Queyras Snowshoe Winter Paradise

Trip Code: QUY

Version: QUY Queyras Snowshoe Winter Paradise

WINTER	GUIDED GROUP	CHALLENGING 7

HIGHLIGHTS

- Snowshoe in remote valleys & quiet trails, away from the crowds
- Enjoy spectacular mountain views
- Centre-based in a charming family run hotel in the picturesque village of Aiguilles
- Fully guided and all snowshoe equipment provided

AT A GLANCE

- 6 days snowshoeing
- Max altitude - 2656 metres
- Join at Aiguilles

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

- All meals included
- 7 nights Hotel

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

The Queyras Regional Natural Park is considered to be one of the most beautiful in France; wild mountain valleys, with impressive rock faces and jagged ridgelines are all there just waiting to be explored. The area lies south of the ancient town of Briancon, a World Heritage Site, and is just west of the frontier with Italy. For our week in this beautiful area we are based in the village of Aiguilles in a small family run hotel. We begin our week by snowshoeing up to La Criox de Curlet which boasts excellent views of the area, during the day we can start to get the feel for snowshoeing and our guide will also do a little training on mountain safety in winter and we'll begin to look at the snowpack itself. Continuing through the week, our days get slightly longer as we get used to wearing snowshoes, a specific highlight is on day 6 where we aim to the summit of Crete de Gardiole; at 2656m this is also the highest point of the holiday. If you are looking to get away from the crowds this winter, look no further, as it's a surprise to meet other groups on the mountain!

Is this holiday for you?

This week of centre-based, guided snowshoeing is designed to appeal to regular mountain walkers and are used to dealing with all kinds of mountain weather.

You can expect to be in the mountains for a full day, and be comfortable dealing with ascents/descents of up to 1000m (3200ft). You should also be prepared to occasionally do a longer day . You should be used to walking in the mountains on consecutive days without requiring a ‘rest day’. We will walk on trails, but also we may have sections or days when the trail is not well defined and we will be creating our own track. If there is fresh snow you can expect to help with trail breaking.

We expect you to be used to dealing with winter weather and are not put off by a day when it is snowing, windy and the temperatures are low. You should be used to dealing with your comfort levels, and be able to be self-sufficient when it comes to keeping yourself warm and dry. Expect to be out on the mountain for up to 6-7 hrs per day.

The itinerary will be flexible and during the week the guide will use their expertise and local knowledge to determine the best routes to take advantage of prevailing snow conditions and the abilities of the group. A suggested itinerary for the week is given below, but may be subject to change. If snow conditions do not permit snow-shoeing on any of the routes, the group will follow an alternative winter hiking itinerary.

Itinerary

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DAY 1

Arrival Day.

We meet at our accommodation when your guide will be available to discuss the itinerary and answer any questions about the week ahead. Please note that for those arriving into Turin airport a transfer is included, departing at approx. 1630 hrs to allow us to arrive in Aiguilles in time for dinner.

Meals: **D**

Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 2

Snowshoe to the view point at La Croix de Curlet. Mountain safety training.

We ease into the week by heading for an excellent view point which gives a good introduction to the area. This is one of the best belvederes of Saint Veran and the cirque of Clausis. There is the possibility of doing a loop on our descent to vary the terrain and views. We will aim to also do some training looking at the snowpack and considering mountain safety in winter. We will stop at the gorgeous village of St Veran for a well earned 'refreshment' before heading back to our hotel.

Meals: **B L D**

Accommodation
Hotel

Ascent
762M

Descent
730M

Time
5 - 6 hours Snowshoeing

Distance
8KM

DAY 3

The Alpages du Sommet Bucher.

We begin by heading up a narrow valley towards the highest village in Europe at St Veran. It claims this title as the only village inhabited all year round at this altitude of 2050m. We wander through the pine forests zig zagging our way up the mountain side till we reach our destination at Sommet Bucher. It is a

good place to view the Col Agnel, the frontier with the Piemont are of Italy. A visit to St Veran for a coffee after the climb is an excellent end to the day.

Meals: **B L D**

Accommodation
Hotel

Ascent
846M

Descent
846M

Time
5 hours Snowshoeing

Distance
10KM

DAY 4

Snowshoe up to the Col de la Creche.

A view of the picturesque village of Chateau Queyras is on offer this morning as we head for the Col de la Creche which rises above the village. We drive up a steep mountain road to the community of Les Meyries which is our starting point. A gorgeous climb follows through the pine forests until we rise above the tree line and the impressive ridge leading to the Pic de Agrenier, comes into view. We swing round to the Col de la Creche which gives an excellent view point over the region, we then claim the summit ridge!

