

# WINTER EXPEDITIONS



## OBJECTIVE 4000: THE GRAND COMBIN

The Grand Combin is the legendary mountain of Verbier and its region. From the top of its 4,314 m, this mountain and its glaciers command respect and capture the imagination. Accompanied by a mountain guide, adventurers start the journey from Fionnay via ski touring to reach the Panossière hut (D+ 1,100m - 3hr). Following a short night's rest (departing at 2.30am), the serious stuff begins. The start of the climb involves skiing up the Corbassière glacier. At the foot of the couloir du Gardien, tensions rise as the summit approaches. Here, crampons replace skins for the final ascent (D+ 1,700m - 6hr). Once the summit has been conquered, emotions run high and there's just enough time to take in the view before starting the long descent (over 3 hr) into a pristine wilderness. A two-day trip, when expressions such as "pave your way" and "leave your mark" take on their full meaning.

**Ski level:** Good to excellent. Little mountaineering experience required.

**Price:** approx. 950 SFr per person (calculated for 2 people)

[www.guideverbier.com](http://www.guideverbier.com)



## SKI TOURING THE ROGNEUX

Here's a suggestion for a ski touring weekend that combines both sport and relaxation.

Start from the car park at La Barmasse where your workout begins on a trail that climbs through the forest. Halfway up, you reach a small clearing where you can stop to take in the surrounding mountains such as the imposing Mont-Pleureur which sits at the bottom of the Bagnes valley. Once you've soaked up the scenery and recovered your breath, continue through the forest to reach a snow-covered road with a gentler slope leading to the mountain hut at an altitude of 2,100 m. After all that hard work, comes your reward! On your arrival at the Cabane Brunet hut, the Corthay family tempts you with one of their many traditional dishes, including Grandma's famous apple pie! You're now ready to get some sleep in one of the six rooms of this newly refurbished refuge. The next morning, after a good breakfast, climb even higher to reach the Col du Rogneux where the more competent can continue to the summit of the Rogneux via the ridge. For foodies, a picnic stop at the foot of the Combins massif is a welcome treat before starting the final off-piste descent to the Barmasse car park.

**Day 1:** Barmasse - Cabane Brunet: 2-hr climb  
7 km - 750 m D+.

**Day 2:** Cabane Brunet - Col du Rogneux: 2-hr climb  
5 km - 750 m D+ (approx. 45 min. ascent / 600 m and 200 m D+ to reach the summit)

**Price:** 180 SFr /pers. (based on a group of 4 people) for the supervision of a mountain guide

## ICEFALLS

Grab your crampons. Ice axes at the ready? Then let's go climbing! During the winter months, waterfalls are transformed into icy playgrounds for climbers, including routes for both amateurs and experts. With so many natural icefalls, the Val de Bagnes offers some truly memorable ice climbs, with the Fionnay waterfall deserving a special mention. You must always be accompanied by a mountain guide. An exhilarating activity for anyone seeking a challenge!

[www.verbier.ch/winter/offers/cascades-de-glace-fionnay-en-winter-2921665](http://www.verbier.ch/winter/offers/cascades-de-glace-fionnay-en-winter-2921665)



## A NIGHT AT ALTITUDE

Nestled at the foot of snow-covered peaks, Val de Bagnes' mountain huts are genuine refuges that welcome visitors in winter for a meal or an overnight stay at altitude, providing a unique experience and wonderful camaraderie. This is your invitation to live in the moment in a cosy, friendly mountain setting.

### - Cabane Brunet

Built in 1930, the Cabane Brunet mountain hut was swept away by an avalanche in 1937, before being rebuilt in 1942. Today, this cosy refuge perched at an altitude of 2,100 m is run by Jean-Marc Corthay, whose sunny disposition and love for his work shines through while he spoils his visitors with delicious local specialities. Accessible on foot, by snowshoe or ski touring, the recently extended refuge welcomes adventurers for a restful night's sleep before scaling the legendary Mont Rogneux, which climbs to 3,084 m.

**Capacity:** 42 people. Tarif: 80 SFr /per adult per night

[www.cabanebrunet.ch](http://www.cabanebrunet.ch)



## THE SAINT BERNARD HAUTE ROUTE

The new international Saint-Bernard Haute Route (or high Alpine ski route) crosses magnificent passes, glaciers and mountains at over 3,700 m. Passing the Grand Combin and Mont Vélán, this route will take tourers (on skis or splitboard) from Saint-Rhémy-en-Bosses in Italy to Bourg-Saint-Pierre in Switzerland in six stages, passing through mountain high points such as the Great-Saint-Bernard Pass and mountain huts at Vélán, Panossière and Chanrion.

For anyone looking for something more, the SkiAlp Grand-Saint-Bernard Interreg project has created 40 ski touring routes between the Valais and the Aosta Valley. So, put on your skins and get touring!

[www.gulliver.it/en/skialp/sb/skimo](http://www.gulliver.it/en/skialp/sb/skimo)



### - Cabane Mont-Fort

Sitting on the edge of the pistes, the Mont-Fort hut (2457 m) is easily accessible to everyone. It is best known for its magnificent views at sunset and for the friendly welcome offered by Daniel Bruchez, the hut's caretaker for the past 40 years. The combination of a traditional, warm Alpine atmosphere and excellent local dishes have made it a must-visit address.

Open from early December to mid-May and from late June to mid-September.

**Capacity:** 58 people. Tarif: 92 SFr / per adult per night

[www.cabanemontfort.com](http://www.cabanemontfort.com)