
StockenBridge

Hotel Le Chalet Blanc, Montgenevre, French Alps

A luxury Ski and Winter-Walking Bridge Week in the mountains, with Zebedee and Claudia Stocken

from £1431pp* including :

- 7 nights' stay with breakfast in this 4-star luxury mountain hotel
- Afternoon tea and 4-course dinner with wine each day
- Reception with aperitif and canapés on the first evening
- 6 full days ski guiding/tuition with ESF ski instructor
- 5 snowshoe excursions with qualified walking guide
- Unlimited access to hotel spa and sauna
- Transfers from Turin airport (*evening BA flight only*)
- All bridge tuition, course notes and prizes

*with 10% early bird discount



Saturday January 14th - Saturday January 21st 2017

Hotel Le Chalet Blanc

Hotel Le Chalet Blanc is Montgenevre's finest luxury hotel, built 8 years ago in a chalet-style with a wooden and white-rendered exterior, in the Hameau de l'Obélisque development at the eastern end of the village. Set high in the French Alps (1860m), there are breathtaking mountain views from every angle and being right on the slopes it is truly ski-out as well as ski-in.



The above photo shows Hotel le Chalet Blanc from the front, south-facing side with the Bridge Chalet (*where we will eat our evening meal and play bridge*) on the right. The below photo shows the back, north-facing side of the hotel with the Bridge Chalet to the left of the picture and a draglift in the foreground.



Inside Hotel Le Chalet Blanc

With sumptuous leather chairs, overstuffed sofas with soft, plump cushions, and two huge open fireplaces, the bar and lounge area (right) of Hotel le Chalet Blanc is the perfect place to unwind after a day's activities.

There is also a wooden terrace all along the front of the hotel ideal for relaxing in the sun and watching the world go by.



We have exclusive use of an independent but adjacent building, the 'Bridge Chalet' where we will play bridge next to an open fire and fully-stocked bar on the lower floor, and we will eat our evening meal on the upper floor (pictured right).



There is wifi throughout the hotel, and the main building of the hotel has a lift.

Montgenèvre

Montgenèvre is a small attractive, friendly, French resort right on the Italian border with plenty of traditional Alpine charm. It is one of France's oldest resorts dating back to 1907, but has recently been subject to a huge amount



of investment with the building of stylish new hotels and apartments, new ski lifts and last year, a brand new spa and swimming pool complex. The main through-road has been re-routed underground providing a 'front de neige' beginner ski area and making Montgenèvre once again the quiet resort of yesteryear.

Skiing and Snowshoeing

We will put on a program of ski-guiding and snowshoe guiding to complement each other, with at least one excursion every day so that these activities are not mutually exclusive. The cost of the guiding will be included in your stay, though lunch will be extra, either in a mountain restaurant or refuge, or a picnic. There may be a supplement for transport or a ski pass in another resort.

Skiing in Montgenevre and Claviere

Montgenèvre has the best snow in the area – with the village at 1830m and pistes to 2,680m, it's reknown for being snow-sure, with one of the best records in the Southern Alps. Its height means the snow comes earlier and stays longer, and that's despite its famed 300 days of sunshine a year. The resort is particularly good for beginner and intermedi-

ate skiers with wide blue and red runs in the trees, but more advanced skiers will still find plenty of challenges both on and off piste, including the Rocher de l'Aigle terrain. Skiing takes place on both sides of the valley (*the hotel is on the south-facing side*) and a piste bridge now links the two.



Montgenevre is next door to the charming Italian village of Claviere, making it easy for skiers to ski across to Italy for a pasta lunch. These resorts form part of the famous Via Lattea or 'Milky Way' ski domain linking them to Cesana, Sansicario, Sestriere and Sauze d'Oulx with a total of 400km of pistes.