Meals: **B L D**

Accommodation
Hotel

Ascent
609M

Descent
609M

Time
6 hours Snowshoeing

Distance
9KM

DAY 5

Snow shoe to Alpage de Fontantie - stunning views over the Ecrins National Park.

We start at the Montbardon trailhead, with the high alpages of Fontantie as our goal. This is a superb mountain pasture, and we should get a great view over the Ecrins National Park from the top which sits at 2500m (8200ft). The pastures are home to the cow herds during the summer months, but in winter they are a silent snowcovered landscape with all the cattle safely 'tucked up' in the barns in the valley. As with all the Queyras area, on a good day, we are rewarded with views of snow covered mountains, and ridge lines as far as the eye can see.

Meals: **B L D**

Accommodation
Hotel

Ascent
791M

Descent
788M

Time
6 hours Snowshoeing

Distance
9KM

DAY 6

Showshoe to Chalets de Clapeyto - experience the wild terrain of the Queyras.

We head into some really wild terrain today and experience the Queyras at its best. We drive to the picturesque village of Brunissard, which is en route to the famed Col d'Izoard which features in the 'Tour de France' and it is near the village that we will begin our hike. We follow the stream to begin with until we are under the impressive limestone cliffs of the Pic de Beaudouis, which reaches 2843m and has various rock climbing routes. From here we venture into a small combe, and then over Le Collet pass where we enter the open valley of Clapeyto. Here we pass ancient summer homes buried under the snow and it is easy to imagine how lovely this area will also be sin summer. We have various options today as we may just consider the Chalets as our goal, or if conditions are good and we do not have too much trail breaking to do, we may aim for the Col de Neal which sits at 2,509m (8204ft). This is an amazing cirque and e which offers a great reward on a blue sky day.
The statistics below refer to the full day to Col de Neal.

Meals: **B L D**

Accommodation
Hotel

Ascent
914M

Descent
913M

Time
7 hours Snowshoeing

Distance
14KM

DAY 7

Snowshoe up to the Col de Longet (2701m).

The Col sits at 2,701m and is an excellent goal for a great day out. We begin just after the remote village of Fontgillarde, the last inhabited village before we reach the Italian frontiere. We start our trail at Pont de Lariane and climb steadily along the left bank of the stream of the Vallon du Tronchet which descends from the Col. After enjoying the stunning views we descend a little along our track before taking the other bank of the stream and doing a circular route back to our starting point. This route is know in the area as a 'grand classic' snowshoe, with it's north facing slopes it holds the snow until late in the season

Meals: **B L D**

Accommodation
Hotel

Ascent
738M

Time
6 hours Snowshoeing

Distance
9KM

DAY 8

Departure Day.

KE services end after breakfast.

Meals: **B**

Holiday Information

What's Included

- Professional guiding with full snowshoe instruction
- All land transport
- Single timed airport transfers
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the meal plan
- Snow shoes and ski poles.

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Tips for local staff
- Personal spending money and miscellaneous expenses - drinks
- souvenirs etc.

TRAVEL TO YOUR DESTINATION

In some cases you may choose to take a ferry and/or train to your holiday start and end destination. Please see further information on Travelling by Train.

If flying from the UK there are low cost airlines available to the start and from the end of your holiday.

To benefit from full financial protection, ease your holiday planning, and avoid dealing with airlines, we can book scheduled flights from the UK as part of a flight inclusive package. Scheduled flights are usually more expensive than low cost alternatives, however potentially less stressful if your flight is cancelled or delayed. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

The group will meet for dinner at the group hotel in Aiguilles at 19:00.

On day 1 of the itinerary there is a single timed transfer provided from Turin Airport at 16:30. On day 8 of the itinerary there is a single timed transfer back to Turin Airport departing at 08:00 - Your flight back from Turin should be from 1300 hrs onwards on this day.

Meal Plan

All meals are included in your holiday price. We recommend an allowance of about €10 for snacks and soft drinks.

This is one of the few trips for which we include a packed lunch on each of the snowshoeing days. Aiguilles our base is small and it is convenient for our guests to provide a picnic. Our hosts do a great job at ensuring we have plenty to eat at lunchtime on the mountain. Please bring a plastic/tupperware box of around 300-350cc and fork/spoon as they will often supply some salad.

