

Updated 13th June 2017



Alternative Transport and Bad Weather Options: Tour du Mont Blanc

Included below you will find stage by stage suggestions for bad weather walking alternatives for the Tour du Mont Blanc.

Additionally, you will find detailed alternative transport suggestions for each stage of the TMB if you are unable to walk any section of the Tour du Mont Blanc.

We have taken great care in preparing this information but schedules do change and you should also check with the local tourist information or your accommodation for updates or alternatives. Also at the time of writing this document, some 2016 Timetables were not available, so we have based the information on previous year's timetables and given web links so you can find the up-to-date information at the time you depart. .

Feel free to call our UK office for assistance or if you need any help as we keep all the relevant timetables and can help you to change accommodation bookings if necessary. It is best to call during office hours from Monday to Friday between 9:00 – 17:30 UK time as this is when we are fully staffed and will almost always have French and Italian speakers in the office.

Transport with Baggage

Our baggage couriers (Taxi Besson) have two seats available in their van, which are available on a first come basis to ill or injured hikers who have booked baggage transfer.

It is not available if the route is affected by poor weather or you are disinclined to walk. Please call them or us to check if it is available on a given day.

Emergency Contact Details:

Macs Adventure: (Office Hours) +44 141 530 8886 / +33 1 70 709 063
Macs Adventure Emergency Out of Hours: (Mob) +44 (0) 7500 718 081

Transport Contact Details		
Service	Telephone	Website
General Resources		
TMB Trail Conditions and Public Transport Timetables		http://www.autourdumontblanc.com/en/index.cfm/tmb-trails-conditions.html http://www.autourdumontblanc.com/en/index.cfm/public-transport.html
Switzerland Travel Planning		www.sbb.ch
Les Houches / Les Contamines		
Compagnie du Mont Blanc (Ski Lifts)	0033.(0)4.50.53.22.75	http://www.compagniedumontblanc.fr
Mont Blanc Bus (Chambus) 2017 Timetables		http://www.montblanbus.com/media/upload/Chamonix/Annuel/Chamonix-Guide-ete2017-web.pdf
Mont Blanc Express		http://www.tmrta.ch or www.voyages-sncf.com
St Gervais to Les Contamines bus SAT Montblanc	+33 (0)4 50 78 05 33	http://en.lescontamines.com/acces-contamines-monjoie.html http://www.sat-montblanc.com/horaire-timetables/ligne-84-sallanches-st-gervais-les-contamines.aspx
Bessons Taxis, Les Contamines	00.33.(0)4.50.93.62.07	www.taxi-montblanc.com
St Gervais to Bourg St Maurice Train		http://www.bahn.de or http://www.sncf.com
Bourg St Maurice		
Taxi L'vie, Bourg St Maurice	00.33.(0)6.47.47.18.86	http://www.taxi-bourg-st-maurice.net contact@taxi-bourg-st-maurice.net
Les Chapieux – la Vallee des Glaciers shuttle	Contact the Bourg St Maurice Tourist Office 00.(0)4.79.07.12.57	Timetables are not yet available for 2017. Based on previous years, this shuttle typically runs from the beginning of July until the end of August. For those requiring the shuttle outside of these times; Taxi Besson are also offering this route on a shuttle basis (40 euros per person, limited places and by reservation only: call 0033 450 936 207)
Courmayeur		
Promo Valdigne Taxis	00 39 0165 809 840 (landline) or 00 39 347 380 5808	

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	(mobile)	
Courmayeur Tourist Office	00 39 0165 842 060	www.courmayeur-montblanc.com
Savda Courmayeur Buses (La Visaille, Val Veny, Val Ferret and to Martigny)		<p>Savda public buses will run from the end of June. http://www.savda.it</p> <p>The Courmayeur Tourist Office (number listed above) are very useful (and speak English) if you need to find up to date information regarding buses, chairlifts, cable cars etc in this area.</p> <p>Until the end of June, 2017 the "Allo Bus" will replace the regular public transportation buses in Courmayeur. Please note that this is an "on call" bus and you will need to call this local number to make a reservation: +39 (0) 165 1854653</p> <p>The "Allo Bus" will cover the whole area of Courmayeur, Verrand from the Val Ferret and Val Veny, and will have the same pickup and drop of as the traditional local public transport rides. More info may be found here:</p> <p>http://www.autourdumontblanc.com/amb/allegati/allobus_370.pdf</p> <p>and here:</p> <p>http://www.savda.it/it/55/alla-bus-courmayeur/</p>

