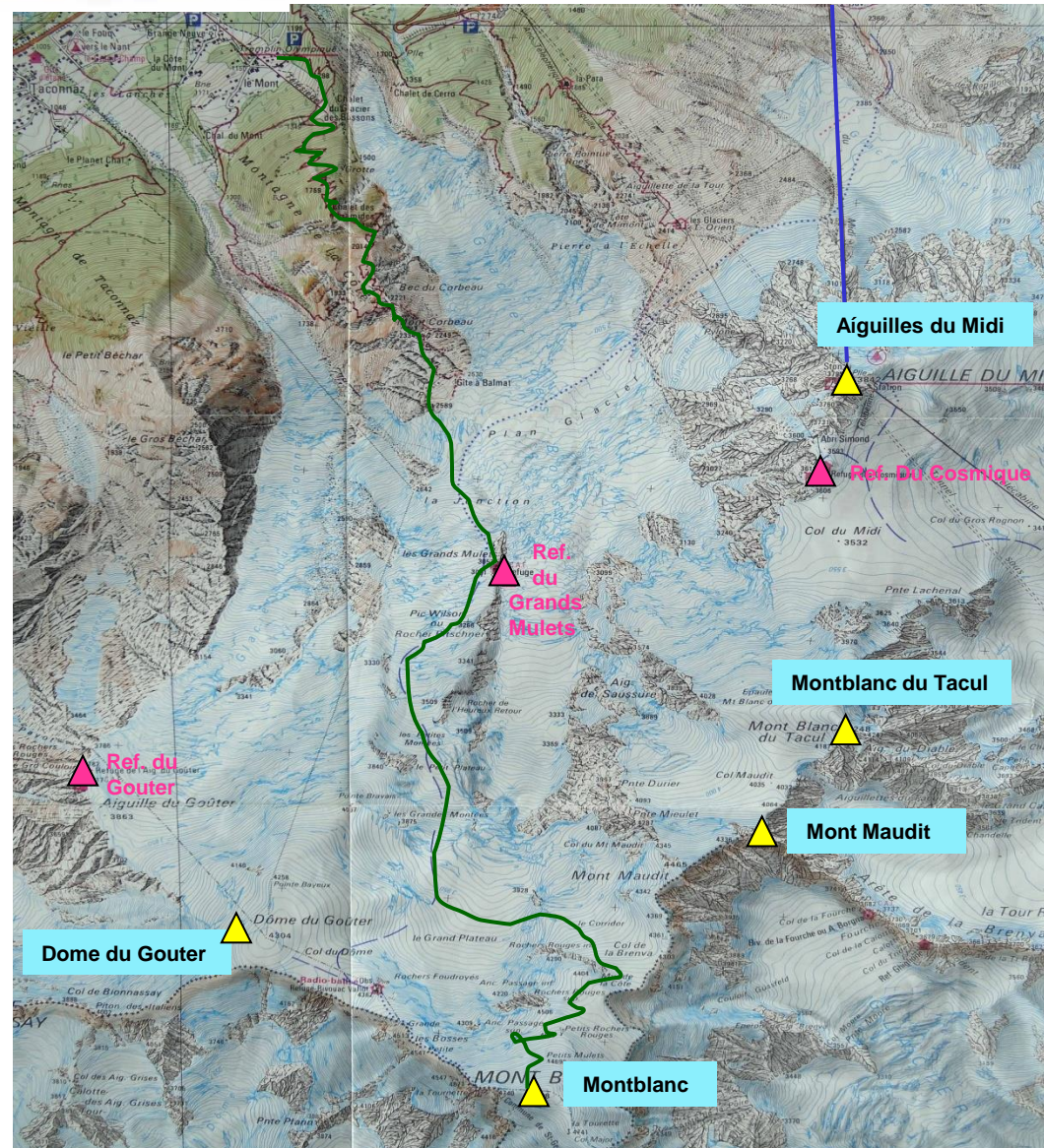
The area around Chamonix is one of the most terrific and spectacular mountain-areas in Europe. You cannot find such a high number of needles and peaks combined with extraordinary glacier-landscapes elsewhere in the Alps. Furthermore the rock is a wonderful orange granite that invites for beautiful climbs in every difficulty. Those who want something special can find interesting long and short mixed climbing trips in the area as well. All the hikes with or without crampons in the area are outstanding because of the unique panorama and nature.