Skiing with ESF instructor, Philippe Mennecier

A highlight of last year's holiday, guiding and tuition with english-speaking Philippe helped guests improve technique and make the most of the ski conditions. He will be joining us for 6 full days and will organise a program adapted to the group, which may mean different outings for different levels. To join the group you must be able to ski red runs competently (*level 3 or above*). We can also organise private ski lessons or guiding to suit your level.



There will also be the possibility of skiing in other nearby resorts including Sestriere and Sauze d'Oulx or the fabulous ski resort of Serre Chevalier (*where Claudia has lived for the past 15 years*) just 20 minutes away, with a further 250km of pistes. We will be organising at least one day trip to a different resort according to the snow conditions (*day lift pass approx 49€*).

Ski Pass

You can pre-book a 6-day ski pass for the Mont de la Lune ski area of Montgenevre and Claviere covering 110km of pistes. This will be at the special reduced price of £100 (*public selling price for adults: £168 for winter 2015/2016*). There is also the Via Lattea lift pass covering 400km of pistes, bookable in resort only (*public selling price for adults: £197 for winter 2015/2016*). For non-skiers, a walking pass will allow you to use the lifts to go up to the mountain restaurants and view points (*8-10€ for return trip or 40-52€ for 6-day pass*).

Ski and Boot Hire

Run by friendly, knowledgeable and english-speaking mountain guide, Philippe Chartier, hotel guests have a 20% discount on ski and boot hire at nearby Skiset.

What is my ski level?

Beginner never skied before

Level 1 can snowplough and starting to do parallel turns on green runs

Level 2 ski parallel on blues and easy reds

Level 3 happily skiing parallel and feel at ease on red and easy black runs

Level 4 short turns in mogul fields, steep slopes in all conditions and types of ski area

Snowshoeing

What is snowshoeing?

Snowshoeing is simply walking on snow using lightweight plastic snowshoes attached to your walking boots. The extra surface area and grip stops you from sinking in deep snow and slipping backwards, making it very easy to walk in these conditions. Snowshoeing is suitable for almost everyone, no matter what your age or fitness level.



Snowshoeing with Mike Rollins

Mike is a fully qualified hiking and trekking guide and both our summer and winter walking guests have thoroughly enjoyed excursions with him. Having lived nearby for 25 years, he is extremely knowledgeable about the local flora and fauna and will take you off the beaten track to see nature first-hand.

We are planning 4 half days and 1 full day (or equivalent, depending on group).



Cross paths with Chamois, Ibex, Roe deer and Golden Eagles to name but a few, whilst enjoying a picnic or a local speciality in spectacularly beautiful surroundings and in complete security. Snowshoes and hiking poles are supplied though you will need waterproof and comfortable hiking boots and waterproof trousers (ski pants) or gaiters.



Non-skiing, non-snowshoeing guests

You are more than welcome to join us on this week even if you don't plan to join in the skiing and snowshoeing. The mountains can also be enjoyed next to a roaring fire or from the terrace, and if we have enough guests wanting to participate, we can schedule extra bridge sessions in the daytime.

Other Things to Do

Hotel Spa and Sauna

After a day on the slopes what could be nicer than slipping into your white, fluffy robe and heading to the hotel spa? With an invigorating jacuzzi, relaxing sauna, refreshing hammam steam, and sports and aromatherapy massages, the modern hotel spa has been designed to rejuvenate your spirits and soothe your tired limbs. You could also treat yourself to an energising foot and leg massage or an indulgent manicure and pedicure.

Durancia Spa and Leisure complex

Opened in January 2015, this brand new alpine spa and leisure pool complex (right) is perfect for apres-ski relaxation.



The Old Town of Briancon

The old fortified town of Briancon

is the highest town in Europe at 1326m and is only 15 minutes drive away down the hairpin bends of the Col de Montgenevre. Take in its fascinating history, cobbled streets, interesting shops and wonderful views from the ramparts.



Cross-country skiing

As a location for the Winter Olympics, 2006, Montgenevre and Claviere have excellent cross-country ski tracks to suit all abilities and fitness levels. Equipment hire and lessons available.