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Stage 1: Les Houches to Les Contamines

Bad Weather Option	<p>In case of bad weather, you should take the route via Bionnassay. The high point is Col de Vosa (1653m) and should be fine in most weather conditions.</p> <p>If you decide not to walk at all use the alternative transport options detailed below.</p>
Transport	<p>Optional Bellevue Telepherique from Les Houches to Bellevue. This cable car reduces the climb out of Les Houches by 800m and is to be recommended. The lift operates daily between 10th June to 30th June 2017, from 8:00am to 17:30. From 1st July to 3rd September 2017, from 7.30am to 18:00 and from the 4th Sept to 24th September 2017, from 8:00am to 17:30. A one-way ticket costs approx.€14 Note: When you leave the top station follow the path down to Col de Voza to re-join the TMB to Bionnassay. http://www.chamonix.com/telepherique-de-bellevue,231,fr.html</p> <p>Alternative transport from Les Houches to Les Contamines This is a fairly easy stage to skip.</p> <p>Option 1: Take the Mont Blanc Express train from Les Houches to St Gervais. Trains run hourly and take 24 minutes. Take the SAT bus from Saint Gervais Les Bains le Fayet to Les Contamines. Buses leave from Le Fayet Gare SNCF. Timetables change spring/summer/autumn but buses leave about every 2 hours. The first one leaves about 07:00 (8:30 on Sundays) and the last one anywhere between 17:00 – 19:00, depending on the season. The bus runs intermittently on Sundays so please check the timetables carefully. Here is a website to find up-to-date fares and schedules Timetables: http://en.lescontamines.com/acces-contamines-monjoie.html</p> <p>or</p> <p>http://www.sat-montblanc.com/horaire-timetables/ligne-84-sallanches-st-gervais-les-contamines.aspx</p> <p>Option 2: Take a taxi. We recommend Bessons Taxis. (See contact details panel).</p>

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Stage 2: Les Contamines – Les Chapieux / Refuge des Mottets

This is a very difficult section to skip. It is a two-hour drive by taxi and much longer by public transport.

Bad Weather Option	<p>There is no bad weather option from Les Contamines to Les Chapieux. Alternative transport should be used.</p> <p>If heading for Refuge des Mottets in poor weather, Col Des Fours should not be attempted. Descend instead to Les Chapieux and walk up the road or catch the shuttle bus if operating.</p>
Transport	<p>Optional Shuttle Bus from Les Contamines to Notre Dame de la Gorge. A free shuttle operates between The Office de Tourisme in Les Contamines and Notre Dame de la Gorge, with several stops between including Le Lay. The summer shuttle operates approximately between the end of June and the beginning of September. In the morning, it runs about every 45 mins to 1 hour from about 09:00. Although the 2017 timetables are not yet published for this route, the Tourist Office have confirmed that the times will be the same as the 2016 timetable which you can find here: http://medias.lescontamines.com/images/info_pages/web-les-contamines-ete2016-1334.pdf</p> <p>This shuttle cuts 5km and about 1 hour of walking from the day.</p> <p>Optional taxi from Les Contamines to Notre Dame de la Gorge (5km) Call Taxi Besson to book a taxi at a convenient time.</p> <p>Alternative transport from Les Contamines to Les Chapieux Option 1: Bus, Train, Taxi (5 – 6/7 hours)</p> <p>Bus from Les Contamines to St Gervais http://www.sat-montblanc.com/horaire-timetables/ligne-84-sallanches-st-gervais-les-contamines.aspx</p> <p>Train from St Gervais Bourg St Maurice changing in Annecy and Chambéry-Challes-E (use http://www.bahn.de for journey planning as it is better than www.sncf-voyages.com)</p> <p>Taxi from Bourg St Maurice to Les Chapieux (numbers above in chart) Option 2: Taxi from Les Contamines to Les Chapieux/Mottets This is the quickest and easiest option but is expensive. The journey takes about 2 hours. The cost is approximately €150 for 1 – 4 people and approximately €180 for 5 – 8 people.</p> <p>Option 3: Cancel Les Chapieux and go to Courmayeur via Chamonix If the weather is set to be bad for a few days a good option is to skip the night at Les Chapieux/Mottets and travel to Courmayeur via Chamonix and the Mont Blanc Tunnel as this is an easier transfer and you can instead spend some time in either Chamonix or Courmayeur.</p> <p>Shuttle bus from Les Chapieux to Les Mottets The shuttle from Les Chapieux to Mottets operates from approx. beginning of July to end of August. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, specific 2017</p>

