



Guided walks

Enjoy the beauty and splendour of the mountains in the vallee d'Abondance with guided walks provided by a local qualified Mountain Leader. The walks are at three levels :

Level 1

A gentle mountain walk through alpine meadows and forest. We are surrounded by wildlife and fantastic scenery as we make our way alongside a tumbling mountain stream up to one of the cols from which we can view the north face of the daunting Dents du midi and perhaps catch a glimpse of the mythical summit pyramid of Mont Blanc. Lunch in a mountain hut, or a picnic in the meadows. The round trip takes 4-5 hours.



Level 2.

An ascent of one of the local peaks.. The walk takes us through forest tracks and up an easy ridge, where we may spot chamois and hear the cry of the marmotte in this spectacular nature reserve. The rocky summit provides a perfect picnic place.

From the summit we have a view across the whole range of the Western Alps, from mont blanc to the Swiss Alps. The ascent takes 3-4 hour and descent a further 2-3 hours.



Level 3.

Ascent of a local peak with an overnight stay in a mountain hut. Starting in the afternoon, we climb through the forest to reach one of the many mountain huts in the area. The local guardian provides us with a hearty meal and some wine. Soon tales are being told and stories shared with people in the hut, who may be from all around the world. Don't expect the best night's sleep you have ever had, or the most comfortable bed, but a great experience. The following morning we climb one of the local peaks, scrambling up rocky ridges and enjoying the early warmth of the sun on our backs. We reach the summit for a picnic lunch, and then the walk down to a lake, perhaps to bathe tired feet in the pure, cold waters and back to Chatel where the jacuzzi awaits... The ascent takes 4-5 hours, and descent 4-5 hours.



Your guide

Andy Kimmerling has lived in Chatel for 8 years. He has experience of walking and climbing around the world, including trips to the Himalaya and South America, and ascents of Mont Blanc and Kilimanjaro.

He worked as an instructor for Outward Bound in Wales for 5 years and is a qualified Mountain Leader. He has a wealth of knowledge about the local area and a passion for the outdoors and photography.



The Alps.

The Alps of the Haute Savoie are neither as high or as savage as the mountains found further south and East.

None the less, all peaks are more than 2000 metres above sea level and are subject to rapidly changing weather conditions. You will need to be properly equipped with good quality boots and clothing and to have a level of fitness appropriate to the level of walk that you are undertaking. The ascents at level 2 and 3 described above will involve climbs of 800 – 1000 metres.

The above routes are guidelines and individual routes and trip can be planned to suit your needs.