

Winter Downunder – Alpinism in Europe



As snow is falling in New Zealand, promising plenty of fun for the start of the winter, our alpinism activities are happening in Europe again. This year, we left Wanaka earlier than usual to arrive in time for the International Mountain Guides meeting in Tignes. Chief **Alpinism & Ski** guide Gary Dickson represented his favourite country in France during the first week of May. After taking part in the politics of the Mountain Guiding Industry meeting as Mr President of the NZMGA, ski touring was on the program, finishing with a ski race and then a gala evening at over 3000 m altitude, dancing being part of the fun. Next came a personal ski touring adventure in central Switzerland, followed by rock climbing in Ticino and even some sailing fun. During June, the Icelandic Mountain Guides requested Gary back for some skills training and assessments, including search and rescue, crevasse rescue and general glacier guiding techniques. Our Swiss summer will see a couple of Wanaka locals come back for more alpine climbing fun and a keen Australian lass will also make the journey over for a two week technical mountaineering course. Some weeks are busy with the International School of Mountaineering here in Leysin and then we'll be ready to ski in Wanaka again.

[Ski Touring](#) with us in the Southern Alps starts with a team of three during first half of September. There will be six weeks to two months or so of brilliant late winter/spring action and if you are keen on an adventure of back country touring, winter mountaineering or an avalanche course, as usual: the earlier we know, the better, as mountain guides can get booked out.

For individuals keen to share experience, adventure and cost, we have fixed the dates for two **scheduled** trips, max 4 participants in each, bookings taken now, inquiries welcome anytime (special conditions apply):

- **6 day Ski Tour from Sunday 14 – Friday 19 October special price \$ 2430 pp**
- **7 day Total Alpinism (intermediate – advanced) technical mountaineering course from Sun 6 – Sat 12 January 2013, price \$ 2830 pp**

New this year: every participant of a mountaineering instruction course with Alpinism & Ski receives the latest edition (Jan. 2012) of the Technical Mountaineering Manual by Gary Dickson, of which the first very popular edition appeared while he was still chief guide in Mt Cook - anybody can order a copy of his latest manual, just ask.

Our next New Zealand summer schedule has already a few projects of [ascents](#), and just in case you are playing with the idea of realising your dream alpinism trip, remember to reserve a mountain guide in good time, top guides get busy quick in NZ during the main season. Don't hesitate to ask any questions you might have, we'd love to help you realise and share your [alpinism adventure](#). Be it mountaineering or trekking, ski touring, snowboarding in the back country, instruction courses or tailor made alpine experiences. Full on tough and hard or soft recreational with fauna & flora experiences or a combination of everything. The [Alpinism studio](#) will be available again too for independent holidays or a combination of activities & accommodation. Our alpinism guests continue to enjoy the home stay option at the base before and after trips, either in the "climber's bunkroom" or the "honeymoon" room.

Here now for the online presence:

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Should you feel that this is spam, please let us know and we'll take you off the mailing list – on the other hand, if you know of somebody keen on alpinism adventures, you're welcome to pass this on and recommend us.

Keep having fun, stay safe and best wishes from us
Iris & Gary

Alpinism & Ski Wanaka - your top choice for mountaineering adventures:

Alpine climbing instruction, ascents trips, guided trekking, avalanche courses, ski touring and back country snow boarding
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