

Italian Summit Climber

Trip Code: ISC

Version: ISC Italian Summit Climber



MOUNTAINEER



GUIDED GROUP



CHALLENGING



HIGHLIGHTS

- Take on 4000m summits including, Signalkuppe, Pyramid Vincent and Zumsteinspitze
- Stay in the highest refuge in the Alps, the stunningly located Margherita Hut
- Great for Alpine beginners with expert mountaineering skills tuition and IFMGA guide
- Enjoy the great food, hospitality and atmosphere in Italian mountain huts
- [FREE Equipment hire worth £100 is available for this holiday](#)

AT A GLANCE

- 5 days trekking and climbing
- Max altitude - 4562m
- Join at Stafal

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

- 6 Breakfasts
- 6 Dinners
- 4 nights Mountain Hut / Refuge
- 2 nights Hotel

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

There is nowhere in the Alps which has such a high concentration of 4000m peaks than the Monte Rosa group. On our list of objectives this week we have Pyramid Vincent (4215m), Balmenhorn (4167m), Ludswighohe (4341m), Parrotspitze (4432m), Signalkuppe (4556m), and the Zumsteinspitze (4563m). This region of lofty summits, once very remote, is now easily accessible from the Italian side by a comprehensive lift and hut system; it offers many straight-forward glaciated peaks that can be within the grasp of any fit and acclimatised trekker. It also hosts the highest mountain refuge in the Alps; on the summit of the Signalkuppe, stands the impressive Rifugio Margherita (4554m). From the balcony you can stare down one of the biggest faces found in the Alps - 2500m of space below you. To the south stretches the huge plain of the River Po of northern Italy, as for the rest, it is all mountains as far as you can see...

Is this holiday for you?

This trek is designed for experienced trekkers with a good head for altitude. The huts are high and the peaks are even higher. The technical difficulties are low - involving glacier travel and snow slope climbing, with some shorter rocky sections - ropes, axes and crampons will be used. Due to the high altitude, this trek will be physically strenuous. No previous crampon experience is required, however a high level of fitness is required and a good ability to deal with altitude. The guide to client ratio for duration of the trip is 1:4. Due to the height of the Margherita Hut this holiday is not suitable for anyone who has suffered severe symptoms of altitude in the past.

Note: Although we have a plan of summits for each day, the itinerary is subject to change and during the week the guide will use their expertise and local knowledge to determine the best objective for each day. Routes in the high glaciated mountain regions are subject to changing conditions and difficulties. The Alpine Guides may need to make changes to your planned route at very short notice.

Itinerary

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DAY 1

Meet at the group hotel in Stafal.

We meet at the group hotel in Stafal. Here, you will meet your guides and be made to feel at home. In the evening, we will have an informal chat about the week ahead. There will also be a chance for our guide to check out your clothing and equipment. We have our evening meal in the Hotel. Please note: Although we have a plan of summits for each day, the itinerary is subject to change and during the week your guide will use their expertise and local knowledge to determine the best objective for each day.

Meals: **D**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 2

Walk up to the Orestes Hut (2600m). Ascend Alta Luce (3185m).

After a short journey in a cable car to gain a little height, we will start our acclimatisation process with a gentle walk up the Endre valley to the Orestes Hut. Once at the hut we will leave our climbing kit and ascend with a lighter pack to the Colle Di Salza 3000m and up to the summit of Alta Luce. This 3185m peak, as well being a good warm up, offers stunning views of the huge glaciers descending from the South face of Liskamm and Pyramid Vincent. We will then descend back down to the hut. The Orestes hut is no ordinary hut; this recently built refuge is made from local larch wood in a traditional 'Walser' style and boasts a five star service - a sun terrace, a yoga room, library and modern shower facilities.

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation
Mountain Hut / Refuge



Ascent
900M



Descent
600M



Time
6 hours walking



Distance
10KM

DAY 3

Walk up to Rifugio Mantova (3500m). Glacier skills.

After a relaxed breakfast, we leave the comfortable Orestes hut and head into the higher world. A good path leads us up to the Rifugio Mantova at 3500m. The glacier starts from here so in the afternoon we will practice crampons skills and rope work in preparation for the days of glacier travel ahead of us. Taking afternoon tea at the Gnifetti Hut we will then return to sleep, just that little bit lower at the Mantova for this night.