Food

Following a day out in the elements, what could be better to return to a hot chocolate, tea or coffee and a homemade cake, served by the open fire? In the evening, you will deserve the delicious 4-course meal, served with half a bottle of wine per person in our own private dining area under the eaves on the first floor of the bridge chalet. It is a set menu, but the chef can cater for any dietary requirements. Lunch is not included in the price of the holiday (except on departure day), but if you don't fancy eating out, there is a mini-market with deli and bakery next to the hotel or the hotel can make you up a picnic. Breakfast is a buffet with hot and cold options.

Sample Menu

Smoked salmon, egg vinaigrette, lime mayonaise and salt roasted almonds
Jerusalem artichoke soup with chives and crispy pork
Lightly smoked beef with crostini and caper mayonnaise

Confit of duck with pearl barley risotto, baked red onion and sweet garlic
Slowly roasted pork with jerusalem artichokes and a browned butter sauce
Coq au vin with pearl onions, mushroom and pommes fondant
Tartiflette with green salad

A selection of local cheeses

Chartreuse panna cotta
Rich chocolate mousse cake
Old fashioned apple tart



Accommodation

All bedrooms at Hotel le Chalet Blanc are beautifully furnished with handmade beds and stylish and comfortable fittings. They are all equipped with flat screen televisions, a mini-safe and a direct dial telephone. Every room has its own balcony with a lovely view, either north or south facing.



Classic Room



North-facing, with a balcony.
Double bed or two single beds.

Luxury Room



South-facing, with a balcony. More spacious than the classic rooms.
Double bed or two single beds.

Luxury Suite



South-facing spacious duplex rooms with a balcony. Double bed with en-suite bathroom on the upper level. Sitting room on the lower level. There are also suites with up to 4 beds - contact us for details and prices.

The en-suite bathrooms have fluffy towels, bathrobes and slippers and their own bathroom products.

All the bathrooms have baths, except two specially adapted bathrooms with large roll-in showers and grab rails. The baths all have a large rain shower head over the bath, as well as a hand-held shower.

There are also duplex rooms which can sleep between 2 and 4 people - in effect 2 bedrooms with their own bathrooms, connected by internal stairs. These rooms could suit friends who prefer the privacy of their own bathroom facilities. Some of these rooms have an additional seating area on the lower level. Please contact us for full details and prices.

PRICES (per person)	 classic twin occ.	 classic single occ.	 luxury twin occ.	 luxury single occ.	 suite twin occ.	 suite single occ.
Normal price	£1590	£1890	£1690	£2190	£1790	£2390
With early bird discount	£1431	£1701	£1521	£1971	£1611	£2151

Early Bird Discount

We are offering a 10% 'early bird' discount on the holiday price for all guests, provided that the holiday is booked before the 31st May 2016.

How to Book...

To book your holiday, please fill out the booking form - stating your room preferences - and either scan and email to claudia@stockenbridgebreaks.com or post to **Stockens Ltd, 20, Fernwood Avenue, London, SW16 1RD**, together with the deposit of £170 per person - please see below for full payment details. The full payment will be due by October 31st 2016. See booking form for Terms and Conditions.

PAYMENT

- where possible an on-line transfer is preferable for a speedy transaction that is easy to track. Please quote 'ChaletBlanc 17' or your invoice number.

On-line Transfer:

Account name: *Stockens Ltd* Account Number: 27452468 Sort Code: 30-11-75

Cheque:

Please make cheques payable to 'Stockens Ltd' and send to Stockens Ltd, Hurlingham Studios, Ranelagh Gardens, London, SW6 3PA

Financial Protection

Your money paid to us is fully protected against the insolvency of StockenBridge Breaks, in compliance with the Package Travel Regulations 1992. In this unlikely event, you will receive a full refund of your money.

Bridge with Zeb & Claudia



Zeb Stocken has many years experience of teaching and hosting bridge events, and whether you come as a group, in a pair or on your own, you can be certain of an instructive and enjoyable game adapted to your level.