On the following pages I am going to point out our route **via Ref. du Grands Mulets** to ascend this beautiful mountain with skis and ride the slopes down afterwards.

We meet at the camp-site “Mere de Glace” / or in an apartment in “Les Praz” on our **1<sup>st</sup> day** between **17:00 – 19:00** as we experienced this place ideal for our 16 trips in the past.

The **decision** when we shall be where on the mountain, will be taken **regarding current weather & snow-conditions**.

First we are going to set goals, define rules for our joint time on the glacier, check the equipment and after that we shall head for a nice dinner & some beer in town with the shuttle-bus!



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If the weather is sunny (as we would like it to be) we shall leave the campsite on our **2<sup>nd</sup> day** around 07:30 and take the cable-car to Aguille du Midi to reach an altitude of approximately 3.750m. After some technical instruction we plan to ride the skiroutes via Refuge du Requin and Mer de Glace to the Montenvers. Take the train down to Chamonix and head up for Aguille du Midi for a second time. This time we shall descend to Refuge du Cosmique. To make the acclimatising-process as smooth as possible, we shall stay there for the night without doing anything. This will make it easier for our bodies to acclimatise.

After the night at Cosmique hut we could ascend Montblanc du Tacul on the **3<sup>rd</sup> day** with our skis and take one of the skiroutes via Refuge du Requin and Mer de Glace to the Montenvers again.

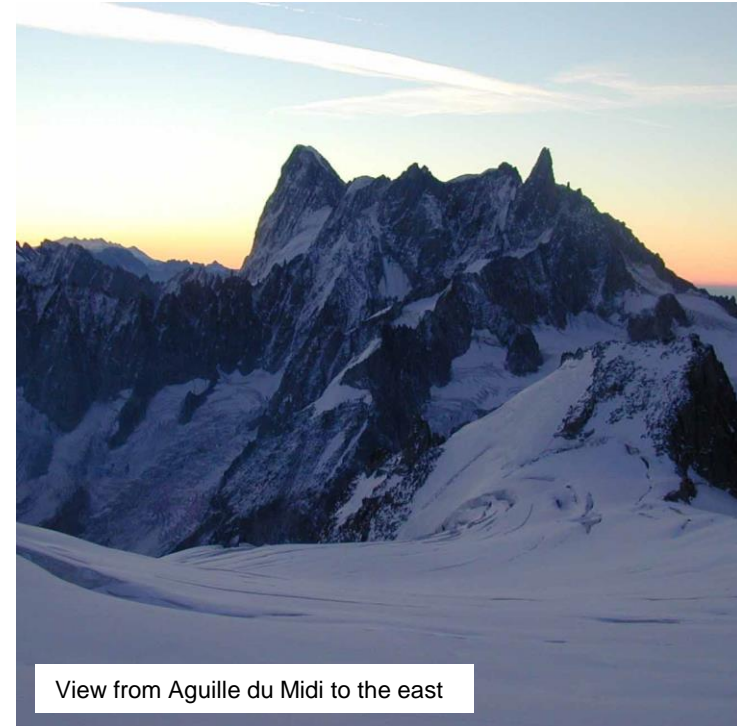
From now on we are ready to make the summit via Refuge du Grands Mulets. This hut will be open for us with full service. We can get to the hut in approximately 4hours from the cable-car Aguille du Plan or from the very valley in approximately 7hours. On the next day we shall head for the summit in one push and ride down to the hut to celebrate. The day after we shall descend.



Powder at "Voie Royale"



