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## Alpenwild Backgrounder

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

### The Insider's Guide to the Alps

Passionate about delivering an authentic alpine experience, each Alpenwild tour is as unique as the peaks in the Alps. Alpenwild's guides have an insider's knowledge of where to encounter the rare edelweiss, spot the elusive chamois, or harvest mountain blueberries.

The company's mission is to offer the finest Alpine experience possible. Guides know where to locate picturesque stream crossings, the most scenic routes and photo ops, the tastiest bakeries and most divine 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, best-selling and award-winning author of over a dozen adventure and travel guidebooks, is the world's leading adventure expert in the Alps today. He has over 30 years of experience exploring and leading group adventures throughout the Alps and beyond. The company focuses solely on the Alps and has 23 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 rising above alpine meadows 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, meandering streams and glacial lakes. Dotted throughout are picture postcard villages, each with its own character and language, depending on which part of the Alps it is located.

Countless travelers and adventurers have skirted, walked or climbed the Alps as they have made their way across Europe. Such famous generals as Hannibal and Napoleon marched their armies there. Renowned artists and writers have been inspired by them, 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 and include meticulously curated itineraries. Most important, 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, culture, gastronomy and safety.

All tours include gourmet meals, hearty trail snacks, luggage transfers and superb accommodations including charming hotels with spas, cozy inns and alpine berghotels.



Easing the journey, Alpenwild's luggage transfers allow guests to pack lightly each day, knowing that all their luggage will appear at the next destination.

Tours include rail excursions, lunches, and elaborate gourmet picnics. One-of-a-kind experiences including truffle hunting, cheese and chocolate making, and wine tastings are also included. Guided tours range in price from \$2995 for a seven-day tour to \$4995 for a deluxe twelve-day trek.

## Guided Tour Highlights

Tour highlights may include 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. On certain itineraries, guests may 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 to cover up to twelve miles per day.

## Food-Focused Walking and Hiking Tours

Hiking and food go together, and 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 a number of 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 gaining in popularity, and the company has doubled their offerings in 2018. 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 nine-day tour.

### **Guided Hiking Tours**



Explore the Alps on foot with these more active excursions and 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. The infamous North Face of the Eiger towers in steep contrast to the lush meadows and scenic splendor of this part of the Alps during hikes.

## 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 nine-day itinerary and \$4995 for a deluxe twelve-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 a light backpack each day.



Self-guided tours start at \$999 per person for a seven-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](http://www.Alpenwild.com) or call reservations at (801) 226-9026.

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