Claudia – Zeb’s sister – will be on hand to ensure the smooth running of your holiday and, as a keen and experienced bridge player herself, she will also be supervising bridge sessions. The bridge programme will be a mixture of teaching, supervised play and some duplicate – all played in a fun and friendly environment.



We will be playing bridge in our own ‘Bridge Chalet’ adjacent to the hotel and with fabulous views over the valley (*see photos*). There will be a bridge tuition session every day from 5.30pm - 7.30pm, and then after dinner supervised bridge. If there is demand, we will also schedule bridge sessions in the daytime.

The tuition sessions will use CompassCards (set deals) and a fun topic tailored to the group. All bridge sessions are optional and open to all standards of play, although we can only accommodate complete beginners if booked as a group of four. Water, tea and coffee will be available during play. Alcoholic and other drinks can be purchased from the bar, payable at the end of your stay.

Non-Bridge Players

Non-bridge playing husbands, wives, partners, daughters and sons are welcome providing that they are sharing a room with a bridge player!

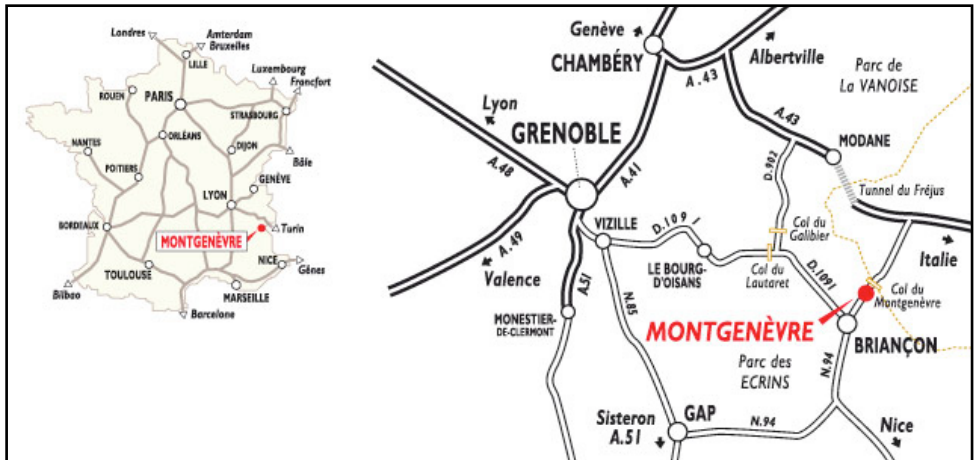
Travel Details

Despite nestling high in the Alps, Montgenèvre is easy to get to by road, air or rail.

By Air

Turin airport in Italy is the nearest airport, with a transfer time of 1 hour 15 minutes. The evening British Airways flight from London Gatwick to Turin has good timings and we will include airport transfers for anyone on this flight, or any other flights arriving and departing at a similar time (*arriving 6pm-7pm at Turin, departing 7pm-8pm from Turin*)

Alternatively Ryanair fly from London Stansted to Turin and Easyjet fly from London Gatwick to Turin during the winter, and we can organise transfers from £24 per person each way, depending on the number of people travelling. Otherwise there is a good choice of car hire companies for self drive from the airport. Geneva, Milan, Grenoble, Lyon and Chambéry Airports are all approximately 2 hours 30 minutes by road.



By Train

There is a TGV train station, Oulx in Italy, just 15 minutes drive from Montgenèvre.

Fast trains run directly from Paris to Oulx and you can even book your train ticket from London St. Pancras to Montgenèvre which includes the coach transfer from Oulx to Montgenèvre. We can organise a pick up from Montgenèvre bus station.

By Car

After crossing the Channel by Eurotunnel or by ferry, Montgenèvre can be reached in approximately 10-12 hours via the Frejus tunnel (*30 minutes drive*).

Underground parking is available at the hotel.

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