



**ALPINE ASCENTS INTERNATIONAL**  
The seven summits company since 1986



## THE MATTERHORN

14,687ft ~ 4,478m

Switzerland, Alps Range

First Climbed: 1865, Edward Whymper

*This is a rock climb with a 1:1 climber to guide ratio*

As the most recognized mountain on the European continent, the roughly chiseled rock pyramid of the Matterhorn serves as a defining geographical landmark. With a near perfect pyramid, its absolute symmetry demarcates the exquisite nature of this beautiful mountain.

Nestled in the Swiss Alps, birthplace of climbing, an ascent of the Matterhorn links one to the purist traditions of climbing. The Matterhorn, towering over the town of Zermatt, is steeple-like in both structure and magnetism. The region nearby is comprised of lush meadows and pristine landscapes. The combination of scenic beauty, superb lodging and the ability to challenge oneself by day and live in luxury by night, makes climbing in Switzerland a wonderful alpine experience.

In preparation for the ascent of the Matterhorn, we climb a succession of peaks. With each climb, the intensity of difficulty increases as we move from the Riffelhorn to Pollux to Rimpfischhorn and finally to the Matterhorn. As part of the expedition, both novice and experienced climbers receive training to prepare for technical ascents. When we reach our final climb of the Matterhorn, the climber-to-guide ratio is 1:1. This unique opportunity to climb in one of the most famous climbing regions in the world is unrivaled in excellence and quality. Our teams have had superb summit success each season.

Accredited By:



**Climbing Level:** Excellent Physical Condition, 5-Day Rock Course, or 6-Day course with Rock Climbing Experience, or equivalent required. ( 1:1 climber to guide ratio on Matterhorn)

## EXPEDITION INFORMATION

### Climbing Skill Level

Climbers should have completed our one of our rock climbing courses or our 6-Day Training course with Rock Climbing Experience or have equivalent experience. Some combination of the two may suffice so please contact the office with questions.

### Itinerary:

**Day 1-2:** Fly to Zurich. Early morning arrival and board the train to Zermatt. (The train station is just below the airport). Arrive Day 2.

**Day 3:** Orientation, gear check, Leave No Trace discussion. Tram to training area for snow school. Self arrest, ice axe, and rope techniques will all be covered.

**Day 4:** Tram to training area for ice climbing. Crampons, tool placement and rope climbing will be covered and practiced.

**Day 5:** Riffelhorn. Tram to Riffelhorn and rock school practice. Techniques for ascending rock will be covered.

**Day 6:** Climb the Pollux (4092m) This excellent climb includes rock snow and possible ice climbing.

**Day 7:** Tram to Gorner Schlucht hut and prepare for climb of Rimpfischhorn.

**Day 8:** Climb the Rimpfischhorn. This is a long climb using all the skills we have learned over the last several days.

**Day 9:** Descend to Zermatt and rest.

**Day 10:** Tram and hike to Matterhorn hut.

**Day 11:** Climb Matterhorn. This is a 1200meter climb on rock with small sections of snow and ice.

**Day 12 and 13 :** Extra days to allow for inclement weather conditions.

**Day 14:** Train to Zurich and fly home.

**Day 15:** Arrive home.

### Matterhorn History

Lodged in the Pennine Alps along the Swiss-Italian border, the Matterhorn's history dates back to the Whymper team ascent in 1865. The climbing accomplishments continue into modern day with such achievements as Swiss Guides Arnold and Graven completing two complete traverses, covering all four ridges in 19½ hours. In 1995, B. Brunod set the record for the fastest ascent reaching the summit in 2 hours, 12 minutes and 29 seconds from the village of Cervinia. Other notable ascents include the first woman, Lucy Walker (British) in 1871, first ascent of the North Face in by F. and T. Schmid in 1931 and W. Bonatti's a solo winter ascent on a new direct route of the North Face in 1965.

**Non-Discrimination Statement:** Alpine Ascents International is committed to ensuring an environment in which diversity is a fundamental value. We provide equal opportunity for all students, climbers and employees regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age or sex.

## EXPEDITION SCHEDULE & COSTS

<b>Dates:</b>	July 19 – August 2, 2008	August 3 – August 17, 2008
<b>Cost:</b>	\$5,600.00	
<b>Deposit:</b>	\$ 700.00	
<b>Balance:</b>	\$4,500.00 due 90 days prior to departure	
<b>Note:</b>	Acceptance based on prior experience. Enrollment is confirmed upon receipt of deposit. A complete confirmation package is forwarded to all members in conjunction with multiple email and phone briefings. Detailed gear lists, logistics and training information are available upon request.	

