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Alpenwild Backgrounder

Alpenwild is the leading tour operator in the Alps, offering world-class walking, hiking, trekking, culinary, and scenic rail tours. The specialty travel company has decades of experience with active travel in the Alps. Alpenwild delivers a wide variety of active tours enriched by local cultural experiences, luxury accommodations, gourmet meals, and the unrivalled beauty of the Alps. Their tours explore Switzerland, France, Italy, and Austria.

The Insider's Guide to the Alps

Alpenwild's passion for delivering authentic alpine experiences shows as they ensure each tour is unique. Their well-trained guides have an insider's knowledge of where to encounter rare edelweiss, spot elusive chamois, or harvest mountain blueberries.

Guides know where to locate picturesque stream crossings, scenic routes and photo ops, and tasty bakeries and chocolatiers. This in-depth knowledge comes from years of experience working with fascinating local artisans and purveyors to create one-of-a-kind, unforgettable adventures.

Greg Witt, Founder and Chief Adventure Officer

Greg Witt, award-winning author of over a dozen travel guidebooks, is the top adventure expert in the Alps today. He has over 30 years of experience leading group expeditions throughout the Alps and beyond. The company focuses solely on the Alps and has 25 highly experienced and certified guides including Olympic and world cup skiers, university-trained historians, biologists, artists, professors and teachers. Greg and his guides know the region intimately.

The Majestic Alps

The unrivalled splendor of the majestic Matterhorn, the imposing Mont Blanc and the dramatic Eiger have beckoned travelers and adventurers for thousands of years. The stunning beauty



and sheer concentration of glaciers and mountain peaks makes the Alps one of the most scenic destinations in the world.

Snow-capped mountains dive down into long stretches of wildflower meadows, as well as into meandering streams and glacial lakes. Postcard-worthy villages are spread throughout the Alps, each with their own character and language.

Countless travelers and adventurers have skirted, walked or climbed the Alps as they have made their way across Europe. Famous generals such as Hannibal and Napoleon marched their armies there. Renowned artists and writers have been inspired by the Alps, including Picasso, Lord Byron, Goethe, and J.R.R. Tolkien, whose "Middle Earth" is based on a formative vacation in the Alps.

Guided Tours – What's Included

Guided walking, hiking and trekking tours are Alpenwild's specialty, which include meticulously curated itineraries. All guided tours come with an expert Alpenwild trip leader—a carefully chosen, highly trained guide with an encyclopedic knowledge of the Alps, and a love for nature, adventure, and culture.

All tours include gourmet meals, hearty trail snacks, luggage transfers and superb accommodations including charming hotels with luxury spas, cozy inns and alpine berghotels. Alpenwild's luggage transfers allow guests to pack lightly each day, knowing that all their luggage will appear at the next destination.

The price of tours includes rail excursions, lunches, and elaborate gourmet picnics. One-of-a-kind experiences such as truffle hunting, cheese and chocolate making, and wine tasting are also included. Guided tours range in price from \$2995 for a 7-day tour to \$4995 for a deluxe 12-day trek.

Guided Tour Highlights

An example of a tour highlight is a breathtaking cog rail ascent of the snowy Jungfrau to Europe's highest railway station, showcasing a stunning panoramic view. Guests may also have the opportunity make artisan cheese over an open fire followed by a hearty farm breakfast. With certain itineraries, guests have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore the mountain trails around Zermatt with views of the iconic Matterhorn, or craft the finest chocolates and truffles with a world renowned Swiss chocolatier.



Tour Types

Alpenwild offers a wide range of tours in each walking, hiking or trekking category. Tour itineraries can focus on: food, chocolate, culture, history, art, photography, and scenic rail tours. With walking and hiking tours, guests can expect to walk or hike from three to seven miles per day. Trekkers can expect a more rigorous itinerary covering up to twelve miles per day.

Food-Focused Walking and Hiking Tours

Because hiking and food go together, Alpenwild's tours frequently include gourmet rural gastronomy and Michelin-starred dining. All emphasize delicious and rich cultural traditions.