Meals: **B D**






	Accommodation Mountain Hut / Refuge		Ascent 800M		Time 3 - 4 hours walking/climbing		Distance 5KM
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DAY 4

Ascend Pyramid Vincent (4215m), and visit the Balmenhorn (4167m). Night in Rifugio Gnifetti (3637m).

Today we tackle 2 objectives. It will be crampons on from the hut, and we ascend the glacier towards the Lisjoch. Pyramid Vincent is a straight-forward snow climb. The Balmenhorn (despite its mighty name) is a minor lump of rock in a sea of ice - however, on its not so lofty summit is a huge statue of Christ and an emergency bivouac hut. We gain this summit by a series of metal staples placed in the rock. After all this fun we head to the Rifugio Gnifetti. The Gnifetti hut is perched on a rocky buttress, and is a huge hut with 176 beds, shower facilities are available. It's a lively Italian fortress and the food is excellent.

Meals: **B D**

	Accommodation Mountain Hut / Refuge		Ascent 950M		Descent 800M		Time 5 - 7 hours walking
	Distance 8KM						




DAY 5

Ascend Ludwigshohe (4341m), Parrotspitze (4432m). Ascend to the Rifugio Margherita on the summit of the Signalkuppe (4554m).

These summits are all snow and ice. We retrace our steps of the previous day this time heading for the Lisjoch 4200m. These peaks are all straight-forward snow climbs but on account of the high altitude they will be physically demanding and it is frequently very cold. We spend the night on the summit of the Signalkuppe, in the Margherita Hut. The first building was placed here in 1893, it was replaced in 1980 with a much bigger structure. This is the highest building in Europe and there is no refuge in the Alps that can compete with the views from this hut - the huge expanse of the Po river plains of Italy, lie

below us to the South, whilst West, North and East you can see the curve of The Alps stretching away - you are looking down on summits not up!

Meals: **B D**

	Accommodation Mountain Hut / Refuge		Ascent 1000M		Descent 100M		Time 7 - 8 hours walking
	Distance 7KM						

DAY 6

Ascend Zumsteinspitze (4562m). Return to the valley.

This will be our final and highest peak. A short descent from the hut leads us to the Colle Gnifetti 4452m - from here it's a short ascent to this summit of the Zumsteinspitze. This is yet another stunning view point particularly of the Matterhorn, Liskamm, Castor, Pollux, Breithorn, Dufoursptitze and many more! We make our journey back crossing the Lisjoch and descend, past the Rifugio Gnifetti to the Rifugio Mantova. After refreshments/ lunch, we head down to the lift and return to our comfortable valley base.

Meals: **B D**

	Accommodation Hotel		Ascent 130M		Descent 1600M		Time 4 - 5 hours walking		Distance 9KM
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DAY 7

Departure day

KE group package services end after breakfast.

Meals: **B**

Holiday Information

What's Included

- Professional IFMGA Guide(s)
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- All cable cars and uplift required by the itinerary
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What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Airport transfers
- Lunches (as detailed in the Meal Plan)
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

TRAVEL TO YOUR DESTINATION

In some cases you may choose to take a ferry and/or train to your holiday start and end destination. Please see further information on [Travelling by Train](#).

If flying from the UK there are low cost airlines available to the start and from the end of your holiday.

To benefit from full financial protection, ease your holiday planning, and avoid dealing with airlines, we can book scheduled flights from the UK as part of a flight inclusive package. Scheduled flights are usually more expensive than low cost alternatives, however potentially less stressful if your flight is cancelled or delayed. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will [offset the carbon of your flight](#).

You must join the group at the hotel in Stafal in the evening of day 1 of the trip itinerary. The guide will hold a trek briefing at the hotel before the evening meal, you should aim to be at the hotel for 6pm.

The most convenient international airport is Milan Malpensa Airport and the easiest way to get to Stafal from Milan is by train and bus. From the airport there is a bus to Novara (Line 407) which runs hourly. From here there is a train to Ivrea - Pont St Martin and change one last time to get a V.I.T.A bus to Stafal. Stafal is the last town in this valley.