Please note that although the food is tasty and wonderfully produced, the kitchen is small and meal options kept to a minimum therefore not all special dietary requirements can be catered for.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Accommodation

Our base for this week of snowshoeing is a lovely family run hotel in the small village of Aiguilles. The hotel boasts spacious rooms, generous meals and a friendly atmosphere. The accommodation will be based on twin sharing with each room having a seperate toilet and bathroom. If you are travelling on your own, you will be paired up with another traveller of the same sex. Single rooms may be available on request; however, these are limited in number and we recommend that you book early if you wish to be sure of a single room.

Group Leader & Support Staff

Professional, English speaking guide

Altitude

This holiday involves going to moderately high altitude. During the course of your trip you will reach altitudes in excess of 2500 metres. Most people will have no difficulty with this level of altitude but before coming on the holiday, we recommend you read the advice on trekking at high altitude. You can also talk to one of our trekking experts if you have any concerns about altitude.

Spending Money

We recommend an allowance of €15 - €20 per day for lunches, snacks, water etc. For this trip the opportunity to obtain cash is very limited, there are cash machines in Turin Airport and we strongly recommend you take money out here, or bring Euros with you.

Baggage Allowance

For this trip we ask that you keep your luggage to a minimum. To make travelling to your accommodation easier a singel timed transfer from Turin airport is provided. However, it means that there may be 8 people in a minibus with limited space for luggage. Your guide will also be arriving with all the snowshoe equipment for your week ahead, and this also will be in the minibus. In addition you will have to carry your luggage up stairs to your accommodation so please keep luggage as small and light as possible.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

Climate

The temperatures we can expect to encounter during the day will be in the range -10 to +15 degrees celcius/ 14 -59F, though it can feel much warmer than this in the reflected sunlight high on the slopes. In the evening the temperatures will drop. January to March is statistically the time of the lowest precipitation but mountainous areas do generate their own weather systems so occasional rain, snow and even stormy weather cannot be ruled out.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Maps

iGN series, Mont Viso 3637 OT - 1:25 000

iGN series, Guillestre 3537 ET - 1:25 000

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

You must bring the following items:

- Hiking boots (must be waterproof)

- Gaiters
- Trainers (for valley use)
- Socks
- Walking socks (2 or 3 pairs)
- Spare laces
- Trekking trousers
- Lightweight waterproof overtrousers
- Underwear
- Thermal baselayer - leggings
- Thermal baselayer shirts
- T-shirts and/or casual shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Waterproof jacket
- Warm jacket (eg. down)
- Daypack of approximately 30 litres capacity
- Water bottles 1 Litre (x2)
- Warm and waterproof gloves or mittens
- Lightweight thermal gloves
- Basic First Aid Kit - Our professional tour leaders hold first-aid qualifications and will carry a basic medical kit. You should bring your own personal first aid kit consisting of the following: throat lozenges, painkillers (anti-inflammatory), antiseptic cream/spray, plasters, blister treatment/tape, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite). Glucose tablets are a good idea.
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Fleece hat
- Sunglasses with side protection
- Ski goggles
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sunhat
- Tupperware box of around 300-350cc and fork/spoon for lunches
- Ski poles (provided)

The following items are optional:

- Earplugs (particularly if you are not the one snoring!)
- Waterproof liner for your daypack
- Camera
- Travel clothes
- Spare clothes
- Small padlock (to lock bag)
- Swimwear (there is a sauna and spa at the hotel)

Notes:

Specialist Equipment: Snowshoes, ski poles, and standard safety equipment including an avalanche transceiver, probe and shovel will be provided by KE, and available to collect at the group hotel.
Please note you will be liable for any damage caused to the specialist equipment due to negligence.

If you wish to take your own walking poles, make sure that they have snow baskets fitted.

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

We sell this holiday on a Land Only basis and recommend that you book your flights to Turin Airport which is approximately 3 hours drive from Aiguilles . Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements and Transfers' section for further details.

Flights SHOULD NOT be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

If flying from the UK there are a number of low cost airlines offering flights to Turin. These include Easyjet who have flights from London, Jet 2 who have flights from Manchester, Edinburgh, Birmingham & Leeds Bradford. Other airports may be available.

If you would prefer to book a 'flight inclusive package' using scheduled airlines from the UK please contact our flights department for a quote. Whilst flight prices are likely to be more expensive you will benefit from full financial protection.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Snowshoe in quiet areas that are 'off the beaten track' and with a small group (maximum of 8 people) you can get a real feel for this spectacular area.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 14/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change