



The Magic of Mont Blanc

February 24 - March 4, 2006

A Winter Ski-Away to Courmayeur

Fantastically situated on the sunny Italian side of Mont Blanc, the legendary ski resort of Courmayeur merges spectacular mountain scenery with stylish village charm. Offering something for everyone—from 13,000-foot mountain peaks and imposing castles, to cobbled streets and fine dining—it is the most captivating of the Aosta Valley resorts bordering France and Switzerland.

Courmayeur offers skiing for all, including famous runs such as the resort’s World Cup Downhill and the International, a 4-mile run that drops 3,300 feet as it descends. The diverse number of runs and lifts provides plenty of skiing all morning and afternoon, with amazing views of Mont Blanc, Western Europe’s highest mountain.

There’s an abundance of easy cruising for those just starting out, as well as high mountains and bumpy black for better skiers. Heli-skiing is also popular, with skiers and snowboarders hopping over the border from France. Cross-country skiers will find small but beautiful trails in Val Ferret just outside town in the direction of the Mont Blanc Tunnel, with additional possibilities in Dolonne. And the mountain restaurants are among the best you’ll ever sample!

The village of Courmayeur, lined with quaint buildings on cobbled streets, offers up an assortment of superb restaurants that will appeal to all tastes and budgets. On weekends the resort takes on a distinctly Italian persona when the narrow streets of the grand old village are alive with fur coats, fashion, and greetings of “Ciao bella.” From slope-side excitement to cozy apres ski celebrations to superlative shopping, an escape to Courmayeur captures the essence and excitement of winter’s drama.



Castles cling to the hillside in the Aosta Valley



Courmayeur mountain peaks

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Boston departure:	\$1780
Land only (no airfare included):	\$1190
Single supplement:	\$180

Airfares are available from many other U.S. cities. Please call for details.

The following services are included:

- Airfare:** Roundtrip air from Boston to Milan.
All customs fees and airport taxes included.
- Hotels:** 7 nights accommodation in Courmayeur.
All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** Roundtrip transfers Barrington to Boston;
Milan (Malpensa) to Courmayeur.
- Meals:** Full breakfast daily; dinners first and last night.
- Guides:** Meet and greet on arrival.
- Insurance:** Complete travel insurance including cancellation coverage.

**For further information & registration please contact:
Sandi Tinyk at the Barrington Community School
(401) 245-0432**



Friday, February 24

Overnight: Flight

Transfer from Barrington via private motor coach to Logan International Airport for departure to Milan, Italy.

Saturday, February 25

Overnight: Courmayeur

Upon arrival in Milan, a private motor coach transfers you to your hotel in Courmayeur. Here you will have time to unpack and begin to explore the village, before gathering for a relaxing dinner in the evening. **(D)**

Sunday, February 26 – Thursday, March 2

Overnight: Courmayeur

Where else in the world can you ski the Mont Blanc Massif, the Toula Glacier, and the Vallée Blanche... and also have the nearby resorts of Chamonix, Megeve, La Thuile, Pila, Cervinia, Verbier, Gressoney, and Monta Rosa within easy reach?!



Mountain peaks at the resort village

But first things first: There are two main ski areas at Courmayeur. The largest of these two locations, Checrouit-Val Veny, is situated directly above the resort, and is largely suited to beginners and intermediates, although there are some challenging off-piste descents from top to bottom that may be undertaken with the assistance of a guide.

The most famous run at Courmayeur is the 13-mile descent of the Vallée

Blanche down to Chamonix from Helbronner Point (11,053 feet), reached

in half an hour from the La Palud cable car station. The descent takes 4 to 5 hours allowing for breaks for food, drink, and photographs. Once in Chamonix, participants traditionally enjoy a “gigantic beer” before returning to Courmayeur by bus through the Mont Blanc Tunnel.



Architecture meets nature in the surrounding countryside

For more experienced skiers there is a 6,561-foot vertical descent down to La Palud that begins at Helbronner Point and continues over the Toula Glacier. Other popular runs are the Col d’Arp, l’Arp Veille, and Couloir of Dolonne.

to superlative shopping. And there’s never a lack of dining possibilities, with a brilliant range of restaurants that spans The Tunnel (quick but fantastic pizza) to Pierre Alexis (romantically upscale) and everything in between. **(B)**

When you’re ready to take a break from skiing, there are a host of additional activities in the village, ranging from ice skating to swimming

Friday, March 3 Overnight: Courmayeur

After your final run of the day, we will meet up at our hotel in the evening for our final farewell dinner. **(B, D)**

Saturday, March 4 Return flight home

This morning we gather for transfer via private motor coach to Milan’s Malpensa airport for returning flights to the USA. Upon arrival in Boston, you will be met and transported to Barrington via private motor coach. **(B)**



And then there’s the snow...



Courmayeur’s dramatic setting

Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **D** - dinner