Another option from Milan is to contact the group hotel and book a transfer - this will be about €250 (this should be booked in advance, directly with the hotel).

Please make sure timings of public transport are looked into before booking flights, as this journey does have several changes. We also suggest arriving into Milan a day early to give yourself a full day to reach Stafal.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All breakfasts and dinners are included in the trip price. Packed lunches and snacks can be bought in the huts. On some days there may be the possibility of having a hot lunch either at a hut encountered on route or a late lunch taken at our overnight halt. You should allow around 10 Euros for a packed lunch from the hut or 15 - 20 Euros for a hot lunch.

Food & Water

When in the towns and villages all tap water is drinkable. In mountain huts there is usually not a sustainable drinking water supply. Water in plastic bottles is brought in to the hut. All huts have a recycling point. If you have to purchase water in plastic bottles please buy the largest bottle you can so as to use less plastic. Please take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a [Water-To-Go bottle](#)) to treat your water if you can fill from a local stream. Bottled water is not provided. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles. Local authorities are working to find solutions to using plastic water bottles in huts. We monitor the situation carefully for updates.

The food provided in huts is of a high standard considering the difficulties of supply inherent in their locations. Evening meals tend to be simple but wholesome and there will usually be a limited menu choice including a vegetarian option. Beer and wine as well as soft drinks and bottled water is available to purchase at most huts. Hut breakfasts in Italy consist of bread and jam, which is sometimes supplemented with cereals, yoghurt and fruit.

Accommodation

During this trip the group will spend 2 nights in hotel accommodation where the rooms will either be twin or triple share. Whilst in the mountains, there are 4 nights spent in mountain huts, where the accommodation provided is on a non-segregated, dormitory-style basis. In some high mountain huts, washing facilities are limited. Single rooms are not available.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by English-speaking IFMGA guides and guiding is at a ratio of 1:4.

Altitude

This holiday involves going to high altitude. During the course of your trip you will reach altitudes in excess of 3500 metres. This is not something that you should worry about; the human body is quite capable of adapting to a very wide range of altitudes, but it is important that we follow some simple rules in order to acclimatise successfully. Before coming on this holiday you should read the advice on trekking at high altitude on our website which can be viewed via the link below. You can also talk to one of our trekking experts if you have any concerns about altitude.

www.keadventure.com/page/altitude.html

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack (of around 30 - 40 litres). For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline. Since group members will carry all personal equipment during the trek, it is important to keep the overall weight of this equipment to a minimum. Neither a sleeping bag nor a camping mattress is needed and it should be possible to keep the weight of your pack to under 10 kg.

Whilst in the mountains you will leave your main bag and travel clothes in the group's hotel in Stafal. Luggage with wheels can be useful for this holiday.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

Preparing for your Holiday

It makes a lot of sense to spend some time before coming on a trekking or climbing trip getting some additional exercise. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. We would suggest that you adopt a weekly exercise regime leading up to your trip. Jogging, squash and swimming are good for developing better stamina. Before departure, we suggest that you try to fit in a number of long walks in hilly country. Whilst it would be useful to have some previous experience of using crampons and an ice-axe, no previous winter climbing experience is required.

Climate

The temperatures that we can expect to encounter during the day will be reasonably warm, ranging from 10°C / 50°F to 25°C / 77°F. It can be cool in the evenings at our highest overnight stopping places, falling close to freezing point at night. The weather is usually stable during July and August, but mountainous areas do generate their own weather systems and occasional rain and even stormy weather cannot be ruled out. You should be prepared for all eventualities!

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your pack to a minimum.