Glacier du Geant



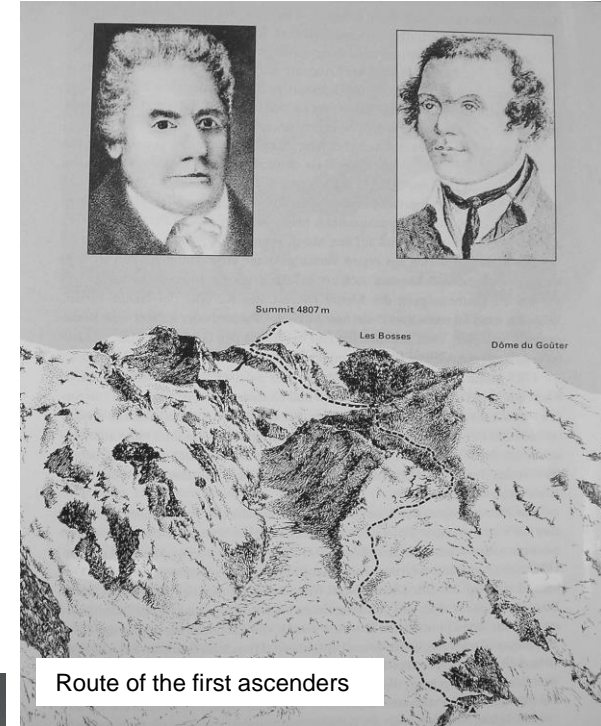
View from Aguille du Midi to the east

# mc – ski-route



This route was first climbed in August of the year 1786 by Michel Paccard (a doctor at Chamonix) and Jaques Balmat (a cristal-searcher from the valley). It starts at 1.150m in the little village “Le Mont” and leads us along the wood-ridge of “Montagne de la Côte“, that leads up steep between Glacier des Bossons and Glacier du Taconnaz. First milestone is the Chalet des Pyramides at 1.800m. Next milestone on the route is the area where we change rock with ice at „La Jonction“ roughly at 2.600m. The following 450 altimetres will lead us through the maze of crevasses to Refuge du Grands Mulets at 3.050m. Our ascent passes "Pic Wilson" 3.267m, "Rocher de l'Hereux Retour", “Petit

Plateau" 3.530m to "Grand Plateau" at 4.000m. A beautiful hike passing ice-towers and crevasses. At the “Grand Plateau” we have to decide whether we head towards the East to join the **“three-monts-route”** to the summit or to the West to join the “Gouter-route” with some other climbers. Our ascend route will also be used to **descend** from the mountain carving our lines into great snow.



Route of the first ascenders



Skiing above Grands Mulets



Near “La Jonction”

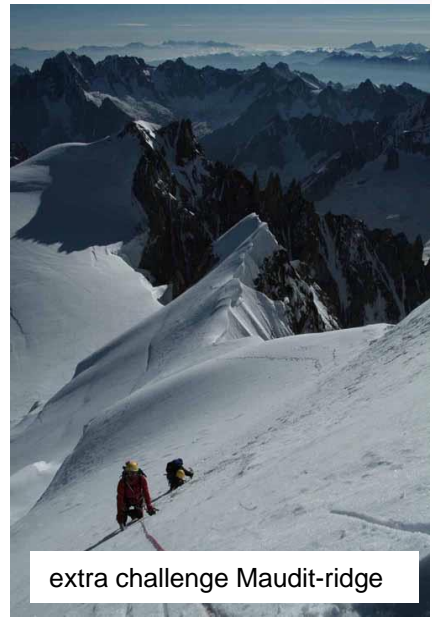


Refuge du Grands Mulets

# Montblanc-Challenge



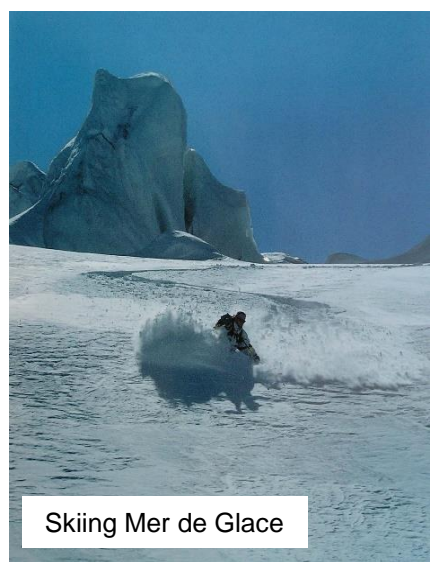
On our way to Maudit



extra challenge Maudit-ridge



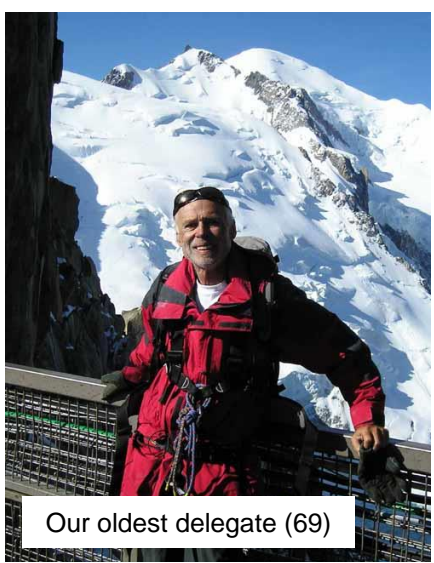
Enjoying powder



Skiing Mer de Glace

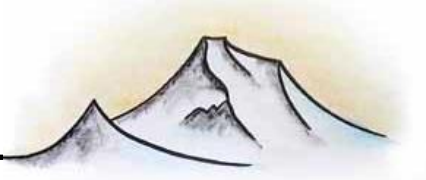


On our summitday after leaving the hut



Our oldest delegate (69)

# Montblanc-Challenge



Strong wind on day 2



Snowwaves on 4.000m



"Dent du Geant" in magical light



Team 2022 on the summit!

