

6 Feb 2016

We had a wonderful, restorative week!  
The rain at the beginning did not stop us, and the snow by the end was just magical!

The advice and hospitality were exactly what we were looking for, thank you Kobus, the 14 month old Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, thoroughly enjoyed his first exposure to snow and loved that dogs are welcome here as well.

Running, hiking, snowshoeing, relaxing... topped off by an amazing view from Aguillos de Midi - a perfect week!



19 Feb 2016

We had an absolutely perfect week in the Chamrousse Valley! Filled with lots of snow. We found lots of great places to snowboard a fresh powder and were also fortunate enough to get a perfect sunny day with unbelievable views while skiing. Could not have asked for any better.

Our beds were great. Even got to build snow and igloo with them in the backyard.

Don't get the chance to watch the FIS World Cup @ Les Houches in March.

There's nothing a perfect world!

Simon Martin, 2010 - 2011 Brochu

FC in Lyon

Originally from Quebec

19-26 March 2016

We had a great week at chalet Marlagon. Almost no snow in the valley but still plenty in the mountains.

We have 2 kids (5 and 2) so we did most activities for them.

Went to Brevin for a perfect view of Mont-Blanc. Kids enjoyed the cable cars a lot.

Our ~~3~~ oldest had his first ski course at Les Houches and loved it.

We went to La Mer de Glace with the train. Lovely ride and very cool ice cave. Went tobogganing at Les Houches. Kids had a blast and so did we.

Overall a great week in Chamonix.





26 March - 2 April 2016

A great week in Chamonix that flew by. Our week really focussed on skiing and so we took full advantage of the Mont-Blanc Unlimited card for an family of 4 (2 adults + 2 kids (7+9 years old)). For family skiing head to Les Bouches or Le Tour (Balme). For the slightly more adventurous, hit Brevent/Flegères or Les Grands Montets. Everywhere though you will find a very varied offering of piste + off-piste. With the Mont-Blanc Unlimited card you also get access to the Luge (1 ride/day/person) + aigle du midi (a must on a nice day) + pool + Mer de glace (also quite worthwhile). Conditions for skiing were typical of spring skiing. We thought of hiring a mountain guide to go off-piste just to witness this amazing area even more up close + personal but ran out of time. We skied with our kids all week but if you have very young, very beginner kids I would recommend checking out Les Planches ski area just inside Chamonix.

No dining experiences to speak of other than the amazing meals we treated ourselves to right here. Have a look @ local products in one of the shops facing the Cable Car in Les Bouches (cheese, saucisson, wine, Mont-Blanc Beer, etc, etc).

There are similar shops in Chamonix proper as well (not sure if you pay more there but worth looking around). If you do go into town (Chamonix), have a look @ the town map in the info booklet provided by the owner to see where the free parking is. Nothing is ever too far anyways. Overall, we would definitely come back.

Thanks to our hosts:

Long live CHAMONIX!

Vive La RALETTE!!!



9 to 16 April 2016

This was a truly amazing and varied week. The time went by quickly as a result of the many different activities. It's recommended to get your bearings on arrival: determine what it is you want to do. Tips: ① there are free parking lots, seek them out: you'll save yourself 12 to 15€ a day. The one by the Mer de Glace train station is recommended; ② there are many groceries stores, the most convenient is the Carrefour just prior to getting into town; ③ buy the "Unlimited" Chamonix pass, we bought the 3-day pass and it was perfect for what we did; ④ seeing the Aiguille du Midi is a must, pick a non-cloudy day; ⑤ if you take the tunnel to Italy, bring your passport; ⑥ Info Center is very informative; ⑦ there is free Wi-Fi @ the Mer de Glace train station: Info Center.

The week for us unfolded as follows:

Day 1 (Sunday) - Spent over 4 hrs at the Aiguille du Midi - it was a very clear day, and a spectacular view - breathtaking. Lunch at the restaurant is recommended ("Unlimited" Card provided access)

Day 2 (Monday) - Took the train to "Mer de Glace", another must. Once there take the Gondola down: explore the ice cave - a unique experience. For supper we ate at La Calèche in Chamonix, it's also recommended.

Day 3 (Wednesday) - went through the tunnel to Italy: x-country skied at Val Ferret. For the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, the trails were as good as could be expected. We skied the 10km loop (there's a fee to ski, but when we went there was no attendant). Had a wonderful picnic lunch on the river bank. Returned to Chamonix: in the afternoon went up on the Gondola to Brévent: took the Gondola (2<sup>nd</sup> one) to the highest point. A good view: a different perspective from Aiguille du Midi.

Day 3 (Tuesday) - skied Les Balcons (La Tour). A very nice hill for skiing mostly Blue Runs - views are spectacular (was another sunny day). Again, the "unlimited" pass covered it all.

Day 5 (Thursday) - For 3 of us a quiet day, exploring the shops in Chamonix, while one of us skied "La Vallée Blanche". Went with a group: a guide, booked the day before from "Les Guides de montagne" - across from the Info Center. This is recommended as the weather forecast allows you to determine conditions for the following day. This was a highlight, blue-sky, fresh snow: awesome views. A difficult ski if you've never done deep powder skiing.

Day 6 (Fri) - A 5-hour hike up to "Chalet de la Floiray" near Les Nants. Highly recommended.