

Swiss Alps - Summer 2010

Hi,

This summer I'm planning a 1-2 week trip to the Swiss Alps that some Ceunant members may be interested in. The area we are planning to visit offers a range of climbing objectives and is an ideal location for a first Alpine season. For anyone new to alpine climbing a wealth of help and advice is available within the club but to get the most out of an alpine trip climbers need to be self reliant and prepared to climb fairly independently in the mountains. Although for anyone with UK mountaineering, rock and winter climbing experience this is an ideal area to begin alpine climbing. Alternatively professional guides are available locally.



Aiguille de la Tsa (3,668m)



L'Eveque (3,716m)



Mont Blanc de Cheilon (3,869m)



Camping Arolla (1,998m)



Walking above Arolla

When: Provisionally from Sat 24th July and a trip of 1-2 weeks is usually the minimum worth going for.

Venue: Western Pennine Alps, camping in the Val d'Hérens in the village of Arolla

The Arolla campsite sits at the head of the valley at an altitude of about 2000m and gives access to several mountain huts from which a range of snow & rock peaks can be climbed. Many of peaks in this area are suitable for alpine novices (Grade F to PD), there is also single and multi-pitch sport climbing in the valley. Also, being positioned roughly midway along the "High-Level Route" between Chamonix and Zermatt ensures excellent walking & trekking.

Travel: Arolla is about 40 km from the main Rhône Valley. Travel options include; plane to Geneva, train to Sion, then the local bus, or by train to Sion, or drive direct from Calais in about 12 hours.

Mountain Routes: Below is a sample of some of the more popular peaks in the area. Because of their greater scale alpine peaks take longer to complete (*generally a couple of days from the valley*) so you would be doing well to get through all these!

Pointe de Vouassan (3,489m)

An introductory summit reached from the Aiguilles Rouges Hut. The 'voie normale' via the left bank of the Aiguilles Rouges glacier valley (F) is an excellent climb for alpine novices, on glaciated terrain with a rocky summit.

Pigne d'Arolla (3,796m)

An ascent of the Pigne d'Arolla is a good introductory climb. The route via the ESE flank is on snow all the way and the summit gives wonderful views of Arolla and, on a clear day, of the Mediterranean.

Aiguille de la Tsa (3,668m)

A pinnacled peak, the Aiguille de la Tsa summit is reached by rock climbing on the east flank. The rock is superb and gives excellent climbing graded PD with passages of rock graded II/III+.

L'Eveque (3,716m)

An elegant snow and rock peak. The NE ridge from the Vignettes Hut (PD)

Mont Blanc de Cheilon (3,869m)

The finest rock and ice peak in the Arolla district.

Mont Brule (3,585m)

Mont Brule is a mass of snow and ice, which gives an easy but interesting introductory climb, graded (PD-)

Tête Blanche (3,710m)

The Tête Blanche is a quick and easy peak, excellent view of the Matterhorn.

Tête de Valpelline (3,799m)

The North Side from the Col de Valpelline (PD-)

Let me know if you interested

Cheers

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