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	<p>timetables are not available. For more information on times and cost please visit the following website: http://en.lesarcs.com/move.html</p> <p>June/September: When the shuttle is not operating, you should plan on walking. Alternatively, Taxi Besson are now offering a shuttle service between Les Chapieux and Les Mottets, by reservation, call them the night before or ask your accommodation to do this. Places are limited and payment is directly to the driver: Taxi Besson: http://www.taxi-montblanc.com/ Tel : +0033450936207</p>
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Stage 3: Les Chapieux - La Ville des Glaciers - Col de la Seigne - Rifugio Elisabetta

If you choose to abandon this stage, and you were booked to stay at Elisabetta, it is better to cancel the night at Elisabetta and stay in Courmayeur instead.

It is costly to skip this stage as there is no public transport from Les Chapieux to Bourg St Maurice and on to La Thuille so a taxi is the only option.

Bad Weather Option	There is no bad weather option from Les Chapieux to Rifugio Elisabetta. Alternative transport should be used if you choose to abort.
Transport	<p>Shuttle bus from Les Chapieux to Les Mottets See details above.</p> <p>Alternative transport from Les Chapieux to Courmayeur Option 1: Taxi (1h40min) Book a taxi from Bourg St Maurice to collect you from Les Chapieux and transfer you to Courmayeur.</p> <p>Option 2: Taxi to Bourg St Maurice and on to La Thuille, bus to Courmayeur Book a taxi from Bourg St Maurice to collect you from Les Chapieux and transfer you to La Thuille in Italy. (1h30 min) From La Thuille you can catch the Savda bus line 409 to Courmayeur. Catch the bus from La Thuille Capoluogo. More information on schedules and fares may be found here: http://www.savda.it/public/linee/allegati/642_it.pdf</p>

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Stage 4: Refugio Elisabetta - Courmayeur

Whilst not possible to skip completely it is an easy downhill walk to Visaille where you can pick up the shuttle bus to Courmayeur.

Bad Weather Option	Described on page 67 of guidebook. (Val Veni to Courmayeur bad weather option)
Alternative Transport	<p>Cable Car / Chairlift from Col Chécrouit to Courmayeur You can avoid the long steep descent from Col Chécrouit to Courmayeur by taking the chairlift and cable car. In 2017 the lifts run from the 14th July until the 27th of August. The Cable Car to Dolonne and the chairlift to Col Chécrouit usually runs between approximately 09:00 and 5:00pm (exact times still to be confirmed)</p> <p>For more information, please see here: http://www.lovevda.it/fr/base-de-donnees/5/remontees-mecaniques/courmayeur/telecabine-dolonne-plan-hecrouit-et-telesiege-plan-hecrouit-maison-vieille/4343</p> <p>A one way ticket costs approximately €10 for the cable car and €5 for the chairlift.</p> <p>Bus from La Visaille to Courmayeur From the 1st of July until the 3rd of September 2017, a bus operates daily between La Visaille and Courmayeur. Buses leave about every hour and operate approximately between 8:00 and 21:00. You can purchase a ticket from the driver which will cost a few euros.</p> <p>Timetable: Courmayeur – Val Vény: http://www.savda.it/public/linee/allegati/655_it.pdf</p> <p>Out with the dates above, the dial-a-bus service ‘Allo Bus’ as mentioned previously in the contents pages will operate. See above more information.</p> <p>Courmayeur Taxi If the bus is not operating, you should either follow the low level alternative walk described in the guidebook (on page 67) or call a taxi from Courmayeur. (Promo Valdigne, tel.: 00 39 0165 809 840 (landline) or 00 39 347 380 5808 (mobile).)</p> <p>Approx. price is for a taxi from Visaille in the Val Vény to Courmayeur for 2-4 people is €30</p>

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Stage 5: Courmayeur to Rifugio Bonatti