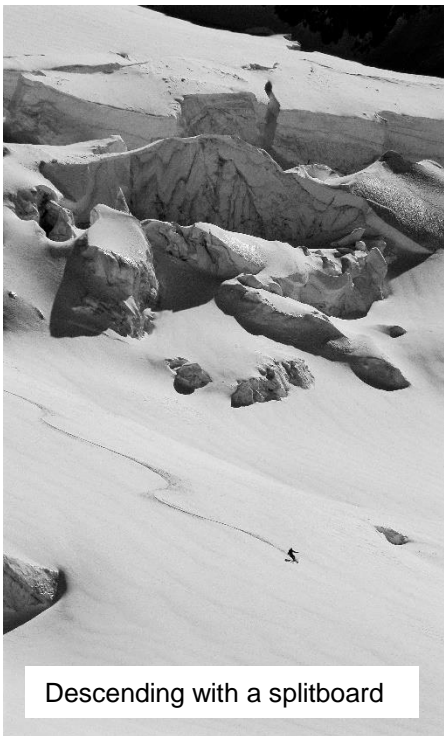


Bivouacplace at 4.300m



More pinnacles to climb . . .

# Montblanc-Challenge



Descending with a splitboard



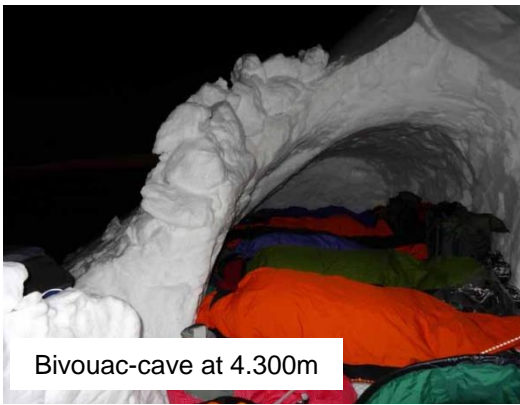
Early morning hike



Ridge of Mont Maudit



Descent near Grand Mulets



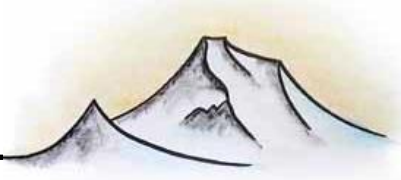
Bivouac-cave at 4.300m



Abseiling at Planpraz



Montblanc at dawn



# Montblanc-Challenge

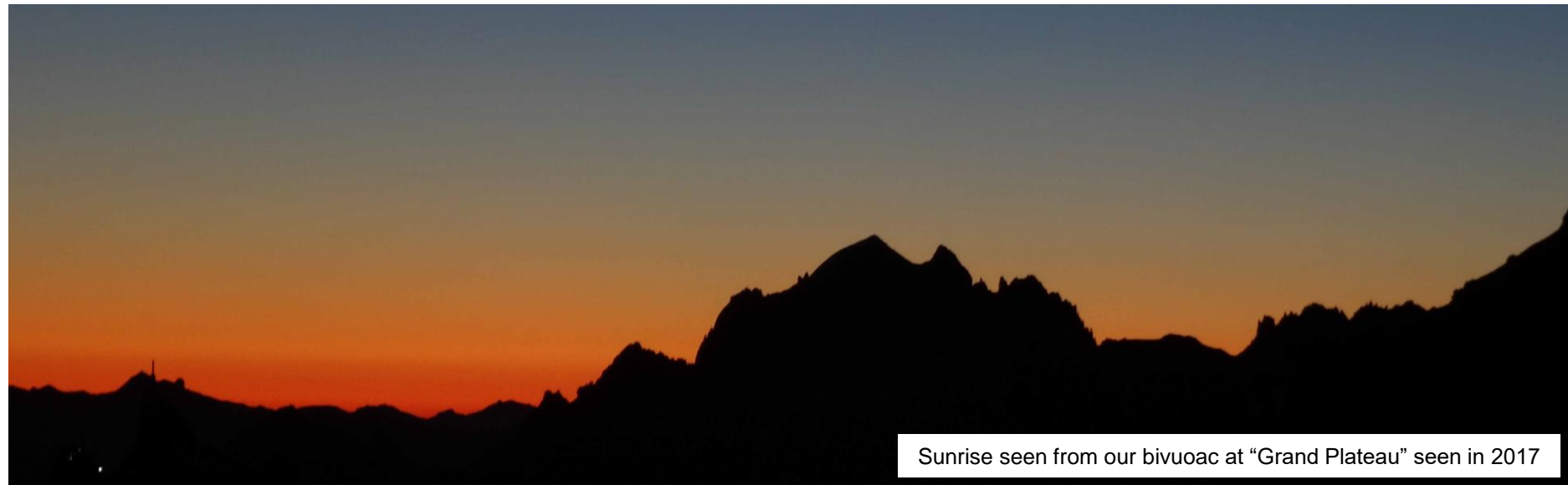
## Feedback from some of the challenges:

“The MontBlanc Challenge turned out to be a unique and unforgettable adventure surpassing all expectations. Already the two and a half acclimatisation days on the mountain included summits, views, challenges and experiences that would have been worth the trip even without the MontBlanc summit. Then, the trip to the summit just was superb, challenging, exhausting but providing lots of endorphins, emotions and joy on the top. Coming down, the bivouac on the glacier at 3800m in an unbelievable scenery was another unforgettable experience. Stefan and his team throughout the 6 days were wonderful guides and coaches, that stretched us out of our comfort zone, but never too far, formed a great team, always provided lots of positive spirit and most importantly always made us feel safe.“ (2017 - Walter Oblin)

“The Mont Blanc Challenge was a week full of incredible highlights for me. Regardless of the level of mountaineering previously experienced, Stefan and his team could cater all needs and interests of the whole group with exciting skill-sessions, amazing landscapes and challenging tours that sometimes led you out of your comfort zone - while always providing a feeling of safety. Altogether I met interesting, like-minded people, learned a lot and had an unforgettable time. It was my debut in the Western Alps but the next mountain will definitely follow soon!” (2017 – Felix Oblin)

“The photographs will always remind me of our inspiring time in Chamonix and on Mont Blanc. This is definitely something i will tell my grandchilds :-). Thanks to you all for the great time and a special thanks to our guides for creating this environment of safety and inspiration. (2016 – Martin Öller)

“Thank you very much for providing me with a hugely life enriching experience. I feel I have developed in many ways more in the 72 / 96 hours we spent on the mountain than ever before. (2016 - Nishil Patel)



Sunrise seen from our bivouac at “Grand Plateau” seen in 2017





Climber below Mont Maudit

## More than seven reasons to sign up for the challenge:

- **Safety is paramount for us** – the goal Nr. 1 is to bring you back home safely with a backpack full of experiences! We are working with people since 1989 and we are known to have the **highest safety-standards** on our trips. One of the reason why none of our more than 10.000 delegates have been ever severely injured during our programmes.
- You shall visit one of the **most beautiful mountain-sceneries** in the world - unforgettable beautiful **descents with skies**, glaciers, crevasses, ice-towers and rock-pinnacles.
- Some days after our trip I shall send you **stunning / beautiful photographs** via WeTransfer!
- You are guided highly professionally along this trip. Our **guides** are **best trained / educated** in technical, physical and psychological aspects. One guide takes 2-3 delegates! Our guides all have a different background with individual strengths that makes our guides-team very smart.
- As we are professionals in group-dynamics & alpine skills we shall **adapt** the **itinerary** constantly to the **needs of you as our delegates** (with the large amount of guides this is easily possible) and to the **circumstances** of the alpine terrain / to the weather-situation.
- Although the groups in the past consisted of people from different countries, professions and mind-set we could always create an **atmosphere of trust, understanding** and **team-spirit** that helped each of them to achieve her / his personal goals.
- During this adventure you will **feel your body** intensively, you will get in **contact with yourself**, you will be **centred in the here & now**, your **mind** will **quiet** down, you will feel deeply **connected with nature & people** and this experience will feel nearly as long as a month (this is the effect of the famous “GATTs – timemachine” 😊).



