

MONT BLANC - AN EXCEPTIONAL SITE: A FRAGILE SITE TO BE PROTECTED



SCAN HERE
for more information
on regulations

Mont Blanc is a fragile, natural site. It is extremely popular, attracting 15 000 to 20 000 climbers per year. Over the years, this high attendance has resulted in environmental problems, as well as refuge and individual safety issues. The creation of a natural habitat protection area (APHN - by an order signed by the Prefect on 1st October 2020) and the implementation of regulations, aim at maintaining the existing balance. These latter should ensure the protection of this classified site (ministerial decrees of 5th January 1952 and 16th June 1976) and make climbing conditions safer.

REGULATING ACCESS TO MONT BLANC



New rules apply to the normal route, but also to alpinists arriving from other routes (Trois Monts, aiguille de Bionnassay, Italian routes...) and staying in one of the accommodation sites on the way down. Make sure you assess your physical capacity at high altitude and take the length of the routes into consideration.

MANDATORY BOOKING IN THE REFUGES: GOÛTER, TÊTE ROUSSE AND NID D'AIGLE

- **Individual bookings:** the full identity of all the participants staying must be given when the booking is made
- **An individual booking receipt with the person's name** is issued and must be produced during any on-the-spot checks (automatically generated when the booking is made)
- **Should you cancel your trip, it is imperative that you cancel your booking** on the internet site, in order to leave room for other alpinists
- **Abri Vallot and la Baraque Forestière des Rognes** are shelters and are not to be used as refuges under any circumstances. Illegal occupation will be sanctioned.

STAYING AT THE TÊTE ROUSSE BASE CAMP

- 50-person limit at the base camp
- Group tents, no individual tents
- Mandatory booking and accommodation fee, as in the refuges
- Camping prohibited in the classified site of Mont Blanc, except at the Tête Rousse base camp

THOROUGH, COORDINATED, ON-THE-SPOT CHECKS

Booking receipts are checked by:

- The refuge keepers (on arrival, proof of identity must be provided)
- The officers of the White Brigade ("brigade blanche") of Saint-Gervais Les Bains
- The police officers of the "PGHM" (the high mountain rescue unit of the French gendarmerie)
- The officers of the French Agency for Biodiversity

The qualifications of the mountain guides who accompany clients are also checked.

APPLICABLE SANCTIONS

- Any person who undermines the conservation of sites of geological interest, natural habitats, animal or plant species and their habitats, will be liable to **three years' imprisonment** and a **150 000 € fine** (art. L.415-3 and R.415-1 - French Environmental Code)
- Any person who does not comply with the prohibition regarding camping on a classified site will be liable to **two years' imprisonment** and a **300 000 € fine** (art. L.341-19 - French Environmental Code)
- Any person who rebels against the officers in charge of on-the-spot checks will be liable to **two years' imprisonment** and a **30 000 € fine** and up to **three years' imprisonment** and a **45 000 € fine**, if they are part of a group (art. L.433-7 - French Penal Code)
- Any person who acts fraudulently with respect to either intending to stay or actually staying in accommodation without paying, will be liable to **six months' imprisonment** and a **7 500 € fine** (art. L.313-5 - French Penal Code)

**MONT BLANC REMAINS FIRST AND FOREMOST, WHICHEVER
ROUTE YOU CHOOSE, THE REALM OF ALPINISTS !**



VERY IMPORTANT

The ascent of Mont Blanc is not an initiation course in mountaineering. It requires genuine high-mountain experience, practice, expertise in mountaineering techniques (progress, roping up, cramponning...), good physical preparation and altitude acclimatization.

THE RISKS

- **Natural risks** (avalanches, serac fall, rock slides, storms, zero visibility etc...): these are the cause of several deaths each year, particularly in the couloir du Goûter
- **Acute mountain tiredness, rapid variations in weather conditions and risks, extreme cold...**
80 to 100 rescue interventions each year, of which 80 % are caused by exhaustion due to poor physical preparation and/or a lack of acclimatization
- **Falls** (a slip or fall with severe or even fatal consequences)

Between 40 and 100 % failure rate every day. Careful planning and hiring a state-registered high-mountain guide will considerably increase your chances of success.



IN AN EMERGENCY, ONE NUMBER TO CALL THE RESCUE SERVICES.

DO YOUR RESEARCH AND MAKE A BOOKING



HIRE A GUIDE: GREATER SAFETY AND A BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS !

- **Are you looking for a guide to accompany you ?**
Contact mountain guide companies or independent guides via their unions: www.guides-montagne.org or www.syndicat-sim.com

ROUTES, RISKS AND PREVAILING CONDITIONS

- High Mountain Office (OHM) – Pôle Montagne Risk
Maison de la montagne, place de l'église in Chamonix
Tel. +33 4 50 53 22 08 - www.chamoniarde.com/activite/mont-blanc
- General and practical information, rundowns, maps
 - An information area explaining risks in the mountains
 - Specific and feasibility information

WEATHER REPORTS AND AVALANCHE RISK ESTIMATE

- **Web site:** www.meteofrance.com
- **Answer phone:** 3250
- High Mountain Office (OHM) and Tourist Offices

MEDICAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH HIGH MOUNTAIN

- **Health info:** www.mdem.org (mountain doctors website)

THE REFUGES

- **Refuge du Goûter (mandatory on-line booking)**
www.refugedugouter.ffcam.fr - +33 4 50 54 40 93
- **Refuge and base camp of Tête Rousse (mandatory booking on-line)**
www.refugeteterousse.ffcam.fr - +33 4 81 91 86 56
- **Refuge du Nid d'Aigle (mandatory booking on-line)**
www.refugeniddaigle.ffcam.fr - +33 4 50 58 05 78
- **Refuge des Cosmiques (telephone booking highly recommended)**
www.refuge-des-cosmiques.com - +33 4 50 54 40 16



**PRÉFET
DE LA HAUTE-SAVOIE**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

ACCESS TO MONT BLANC - AN EXCEPTIONAL SITE: THE REALM OF ALPINISTS

PROTECTION OF NATURAL HABITATS (APHN) -
NEW REGULATIONS



1

Normal route via the refuge du Goûter

Mandatory on-line booking: www.ffcam.fr/reserver-votre-refuge-en-ligne.html

Bivouacking is prohibited along the normal route except in an extreme emergency.

