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Alpenwild Fact Sheet

Founded: 2003

The Story: After decades of leading outdoor adventures and cultural expedition worldwide, Greg Witt returned to his first passion, the Alps. In 2003, starting with one tour, Witt founded Alpenwild, which today offers more tours and active authentic experiences than any other operator in the Alps.

Description: Alpenwild is the leading tour operator offering world-class walking, hiking, trekking and culinary tours in the Alps. The company is also the leader in scenic rail tours in the region.

Each tour vividly brings the Alps to life, highlighting unrivalled alpine scenery, rural gastronomy, traditional luxury hospitality, and one-of-a-kind experiences.

Tours showcase the multi-faceted alpine culture and cuisine through daily exploration and authentic, hands-on experiences as guests meet local artisans, farmers, chocolatiers, chefs, truffle hunters and vintners.

Founder: Greg Witt, Founder and Chief Adventure Officer of Alpenwild, is a leading adventure travel expert in the Alps. An award-winning author, he has written more than a dozen hiking, adventure and travel books.

Location: Alpenwild tours explore Switzerland, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Austria and Slovenia. In 2022 Alpenwild expanded beyond the Alps to offer hiking tours in England and Croatia.

Authentic Experiences: Unique alpine experiences include making cheese over an open fire using a 1,000-year-old recipe with a Swiss farmer, making artisan bread in a remote Swiss chalet, working with an award-winning master chocolatier, hunting for truffles in the Jura woodlands and walking through ancient terraced vineyards. These are included in many of the tours.

- Tours:** Alpenwild offers more than 90 guided tours each year throughout the Alps. Scenic walking, hiking, and rail tours begin in May and run through October. Higher altitude hiking and trekking tours typically begin in June and end in September. Christmas Market tours, winter hiking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing tours are available in December through March.
- Alpine Guides:** Alpenwild employs 50 experienced and highly trained guides who are passionate about culture, adventure and safety. Olympic and World Cup skiers, university-trained historians, biologists, artists, professors, and teachers rank among their numbers. For decades, Greg and his core team of expert guides have led small groups of walkers, hikers, and trekkers through one of the most scenic destinations in the Western hemisphere.
- Group Size:** Groups are kept small, usually six to 12 guests, which assures an optimal experience. Private and affinity tours can accommodate smaller or larger groups.
- Guided Tours:** The most popular tour choice, guided tours, takes guests beyond the tourist trails to explore the culture, history and local cuisine in the Alps. Well-crafted Alpenwild itineraries include scenic walks, hikes or treks; hand-picked accommodations; and exclusive excursions and experiences with local artisans. All accommodations, meals, artisan experiences, luggage transfers and ground transportation are included in the price of the tour.
- Self-Guided Tours:** For independent travelers looking for exceptional value, Alpenwild provides custom arrangements for self-guided tours. Most include a detailed daily itinerary, accommodations, and meals. Luggage transfers are optional. Additionally, most guided tours can be customized to become a self-guided tour.
- Private Tours:** Private tours are gaining in popularity, with approximately 20 percent of Alpenwild's tours created especially for families and affinity groups. Tours can be customized based on special interests such as wildflowers, photography, glaciers, cheese making, wildlife, family history, or chocolate.
- Guided Walking:** Scenic tours highlight castles, vineyards, rural gastronomy, ancient villages, Roman ruins, and culinary experiences. Popular tours include *Scenic Alps by Rail* focusing on the most picturesque and culturally rich corners of Switzerland, including Zermatt, Gruyères, Luzern and the Jungfrau. Walking tour itineraries last from seven

to 12 days, and guests should expect to walk between one to three miles per day.

Guided Hiking:

These more active excursions and day hikes from charming mountain villages unlock the beauty of the Alps. Popular hiking tours include *Best of the Swiss Alps*, *The Italian Dolomites*, *Best of the French Alps*, *St Moritz to Italy*, and *Exploring the Jungfrau*. Hiking tours are typically seven to nine days and cover five to nine miles per day.