You must bring the following items:

- Mountain Boots (see notes below)
- Crampons - MUST be fitted with anti-balling plates*
- Crampon bag* (when hiring crampons a bag is automatically included / can not be hired separately)
- Ice Axe*
- Mountaineering harness*
- Screw gate karabiner x 1*
- Helmet*
- Trekking poles x 2 (with baskets)
- Gaiters
- Socks - walking socks are best (2/3 pairs)
- Trekking Trousers (i.e. not cotton)
- Waterproof over trousers (with leg zips)
- Underwear
- Thermal Base Layer x 2 (one long sleeved for glacier travel)
- Fleece jacket or pullover
- Waterproof jacket (with hood)
- Extra warm layer - (primaloft or lightweight down)
- Sunhat
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses - category 3 or 4.
- Thin gloves - thermal or leather
- Very warm winter type gloves or mittens
- Sleeping bag liner/sheet sleeping bag (silk is lightest)
- Rucksack (30 - 40 litres should be sufficient)
- Head torch and spare battery
- Sun Protection (high factor for skin)
- Lip salve - with sunscreen
- Water bottle - 1 litre x2 (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Small, lightweight wash kit and pack towel
- Dry bags(s) for daypack/kitbag contents (to ensure they keep dry)
- Small hand sanitizer gel
- Basic First Aid Kit including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters, blister treatment (zinc oxide tape and 'Compeed') and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE OPTIONAL:

- Change of shirt and trousers

- Thermal baselayer - leggings
- Shorts (for non-glacial travel)
- Rain cover for Rucksack
- Earplugs (particularly if you are not the one snoring!)
- Repair kit - (eg. Pocket knife, needle, thread, duct tape etc.)
- Camera
- Travel Clothes (can be left at your hotel)
- Travel Shoes (can be left at your hotel)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Notes

Mountaineering Boots: Recommended boots for this trip are comfortable, warm and sufficiently stiff to take a crampon securely (a sturdy B1 or a 'worn in' B2 boot is ideal). Rigid B3 boots are NOT suitable for this trek.

Crampons: Modern strap on crampons are perfectly acceptable for this trek and will fit any boot. All crampons MUST be fitted with anti-balling plates. Grivel Crampons - G10 or G12 with a strap system are excellent and they come fitted with anti-balling plates. We do not recommend semi-automatic crampons for use with softer boots since with this system, the pull on the heel can lead to blisters. Aluminium crampons are not suitable for this trip (they are not strong enough over mixed terrain).

Equipment hire: Equipment marked with a *can be hired from KE. This can be reserved when you book your trip or closer to your departure but we advise booking hire equipment as soon as possible to ensure availability - equipment hire must be booked through the KE office prior to your departure. Any hired equipment will be collected on arrival from your guide.

We do not hire mountaineering boots, but there are a couple of shops in Stafal that do offer this. Boots will cost about €15 per day to hire and you will of course need to make sure you have time to do this. The website for one of these shops is below:

<http://www.ambaradanspitz.it/default.asp?lang>

Sleeping Bags are NOT required as bedding and hut shoes/slippers are provided at mountain refuges. However, you should bring a sheet sleeping bag.

Needle Sports (specialist mountaineering equipment shop)

Needle Sports is the English Lake District's foremost specialist climbing shop supplying mountaineering, rock, ice, alpine and expedition equipment worldwide. Internationally recognised as among the very best of the UK's top technical climbing gear retailers. They have a good range of equipment appropriate for this trip and offer knowledgeable advice both on their website and in store. View

>><http://www.needlesports.com/>

Cotswold Outdoor



Many of the Equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive 12.5% discount voucher from Cotswold Outdoor and other retailers. [>> Find out more](#)

Land Only Information

We sell this holiday on a Land Only basis, joining in Milan. Please refer to the 'Joining arrangements & transfers' for further details.

Flights SHOULD NOT be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

If flying from the UK there are a number of low cost airlines offering flights to Milan Malpensa. These include Easyjet who have flights from London, Manchester, Edinburgh & Glasgow. Other airports may be available.

If you would prefer to book a 'flight inclusive package' using scheduled airlines from the UK please contact our flights department for a quote. Whilst flight prices are likely to be more expensive you will benefit from full financial protection.

Flight Inclusive Information

Why Choose KE

Why KE

A fantastic guide to client ratio of 1:4, and all uplifts included in the price. Take advantage of free equipment hire when you book more than 4 weeks prior to departure, and make sure you book early to guarantee your place - spaces at the Margherita Hut are very limited and very sought after!

Please Note This document was downloaded on 01/11/2024 and the trip is subject to change