Bad Weather Option	This route doesn't go much above 2000m so should be passable in all but the very worst weather conditions. In which case take the alternative transport detailed below.
Alternative Transport	<p>If you want a shorter day today you can catch the bus from Courmayeur to Bivio Rifugio Bonatti in the Val Ferret and walk up to Rifugio Bonatti. It is a 400m climb from the road.</p> <p>Savda bus: Linea Courmayeur to Val Ferret Operating daily from Courmayeur to Val Ferret via Bivio Rifugio Bonatti from the 1st of July until the 3rd of September 2017:</p> <p>http://www.savda.it/public/linee/allegati/656_it.pdf</p> <p>Out with the dates above, the dial-a-bus service 'Allo Bus' as mentioned previously in the contents pages will operate. See above more information.</p>

Stage 6: Rifugio Bonatti – Gran Col Ferret – La Fouly

This section crosses the Grand Col Ferret (2537m). There is no low-level option so if you choose to abandon the walk you need to travel to La Fouly/Champex via Courmayeur, Aosta and Orsières.

Bad Weather Option	No low-level option. Abort and use alternative transport. Make this decision and get going as early as possible as otherwise the connections are tough.
Alternative Transport	<p>Option 1: Bus to Courmayeur, bus to Aosta, bus to Orsières, bus to La Fouly or Champex</p> <p>Step 1: Walk down to the road at Bivio</p> <p>Step 2: Catch the bus to Courmayeur. First bus at approx 08:49. The journey to Courmayeur takes 25 minutes: http://www.savda.it/public/linee/allegati/656_it.pdf</p> <p>Step 3: Catch the bus to Aosta. Buses leave every couple of hours from approx 06.45 and the journey takes about an hour and a half. http://www.savda.it/public/documenti/218.pdf</p> <p>Step 4: Take the bus from Aosta Bus Station to Orsières. Buses depart at 11:00 and 16:00 daily and take 1 hour and 20 minutes to get to Orsières. http://www.savda.it/public/documenti/222.pdf</p> <p>The current available timetable runs until the 30th of June. Please check savda.it for later dates of travel, these will likely be published at the end of June 2017.</p> <p>Step 5: Take the bus from Orsières to either La Fouly or Champex, depending on where you are staying. You can search for buses from Orsières to La Fouly or Orsières to Champex here: http://www.sbb.ch/fahrplan.html</p>

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	<p>Times do change depending on the season, so please do check the up to date timetables before you travel. (Lines 271 and 272). The buses tend to run every 2 – 3 hours and take around 25 minutes to both La Fouly and Champex.</p> <p>Option 2: Take a Taxi (Promo Valdigne Taxis) A quicker but more expensive option. Approx. costs: Taxi from Arnuva to Courmayeur €50 (2 – 4 pax) Taxi from Courmayeur to Champex €150 (2 – 4 pax)</p>
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Stage 7: La Fouly – Champex Lac

Bad Weather Option	This is the easiest stage of the TMB with a maximum altitude of 1610m at La Fouly.
Alternative Transport	<p>You can catch the Swiss Post Bus via Orsières if you don't wish to walk. Timetables available at the bus stop in La Fouly or on-line below.</p> <p>Timetables La Fouly – Orsières here: http://www.fahrplanfelder.ch/fileadmin/fap_pdf_fields/2017/12.272.pdf</p> <p>Timetables Orsières to Champex here: http://www.fahrplanfelder.ch/fileadmin/fap_pdf_fields/2017/12.271.pdf</p>

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Stage 8: Champex - Trient

Bad Weather Option	The standard route via Alp Bovine is passable in most weathers as it reaches a maximum altitude of 2040m. The Fenêtre d'Arpette variant should only be attempted in good weather conditions.
Alternative Transport	As you are now in Switzerland public transport is excellent and integrated. You can buy a ticket right through from Champex to Trient. Depending on connections the journey takes 2h30 – 4h00. Use the journey planner at http://www.sbb.ch/en/home.html to plan your connections. Depending on class the fare is about CHF 30. Step 1: Bus from Champex to Orsières. Timetable here: http://www.fahrplanfelder.ch/fileadmin/fap_pdf_fields/2017/12.271.pdf Step 2: Train to Martigny (trains every 30 minutes – 1 hour, 28 minutes duration). Search on the SBB website to plan your departure. http://www.sbb.ch/en/home.html Step 3: Bus to Trient (route 213) The journey takes about 45 minutes. There are only about 4 buses per day and you can check the timetable here: http://www.fahrplanfelder.ch/fileadmin/fap_pdf_fields/2017/12.213.pdf