Guided Trekking:

Alpenwild offers a wide range of trekking adventures, ascending and descending formidable mountain passes. A popular choice, the *Tour du Mont Blanc* circles western Europe's highest peak. One of the most challenging treks that Alpenwild offers, the seminal *Chamonix-Zermatt Haute Route* goes from Mont Blanc in France to the iconic Matterhorn in Switzerland. Alpenwild was the first North American tour operator to offer the classic *Via Alpina* trek across Switzerland on a guided basis. Trekking tour itineraries are eight to 12 days. Distances covered between six and 12 miles per day.

Food Tours:

Switzerland is a food heaven and Alpenwild is the leader in authentic culinary adventures in the Alps. Food-based tours include truffle hunting, chocolate and truffle making with a renowned chocolatier, and hands-on artisan bread and cheese making. Alpenwild's popular culinary tours include *Cheese*, *Chocolate*, and *the Alps*, and the *Tour de Chocolat* which explore the gastronomic specialties of Switzerland's three cultural and linguistic regions—German, French, and Italian.

Scenic Rail Tours:

The leader in scenic rail tours, Alpenwild offers this popular alternative to explore the beauty of the Alps from the comfort of a first-class, panoramic rail car. Due to their popularity, the number of rail tour offerings has doubled in recent years. Scenic rail tours range from eight to 10 days.

Hike and Spa:

Indigenous alpine spa treatments await guests on the *Deluxe Haute Route* tour and several others. After a full day of hiking in the Alps, spa services utilizing alpine herbs, pine-scented baths and full body massages are the perfect antidote to tired muscles and feet.

Accommodations:

Guests stay in an array of carefully selected Swiss inns, small luxury hotels, and classic berghotels, all included in the price of the tour. Each offers superior hospitality and luxury accommodations. Berghotels are traditional mountain accommodations found in remote settings.

Alpenwild hand picks guestrooms offering the finest alpine views.

Traditional mountain huts or “refuges” are found in the most remote mountain settings offering trekkers dormitory-style accommodations, family-style meals and a lively atmosphere. A stay in a mountain hut is an authentically traditional and memorable way to experience the Alps.

Dining: Dining ranges from traditional farm breakfasts and casual outdoor lunches and picnics, to a la carte meals and memorable dinners at coveted Michelin-starred restaurants. Special dietary needs such as vegetarian and gluten-free can also be accommodated.

Alpenglow Loyalty Program: Returning Alpenwild guests are automatically enrolled in the Alpenglow loyalty rewards program. Members receive discounts, special promotions and Alpenwild premiums.

Tours Include: Guided tour prices cover all ground transportation, including gondola lifts, funiculars, trains and shuttles; an expert guide; accommodations; luggage transfers; and all activities. Most meals feature a la carte dining in select restaurants, and all authentic culinary experiences are also included.

Transportation: Included in the tour price is a Railpass or shuttle transfer that can be used for travel to and from the tour departure point. Transfers can be used from major airports including Zurich, Geneva, Venice, Milan, and rail stations.

Alpenwild can organize a meet and greet for private groups.

Luggage Transfers: The convenience of luggage transfers allows guests to carry a light day pack as their belongings are transferred to the day’s next destination.

Reservations: (801) 226-9026

Credit Cards: Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. Easy and secure on-line booking.

Pricing: Tour prices start at \$999 per person for a seven day, self-guided, inn-to-inn tour, to \$6,399 per person for the 12-day, *Deluxe Tour du Mont Blanc* or *Via Alpina* trek.

- Reservations Deposit:** A \$500 deposit is required to confirm the reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Prices quoted are in U.S. dollars and are guaranteed at the time of confirmed reservation.
- Cancellation:** Reservations must be cancelled at least 60 days prior to departure for a full refund, less a \$100 service fee. Cancellations made between 60 and 15 days prior to departure are subject to a \$500 per person cancellation penalty. Cancellations made less than 15 days before departure are subject to a \$1000 cancellation penalty.
- Local Currency:** Guests will use the Swiss Franc, Euro, and British Pound in their respective countries.
- Language Spoken:** All guides speak English as well as languages needed on tour, including Swiss-German, French, Italian, Slovenian, Croatian or German.
- Website:** www.Alpenwild.com
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