Although Switzerland is typically known for cheese and chocolate, it is quickly becoming Europe's new foodie destination, with more Michelin-starred restaurants per capita than any other country. Alpenwild is the leader in culinary adventures in the Alps and offers several foodie walking and hiking tours.

Tours feature Swiss cuisine with French, German, and Italian influences and traditional farm-to-table alpine dishes. Tour highlights include a trip to Gruyères and a hands-on cheese making experience with a Swiss farmer, truffle hunting in the woodlands of the Alps, cooking classes, artisan bread baking, plein-air painting and Swiss vineyard visits.

Tour de Chocolat

Switzerland is the birthplace of fine chocolate, and Alpenwild's "Tour de Chocolat" is a chocoholics dream. Discover the time-honored traditions used to make the most famous chocolates in the world. Learn from an artisan "bean to bar" chocolate maker and work side-by-side with a world-renowned chocolatier making delectable hand-crafted truffles and exotic confections. Other food focused tours include "Cheese, Chocolate and the Scenic Alps," or "Discover Swiss Cuisine -- French, German or Italian Inspired." These tours run from \$3495 for a seven-day itinerary to \$3995 for a nine-day tour.

Scenic Rail Tours

Riding the world-renowned Swiss rail system is a delightful option for those travelers who want to experience the natural beauty of the Alps from the comfort of their first-class, panoramic rail car. Alpenwild is the leader in offering scenic rail tours in the Alps. These tours are quickly gaining popularity, and the company has doubled their offerings in 2018 to accommodate more guests. These tours cost \$4595 for a ten-day itinerary.



Guided Walking Tours

Scenic walking tours allow guests to discover the Alps with gentle walks and many stops to take in the beauty of the surroundings. Fabulous picnics and strolls through picturesque alpine villages are typically followed by exploring scenic trails before dinner.

Popular tours include "Swiss Bliss," focusing on the most picturesque corners including Zermatt, Gruyères, Luzern and the Jungfrau. Other popular tours include "In the Footsteps of Tolkien" and "Plein Air Painting in the Alps." These itineraries range from \$3795 to \$3995 for an eight or 9-day tour.

Guided Hiking Tours

Explore the Alps on foot with these more active excursions, including daily hikes between charming mountain villages. Hiking tours include "Appenzell Inn to Inn," "Best of the French Alps," "Italian Dolomites," and "Exploring the Jungfrau," a UNESCO World Heritage site, where waterfalls are plenty, glaciers collide and moist forest trails are in abundance.

Guided Trekking Tours

For those seeking a challenge and even more adventure, Alpenwild offers several world-class trekking itineraries including the "Tour du Mont Blanc" that circles western Europe's highest peak and the popular "Haute Route" that takes trekkers from Mont Blanc in Chamonix, France to the most iconic peak in Europe, the Matterhorn in Zermatt, Switzerland.

A classic "Inn to Inn," hike featuring the spectacular Bernese Oberland, winds its way through remote alpine hamlets and bucolic scenery. With steep ascents and descents, these off-the-beaten-path treks are very strenuous yet extremely rewarding. These tours cost between \$4395 for a 9-day itinerary and \$4995 for a deluxe 12-day trek.

Self-Guided Tours

For those seeking independence and exceptional value, Alpenwild's self-guided adventures offer the best of both worlds with Alpenwild's expertise in the Alps.

Alpenwild self-guided tours feature customized itineraries, a range of accommodations from dormitory-style mountain huts to four and five star hotels, on-site assistance and gourmet cuisine.

The self-guided "Chamonix-Zermatt Haute Route," a popular choice, follows the classic trek across the Swiss Alps. This enables independent travelers to experience it knowing that



Alpenwild's expertise is leading the way. The convenience of luggage transfers can also be added allowing guests to bring just a light backpack each day.

Self-guided tours start at \$999 per person for a 7-day itinerary up to \$3895 for a 14-day trek.

Customized, private tours are also available. For more information or for easy and secure on-line booking of your Alpenwild adventure go to: www.Alpenwild.com or call reservations at (801) 226-9026.

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