Stage 9: Trient – Col de Balme - Tré-le-Champ/Argentière

Bad Weather Option	You can shorten the day by descending directly from the Col de Balme (2191m) to La Tour. It is also possible to take the chair/bubble down to Le Tour if it is operating. If the weather is too poor to cross the Col de Balme take alternative transport.
Alternative Transport	Public transport from Trient to Argentière/Chamonix is easy and takes about 2 hours depending on connections. Step 1: Bus from Trient (Poste) to Martigny 40 minutes duration. Find the timetable as follows: http://www.fahrplanfelder.ch/fileadmin/fap_pdf_fields/2017/12.213.pdf Step 2: Mont Blanc Express: Martigny to Argentière/Chamonix with a change at Vallorcine if going to Argentière. Times can be found here: http://www.macsadventure.com/pdf/Mont%20Blanc%20Express%20Timetable%202017.pdf Trains depart Martigny hourly from 7.46am, but please check the timetable above before departure. Optional chair/telecabine from Col de Balme to Le Tour – bus to Argentière. The telecabine and chair to Autannes operates from mid-June to the third week in September. Opening hours change slightly during the season but are normally 09:00 – 16:30. A single ticket for the chair and gondola costs around €25.

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	<p>In the Chamonix Valley, all the lifts are operated by Compagnie du Mont Blanc and up to date opening hours and tariffs are available on their website here: http://www.compagniedumontblanc.fr or here: http://www.chamonix.com/telecabine-le-tour-col-de-balme,48-156934,en.html</p> <p>Chambus from Le Tour to Argentière/Chamonix. (Line 02) There are regular buses to Argentière/Chamonix from La Tour, just make your way to the bus stop opposite the lift station, which has a bus timetable attached. Buses run approx every 30 minutes or every hour depending on the day of the week (every hour on Sundays) throughout the day. A one-way ticket is approx €2.00. Timetable & route maps: http://www.montblancbus.com/media/upload/Chamonix/Annuel/Chamonix-Guide-ete2017-web.pdf</p>
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Stage 10: Tré-le-Champ – Lac Blanc/Refuge Le Flégère

Bad Weather Option	<p>There are a number of low level trails marked on your map that stay close to the valley floor. We would suggest following the Petit Balcon Sud from Argentière to les Praz de Chamonix, where you can catch the cable car to Le Flégère and then walk the 1 hour to Lac Blanc if staying there or continue to Chamonix Mont Blanc if staying in Chamonix.</p>
Alternative Transport	<p>Bus travel within the Chamonix Valley Use the Chambus (free with card d'hôte) for bus travel throughout the Chamonix valley. (Details above in the chart)</p> <p>Le Flégère – Les Praz de Chamonix Telepherique: Check the up to date information here: http://www.chamonix.com/flegere-index,83,en.html</p> <p>Open mid-June to mid-September. Usually this teleriphique runs from about 08:30am to – 17:00. Approx €15:00 for a single ticket (then take the shuttle bus to central Chamonix)</p>

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Stage 11: Lac Blanc/Refuge Le Flégère - Plan Praz - Les Houches - Chamonix

Bad Weather Option	<p>If you have two nights in Chamonix, there is plenty of low level walking and alternative activities on offer.</p> <p>If you are staying at Lac Blanc descend to Le Flégère on the TMB and catch the telepherique from there.</p> <p>You can also opt to shorten the day at Plan Praz or Brévent</p>
Alternative Transport	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Le Flégère – Les Praz de Chamonix Telepherique: http://www.chamonix.com/flegere-index,83,en.html Open mid-June to mid-September. Operates approx 08:30 – 17:00 and approx €15.00 for a single ticket. Then take the shuttle bus to central Chamonix) 2. Brévent – Plan Praz – Chamonix: http://www.chamonix.com/planpraz-brevent,82,en.html Open mid-June to mid-September. Operates approx 09:00 – 16:30. Cost approx 25€ for a single ticket from Brévent and approx €15.00 single ticket from Plan Praz. 3. Les Houches – Chamonix by bus. http://www.montblanbus.com/media/upload/Chamonix/Annuel/Chamonix-Guide-ete2017-web.pdf 4. Les Houches – Chamonix by train. You can take the Mont Blanc Express from the station at Les Houches to Chamonix. Details of the train here: http://www.macsadventure.com/pdf/Mont%20Blanc%20Express%20Timetable%202017.pdf

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