The stage for the mc



# Montblanc-Challenge

## Facts & figures

**TIME:** For having an unforgettable time in the area of Mont Blanc and a reasonable chance to climb the main summit, we need about 2-3 days to acclimatise and 2 days for the climb to the very top. Depending on the weather & the abilities of the delegates the trip will last around **5 days**.

Arrival in Chamonix: **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> (17:00-18:00) of May** – latest departure is **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2024** in the late evening.

As there are a lot of people who want to join on the “Montblanc-Challenge” I need your **confirmation as soon as possible** to be able to confirm your participation. If the date does not fit - I am sure that there will be another Montblanc-challenge the year after – similar time.

**LOCATION:** We recommend to stay on the very nice and tidy campsite called “Mer de Glace” in Chamonix – this is part of the whole adventure. We used the site for all our adventures in Chamonix and will put up our “Basecamp” to make the debrief-rounds there. In 2022 we used a very nice apartment for all of us which helped for easy coordination. But if you want you can take the comfort of a hotel in Chamonix – this is your decision. For the campsite / apartment we are organising the reservation, for the hotel please organize yourself.

**ABILITIES - PREPARATION:** The Montblanc-Challenge is meant for people that are experienced skiers in the backcountry with **average fitness**. (This means being able to run 10km in 55min or less, hiking 900 altimeters in 120min or less, or being able to keep a speed of 5km/h with 10° on the treadmill for 120min, or to make 2 (or more) Watt / kg on a bike-trainer a 120min → **fitness benchmarks**) For the preparation it is important that you are doing cardio-pulmonary training like 1-2 hours running or quick hiking (pulse 120-145) twice or three times a week (at least for 6-8 months) to get in shape in a physical way. For the technical difficulties you should train your skiing in the backcountry with all sorts of snow. You will get more advice for training & needed gear after sending your registration. If your abilities in talking in English are not as good as you want them to be, this can be a good opportunity to improve your English. As a guides-team we can communicate in **languages** such as German, Dutch, English, French, Italian & Spanish.

## YOUR INVESTMENT FOR OUR PERFORMANCE:

**2.650,-- Euros** per person for the organisation and delivery of 4-5 days guiding in the alpine area of Chamonix to at least one of the summits: Montblanc, Mont Maudit, Montblanc du Tacul or Dome du Gouter. The guides-team will be led by Stefan Gatt and the size of the guides-team will be adapted to the amount of participants. One guide leads 2-3 delegates is the rule in this area that we want / have to follow. The minimum amount of participants is 5 people.

**Included:** Travel expenses, lodging and all personal mountain & safety-equipment for the guides. A selection of digital photographs of our adventurous journey as an unforgettable memory will be sent via WeTransfer in the days after the programme.

**Not included:** Your personal travel expenses, transportation with cable-cars, lodging, food & beverages on the mountain & in the valley and rental equipment.

**Conditions of payment:** With the payment of **1.500,-- Euros** your place in the “Expedition-team” is confirmed. The remaining 1.150,-- Euros are to be paid on the first day of guiding. If you cancel (for whatever reason) until end of January you get a full refund. If you cancel later than end of January we have to keep 1000,-- Euros as a cancellation fee. If you cancel later than 1st of May 80% of the full amount is due.

As our glaciers are melting down I want to emphasize not to use a flight to come to Chamonix but to **use the train** or join a car with other climbers. If you use the train to & from Chamonix **I shall reduce the price** for you by (200,- Euros)! Some weeks before the program I shall send the list of delegates to be able to coordinate your travels.



## Your lead-guide for your adventure: Mag. Dr. Stefan Gatt



Born on the 8th of July 1970 I started extreme climbing at the age of thirteen. Six years later I led my first expedition at the age of nineteen to Bolivia with 19 participants. Since 1993 I hold the certificate as a UIAGM - Mountain-guide. Meanwhile I led more than 20 expeditions to the highest peaks in South-America and Tibet with extraordinary success. The last was on Mt. Everest where six climbers out of ten reached the summit. Two climbers succeeded without oxygen.

My biggest personal successes in the mountains: 1<sup>st</sup> snowboard-descent from Mount Everest on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of may 2001 (without oxygen), 2<sup>nd</sup> snowboard-descent from Cho Oyu 8.201m in 1999, 1<sup>st</sup> rescue of an injured person in a lying position from 7.500m on Cho Oyu and 1<sup>st</sup> snowboard-descent from Chimborazo 6.345m (the highest mountain of the world measured from the middle of the earth) in 1990. Furthermore I made about 30 first ascents on the highest and most difficult mountains of the world. All climbs were made in pure alpine style. This means climbing the mountain in one push without the use of bottled oxygen, sherpas or fixed ropes.

