

Winter mountaineering and ice fall climbing equipment



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Winter mountaineering, ice and mixed gullies in Scotland

Discover British mountaineering in Scotland, renowned for its beauty and colours (even when the weather is bad), and the warm, friendly atmosphere in its pubs.

IMPORTANT : as we have to pay in full for the Ben Nevis/CIC hut in December, any bookings arriving after 01.01.2004 will be subject to a 20% surcharge on the prices shown below! !

Dates : the last week of February and the first three weeks of March.

Journey: by air to GLASGOW / SCOTLAND by Ryanair or Easyjet

8 or 13 days!

Level: experienced or novice (on request, 2 guides). Scottish mountaineering is much more varied than our icefall climbing and is also very suitable for novices. 4 places per week with one guide (who is a good lead climber).

Price : 990 euros (1200 euros per person if only 2 participants) for 8 days.

1800 euros for 12 or 13 days.

Road or air transport not included in price.

* taxis or bus journeys in Scotland

* supervision and training by a mountain guide

* accommodation and meals

If you wish to travel by air with RYANAIR or EASYJET : Paris-Glasgow, or better still, LYON –INVERNESS return (Inverness is only 80km north of Fort William, where we meet) , costs between 100 and 150 euros: then either by bus (regular, daily) to FORT WILLIAM or we will collect you in Glasgow if possible).

We no longer organise courses in Scotland later than the beginning of April, because from mid-April onwards the weather is too warm and the conditions are often bad .

Sample programme (other routes are possible)

Day 1 :

Leave on Saturday at 6 o'clock in the morning from Paris, Porte de la Chapelle (underground). Return to Paris the following Saturday or Sunday. OR, rendezvous in Calais (passenger port) to take the boat on Saturday morning. The road journey is long, so an 8 or 9 day course seems to us to be a minimum ; participants find even this is too short. We continue the journey to Scotland the same day. Arrival in Fort William at night. (11 hour road journey in Great Britain).

Day 2 :

After a 4 km taxi ride (we leave our vehicle in Fort William), walk up to the Ben Nevis hut. OR, ascent (grade IV or V mixed or dry tooling) in the Cairngorms.

Day 3 :

Ben Nevis, 1345 m, North-East and North-West faces.

We climb Hadrian's Wall for example, or one of the most famous Scottish mixed routes, Observatory Ridge (IV), a historic and still difficult route which was put up in 1920. We climb on Ben Nevis until at least Friday. Descent to Glen Nevis, near the Great lake.

Day 4 :

After the ridges - the grade IV or V icefalls and gullies, or 'acclimatisation' in Green Gully (IV) and Glover's Chimney (III, IV). It is possible to climb these two gullies in the same day, if all goes well.

Days 5 and 6 :

Ascents of the famous Point Five Gully (V) and/or Zero Gully (V) and Two Step Corner, if conditions allow, or other grade VIs, such as Galactic Hitch-Hiker (VI). Otherwise we climb less steep, easier routes, such as the Brenva face via Moonwalk (IV) and North East Buttress (IV).

Day 7 :

Up early! We go to Glencoe to climb either Agag's (IV), or Raven's Gully (V). 2 hour walk-in.

Day 8 :

Saturday, return to France.

Day 9 :

Arrival in Paris Saturday evening or Sunday morning. The course can be extended, so as to return to France on the Wednesday; or 2 weeks can be linked, for 10 000 Francs maximum per participant - for ice and mixed climbing fanatics.

In addition to normal mountaineering and ice fall climbing equipment, you will need :

- a whistle
- waterproof garments, oilskin jacket....
- a few extenders, 2 screwgate carabiners, 2 normal carabiners
- 1 or 2 'cow's tails' in 9 or 10 mm diameter rope, must be rope not tape : or bring two 180cm min lengths of rope and we will make them up for you.
- prussik loops, in 6 or 7mm rope; rope or tape loops, long enough to go twice round your chest diagonally.

- your passport
- rapatriation insurance
- rock climbing footwear (even in winter, there are sunny rock faces).
- high mountain boots (for Scotland we recommend plastic shell boots (Koflach) with removable inners, or, even better, the 'Jannu' from ONE SPORT, an alpine winter boot.

MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

- head torch, spare battery and bulb, penknife, bowl, cutlery, water bottle, spare laces, etc.....
- pair of glacier glasses
- crampons
- ice axes (50 cm long)
- helmet, harness, fig 8 or New Alp abseil device, with screwgate carabiners
- rucksac (big enough), lots of plastic bags
- very warm sleeping bag and karrimat foam mattress or thermarest
- waterproof gaiters
- snowshoes or touring skis
- telescopic, or fixed ski poles
- a metal mug, spoon, fork, stoves and gas.

CLOTHES

- woollen gloves (2 pairs)
- ski goggles
- 2 pairs of warm, waterproof gloves, 1 pair of mittens
- 2 pairs of woollen socks
- hat or balaclava or headband
- warm jacket (anorak), SNC or duvet jacket
- waterproof overtrousers or ski suit
- warm, functional clothes for the evenings
- tee-shirt, underclothes, toiletries
- camera (well protected) and films
- small personal first aid kit(adhesive tape, aspirin, total sun block for lips and skin.)