### Expedition costs include:

- All transportation and lodging in Zermatt
- All group camp supplies.
- All group climbing gear
- All hut fees
- Park fees, trekking permits and all tour fees
- Guides fees

### Expedition costs do not include:

- \$25 Wire Transfer Fee (If Applicable)
- International airfare USA - Zurich - USA
- Meals throughout the expedition
- Train from Zurich to Zermatt
- Lodging in Zurich should your flight itinerary require this
- Personal gear (see gear list)
- Excess baggage charges & airport taxes
- Charges incurred as a result of delays beyond the control of Alpine Ascents

## CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

Due to the nature and heavy costs of government and operator permits, Alpine Ascents International must adhere to a stringent refund policy. Alpine Ascents does, however, reserve the right to waive any fees. As we offer personalized service, we will attempt to accommodate changes and cancellations when necessary, waiving certain fees when feasible.

- Each \$700.00 deposit includes a \$200.00 non-refundable registration fee.
- Full refunds, less registration fee, will be provided 90-days prior to expedition start date.
- 50% refunds will be provided 60-89 days prior to expedition start date.
- No refunds will be provided 59-days prior to expedition start date.
- All refund requests must be made in writing and be received in our office within the 90-day period, as stated above.
- Alpine Ascents International *highly recommends* trip cancellation insurance for all expeditions. Alpine Ascents offers a plan in conjunction with Travelex.

## TRAVEL RESERVATIONS & EQUIPMENT

Upon receipt of your application and deposit we will forward a detailed information package. We are happy to assist you with all of your preparations. We recommend making your travel reservations with Scan East West Travel. They are familiar with our programs, and booking through them ensures coordination between your flights and the expedition schedule. Our agent is Charles Mulvehill: phone 1-800-727-2157, email [charles@scaneastwest.com](mailto:charles@scaneastwest.com).

Personal equipment is not provided. You can view the gear list at: [www.AlpineAscents.com/gear.asp](http://www.AlpineAscents.com/gear.asp). Quality gear is available for rent directly from Alpine Ascents International. For specific gear questions, please contact [Climb@AlpineAscents.com](mailto:Climb@AlpineAscents.com).

## WHY CLIMB THE MATTERHORN WITH US?

### Guides

We are blessed to have Perren Benedict, Swiss native as our Lead Guide and local expert, who also guides for us throughout the world. In addition to Bene, we employ top local guides who consistently make the expedition enjoyable, enriching and extremely educational. A famous Matterhorn guide for over 15 years, for Bene (as he is affectionately known) has accumulated over 100 ascents of the Matterhorn, as well as countless ascents of other Alps peaks. He is also a Himalayan climber and dear friend. Beni has guided with us on Everest, The Matterhorn and Greenland. Bene is one of the finest guides in the industry and we highly encourage you to contact former Matterhorn climbers.

### Schedule Flexibility

One of the most important factors in the success and enjoyment for our climbers has been the ability to adjust our climbing schedules as needed to account for the ever-changing conditions in the mountains. Rather than throwing our hands up and ending an expedition when a route may become unclimbable, we treat these situations as challenges in their own right and thanks to our experience and local expertise we can change locations mid-expedition if necessary and offer alternate climbs and adventures for our climbers. When such occasions have arisen our climbers regularly praise these adjustments as highlights of their expeditions.

### Experience

Bene has been guiding in Switzerland for the past 18 years and has consistently run multiple expeditions from year to year. The familiarity with the region, combined with our expertise and knowledge around the world, lend a depth and richness to every expedition that we feel is unrivaled in the guiding community.

## ALPINE ASCENTS & THE ENVIRONMENT

With the rise in popularity of backpacking and climbing, the mountains around the world are visited by ever-increasing numbers of people. We are drawn to the mountains for their beauty, purity, remoteness, ruggedness, and the unique challenges they present. The mountains are our home, and it is our responsibility to maintain the natural beauty of the wilderness areas we explore. With this in mind, we are unwilling to sacrifice their preservation for human objectives. At Alpine Ascents environmental stewardship remains one of our core values and we take Leave No Trace ethics and practices very seriously. On our Matterhorn climbs we teach and follow the environmentally appropriate Leave No Trace principals and practices. For more information see: [Leave No Trace \(www.lnt.org\)](http://www.lnt.org)

### Principles of Leave No Trace

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Leave What You Find
- Respect Wildlife
- Minimize Campfire Impacts



Alpine Ascents is proud to be a corporate sponsor of these organizations. We support their committed efforts to protect the environment and provide valuable resources for the climbing community.

- Leave No Trace ([www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org))
- American Alpine Club ([www.americanalpineclub.org](http://www.americanalpineclub.org))
- The Access Fund ([www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org))
- The Porter Assistance Project ([www.sherpafund.org/porter](http://www.sherpafund.org/porter))

*"Our climb, lodging and food, in-country training, Beni and other Swiss guides, Zermatt and Switzerland exceeded expectations." Ben H.*

*"While I loved each and every expedition with Alpine Ascents, the Matterhorn expedition was superb. Our guide was a true leader and gifted climber. He went out of his way to increase our skill, confidence and sense of achievement." Jim B.*