2

Trois Monts route

Telephone booking at the refuge des Cosmiques highly recommended:
+33 4 50 54 40 16



THE ASCENT OF MONT BLANC IS NOT FOR BEGINNERS

This route requires high-mountain experience, knowledge of glaciated terrain, expertise in mountaineering techniques, physical fitness and altitude acclimatization.

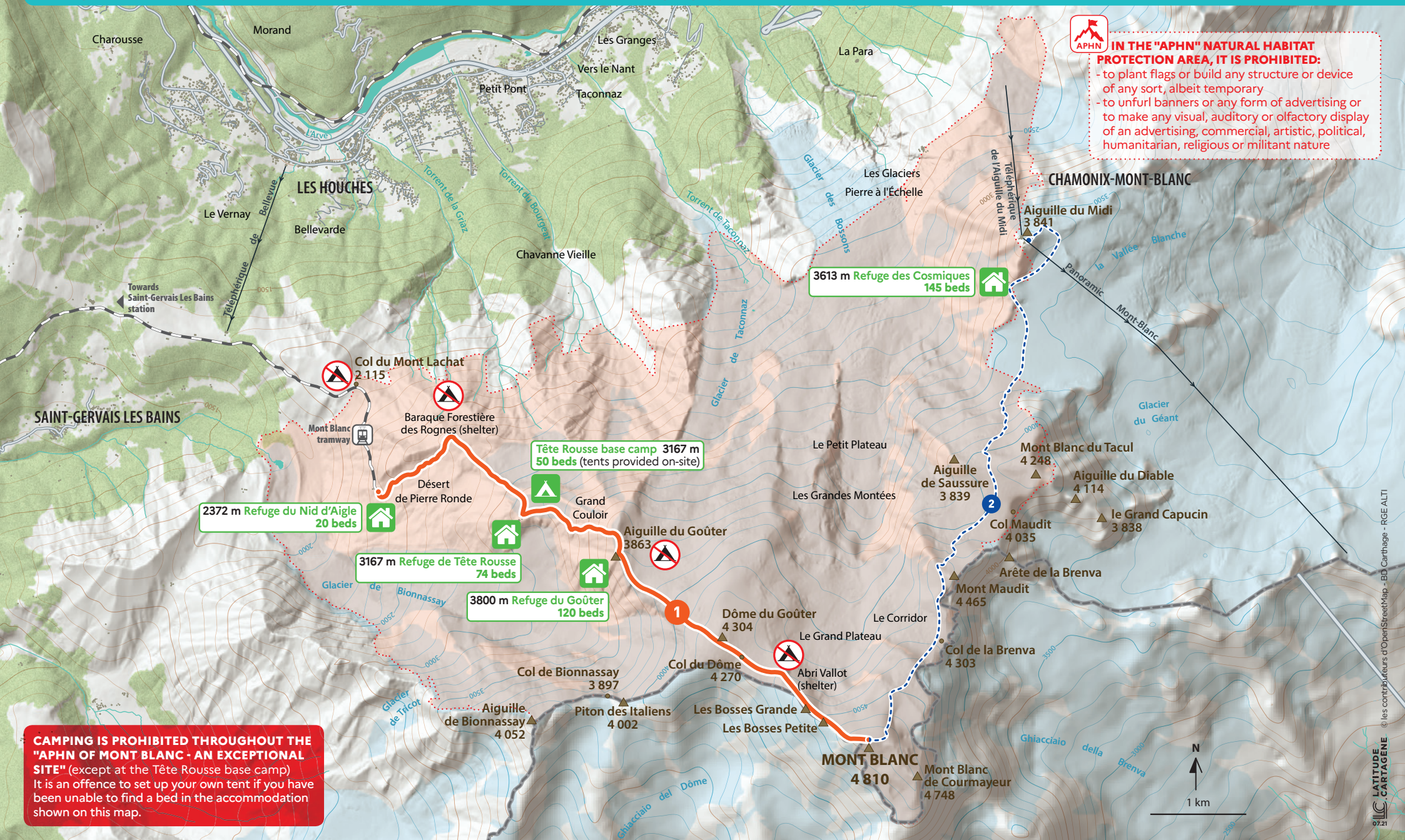
+ information at www.chamoniarde.com/activites/mont-blanc

It is prohibited to carry any material other than that required for the ascent and to climb in a roped party of more than 3 people.



IN THE "APHN" NATURAL HABITAT PROTECTION AREA, IT IS PROHIBITED:

- to plant flags or build any structure or device of any sort, albeit temporary
- to unfurl banners or any form of advertising or to make any visual, auditory or olfactory display of an advertising, commercial, artistic, political, humanitarian, religious or militant nature



CAMPING IS PROHIBITED THROUGHOUT THE "APHN OF MONT BLANC - AN EXCEPTIONAL SITE" (except at the Tête Rousse base camp) It is an offence to set up your own tent if you have been unable to find a bed in the accommodation shown on this map.