

Eagle Ski Club West Oberland Ski Tour 2026

Saturday 28th to Saturday 4th April March 2026

Tour Overview

The West Oberland Ski haute route traverses the alpine range between the villages of Les Diablerets and Kandersteg. It is a delightfully scenic ski tour offering fantastic ski descents in a quiet corner of Switzerland. The tour is not as glaciated or the mountains as dramatic as those around the 4000m peaks, but it has its own charm and is a good warm up tour for those considering the Chamonix Zermatt haute route. This ski tour does, however, contain some slightly exposed passages and can be difficult to navigate in poor weather.

The route traverses over the summits of Les Diablerets, Arpelistock, Wildhorn, Schnidehore and Wildstrubel which are all around 3200m high, with the huts lying between 2000m and 2500m. A summit can be taken every day between the huts, which cannot be said for all alpine tours, and the ski descents from these summits are on open slopes and most having more than 1000m in vertical descent. If we are lucky with the conditions the final ski into Kandersteg, can give over 1500m of vertical descent or to Lenk by a 2km vertical on northerly slopes.

The route boasts magnificent views of the Valaisanne peaks to the south and the Bernese peaks in the east, as you weave your way across the west Bernese Oberland chain. The landscape is defined by steep dramatic limestone cliffs through which the route snakes its way on largely open slopes. The limestone strata and rock folding on the Wildhorn is particularly impressive.

Grade: E2 S3 M2

Dates: Saturday 28th to Saturday 4th April March 2026, 6 Days.

Sunday 27th March to Friday 3rd April inclusive on the mountain.

Please arrange your travel dates on the Saturday 26th and Saturday 4th April

Itinerary (conditions dependant)

Meeting in Leysin Saturday 28th March at 6.30pm at the Hotel Tour d'Ai reception / bar.

Sunday

The week begins with a ski-mountaineering day on the peaks around Leysin, checking equipment, refreshing touring and off-piste skills during ascents of peaks such as Pic Chaussy, La Para or Walighurli (each of which gives an excellent view of our route through the Western Oberland).

Monday

We take the Glacier 3000 lift system to the Diablerets Glacier and descend to the col de Sanetsch then ascend the fine crest of the Arete de L'Arpille (800m) to gain the summit of the Arpelistock (3035m). The descent (1000m) down to the Geltenhuetten (fresh coffee and showers available) is normally on great cold snow.

Tuesday

A big day over the major ski-touring summit of the Wildhorn (3247m, 1400m ascent, 5 to 6hrs) and down to the Wildhorn hut. The route spirals around the peak, taking us through the impressive cliffs that defend its summit. Another fantastic glacier ski descent (1000m) takes us to the Wildhorn hut.

Wednesday

We climb the Schnidehorn (2937m, 3hrs) which is a great little summit and gives us access to a superb narrow valley which takes us to the flat expanse of the snow plateau of the Alpage du Rawil (2300m, 650m descent). The Rohrbachstien (2950m) can be climbed as we climb to the newly renovated Wildstrubel hut (2800m). The Wildstrubel hut has an excellent reputation for its food (the apple tart and fresh coffee are recommended).

Thursday

After a short ascent to the Weisshorn (2950m, 40 mins) we have a great ski down to the glacier de Plaine Morte. Touring across the massive expanse of this glacial plateau evokes a powerful feeling of wilderness. We then ascend the south rib of the Wildstrubel (3243m, 600m ascent). With its ten summits over 3000m it is a fantastic viewpoint for the great Oberland peaks. We traverse most of these summits before descending yet another classic run (800m) to the Lämmerenhütte.

Friday

From the Lämmerenhütte we climb to the domed summit of the Roter Tot (2850m, 2hrs) then an intricate north-facing descent takes us down 1600m into Kandersteg, skiing beneath impressive rock architecture of towering limestone cliffs.

Alternatives involve climbing the Schwarzhorn descending les Faverges to Montana or climbing the Grosstrubel (via the Wildstrubel) to descend to Lenk an amazing 2km vertical descent.

Train or taxi back to Leysin.

Travel and Accommodation

We shall be meeting and departing in the Hotel Tour d'Aï Leysin. [La Tour d'Aï | Hôtel-Restaurant \(hoteltourdai.com\)](http://hoteltourdai.com)

This is a comfortable 2 star hotel situated 10 minutes' walk from the Leysin Village train station.

I shall reserve the relevant hut and hotel nights for the course. Please contact the hotel directly if you require extra nights.

Plane to Geneva then train to Leysin, change to the cog railway at Aigle to Leysin Village. Allow 2 hours from Geneva airport to Leysin. Swiss travel information can be found here www.sbb.ch.

It is a 10-minute walk to the Hotel Tour d'Aï from the Leysin Village train station.

Please ensure that you travel out in good time to make the introductory meeting on Sunday evening and it is best not to book onward travel at the end of the trip until the following Saturday at the earliest. We are normally back at the Hotel at 5pm on the Friday afternoon. We can leave bags at the hotel when we are on the mountain.

Please ensure that you travel out in good time to make the introductory meeting on Saturday evening at 6.30pm and it is best not to book onward travel at the end of the trip until the following Saturday morning.

Map: Wildstrubel 263S Visp 274S (<https://map.geo.admin.ch>)

Equipment

Usual touring gear including skins, harscheisen, transceiver, shovel, probe, harness & karabiner, ice-axe, crampons.

Transceiver, probe, shovel, axe and crampons can be rented from me if needed. A full kit list will be provided on booking.

Insurance

Please make sure that you have adequate cover for rescue, medical expenses and cancellation. Membership of the Austrian Alpine Club includes rescue and some medical insurance as well as reduced rates in most huts.

The BMC, Snowcard and AXA all sell rescue, medical and cancellation insurance cover for ski touring.

Cost

Guiding costs per person for 6 days guiding are dependent on the number attending.

4 members: £800 each

5 members: £750 each

6 members: £700 each

Group Size; 1:4 minimum 1:6 maximum

Please see the booking conditions below.

Approximate costs for this trip, which are paid as we go, are:

Hut half pensions at CHF75 (discount for alpine club members) x 4 nights CHF300

Hotel half pension at sfr95 x 3 nights CHF285

Uplifts Glacier 3000 CHF75

Picnics x 6 days CHF50

Guide hut half pensions, 4 nights at CHF50 per night, split amongst group CHF40 per person

Internal taxi and train transportation on tour CHF120

Total budget for the course expenses CHF900 (£800) per person

With 6 members attending please budget about £1500 all-inclusive for accommodation, transport and guiding.

To apply for this trip please submit an Eagles ski club application form.

A non-returnable deposit of £100 is required to secure your place after your application has been accepted.

The balance payment for the guiding fees are due 8 weeks prior to the ski tour start date.

The on the ground expenses (hotel, huts and transport/lift costs) will be paid directly as we go on the trip. Most can be paid by credit card but please ensure that you have some cash (Swiss Francs). I suggest that CHF300 in cash is a useful amount. There are cash tills (Bancomat) in Leysin to withdraw cash.

Cancellation

Please notify me immediately in writing if you cancel your booking. The following charges will apply:

- a. 56 (8 weeks) days or more before your course start date - loss of deposit
- b. between 56 and 28 days before your course start date - loss of 50% of full guiding fee
- c. less than 28 days (4 weeks) before course start date - loss of full guiding fee, unless we find a replacement member then the charge will be 50% of the full guiding fee

Tour Co-ordinator and Tour Mountain Guide

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