In my normal life I work as a coach and facilitator in the field of management-training since 1992. After finishing my studies of sports-science in Vienna in 1996 I put my full power and commitment into this passion. Meanwhile our team of consultants and facilitators grew to a size around 10 people in the inner circle and 30 in an outer circle. We are developing individuals, teams and organisations. You can find more information on [www.stefangatt.at](http://www.stefangatt.at).

My first trip to Montblanc in 1999 was extraordinary for me. Together with my friend Markus we took all our six friends up to summit - the whole experience was overwhelming. In 2003 we had the same experience with inexperienced clients again. In 2005 we tried to climb the very summit with two teams but Montblanc did not want to be visited and we failed. In 2006 we made another successful journey with two groups of individuals who wanted to stretch their comfort-zone and succeeded. Summer 2007 brought masses of snow. That was the reason why we climbed the summit of Montblanc du Tacul on a challenging but safe route and had a very special time on the mountain. In 2009 we had another successful climbing-week and all delegates reached their personal summit. That year we had six including our oldest delegate on the main summit in the age of 69 ☺. In **2010** we had a beautiful weather-window in the very beginning. **All** very fit **four delegates** stood at the very **summit** 46 hours after having met at the camp-site. In 2011 five delegates reached all the three summits together. In 2012 another five delegates reached the main summit. Our success-rate in the years 2009-2012 of 69% (69% of all delegates (18 in total) & guides reached the main summit!) was destroyed 2013 by strong winds (100km/h) and avalanche danger – therefore we climbed Tour Ronde and Montblanc du Tacul with all our eight delegates. In **2016** we used the Gouterroute to get **all our four delegates to the top**. Two made the 2.500 altimetres in one day and reached the summit at 21:45 and the other two in the morning the next day . In **2017** we had perfect weather for our summit-trip and **all five delegates reached the summit** via the “Three monts route” and descended via the old route. In 2019 75% of our delegates were able to climb and descend via Grands Mulets – all the way from the valley (4.000 altimeters – without the help of cable-cars). In 2022 all 8 delegates and 3 guides were able to summit & ski from the top of the alps and had a great time . . .

*I am looking forward to welcome YOU in our **Montblanc-team 2024!***

**Mag. Dr. Stefan Gatt**

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First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

- I agree to join the “Montblanc-Challenge“ from **3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2024** and that my signature is a binding agreement
- I am an experienced skier  I am experienced in ski touring
- I am already an experienced climber as I have already climbed . . . \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (please sign to the left and briefly describe your experience)

- I certify that I reach the fitness-benchmarks  I will train as much, that I reach these benchmarks at the time that the adventure starts!
- I have never walked with crampons on ice!  I shall / want to attend a basic training in alpine skills before the programme

When we receive your written form and the advance payment of **EUR 1500,-** you are in the team. Please remit the money with the text **“mc2024”** to my Austrian bank account: Erste Österreichische Sparkasse: IBAN: AT252011100037634356 SWIFT-code: GIBAAATWW. After your registration you will receive more information about “Training”, “equipment-checklist”, “frequently asked questions” and a “handout for alpine climbs”.

### Terms of business (complying to the written information):

Included: Travel expenses, lodging and all personal mountain & safety-equipment for the guides. A selection of digital photographs of our adventurous journey as an unforgettable memory will be sent via WeTransfer in the days after the programme.

Not included: Your personal travel expenses, transportation with cable-cars, lodging, food & beverages on the mountain & in the valley and rental mountain-equipment.

Conditions of payment: With the payment of **1500,- Euros** your place in the “Expedition-team” is confirmed. The remaining amount is to be paid on the first day of guiding. If you cancel (for whatever reason) until end of February you get a full refund. If you cancel later than end of February we have to keep 1.000,- Euros as a cancellation fee. If you cancel later than two weeks before the start the full amount is due. If you want to make the Montblanc Challenge again (because it was so wonderful for you / or you were not successful to climb the main-summit, because of bad weather, physical abilities, health etc.) we reduce the price for repeaters by 200,- Euros.

With my signature I confirm my decisions written above.

\_\_\_\_\_ (location, date)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)