# Mount Elbrus Climb from the South

## Level of proficiency

good physical training, mountaineering preparation is desirable, you will obtain necessary mountaineering knowledge and habits during the acclimatizing outputs

## from 1 720 Euro

The nearest date: **12 - 19 April 2027**
**8 days / 7 nights**
Other dates:
**19 - 26 April 2027**
**26 April - 3 May 2027**
**3 - 10 May 2027**
**10 - 17 May 2027**
**17 - 24 May 2027**
**24 - 31 May 2027**
**31 May - 7 June 2027**
**7 - 14 June 2027**
**14 - 21 June 2027**
**21 - 28 June 2027**
**28 June - 5 Jule 2027**
**5 - 12 Jule 2027**
**12 - 19 Jule 2027**
**19 - 26 Jule 2027**
**26 Jule - 2 August 2027**
**2 - 9 August 2027**
**9 - 16 August 2027**
**16 - 23 August 2027**
**23 - 30 August 2027**
**30 August - 6 September 2027**
**6 - 13 September 2027**
**13 - 20 September 2027**
**20 - 27 September 2027**
**27 September - 4 October 2027**

# Tour manager

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The southern route

Our guides perfectly know all features of the southern route to Elbrus. The route is defined as 2A level of difficulty and quite easy for climbing technically. Although it requires the use of special climbing equipment like crampons and an ice ax. You will receive all the skills after practicing snow and ice movement technique.

Technically simple climb to Elbrus from the South makes it possible to see the entire Caucasus from a height. The changing panorama, as one climbs up, leaves an everlasting impression. Especially the ascent made at dawn is memorable, when a huge shadow of Mount Elbrus rises over the horizon in the west under the rays of the rising sun.

## Itinerary

Flight to Mineralny Vody, Transfer to Terskol. Air flight to Mineral Vody, meeting at the airport by our representative. Transfer to the Elbrus region (4 hours), accommodation at the hotel. Briefing with the guide on personal equipment, preparing for outing to Cheget.

Ascent to Cheget Peak (3460m). Going up on two lines of chairlift to the altitude 3000m (30 minutes). Acclimatization outing to the shoulder of Cheget (3460m). Up 1-2 hours. On the top there is a good platform viewing the Elbrus, the Main Caucasus Range. The path is going through the rocky ridge. Snack, lunch package and descent by snowy southern slopes of Cheget. The outing takes you 3-5 hours. Return to the hotel. Discussing the program for the next day.

Ascend by shuttle ropeway up to Mir station, and then by chair lift to Garabashi station. Azau (2200m) - Staryi Krugozor (2950) - Mir (3500) - Garabashi (3840m)
Acclimatization trip to Diesel Hat (4050 m), climbing up along a snowy plateau with moderate rise (8 to 10 degrees) for about 1 to 1.5 hours, a little rest in the area of Diesel hat, packed lunch and descend down to the high-altitude shelter (20 to 30 minutes). Overnight stay in the high-altitude shelter (3830). Discuss the program for the next day, look at and select your personal equipment, prepare yourself for climbing to the mountainous area and the Pastukhov rocks. Overnight.

Acclimatization outing to the Pastukhov's rocks (4650m). Rising by the cableway to the station "Mir", then using a chairlift to the station "Garabashi". Azau (2200m) – Staryi Krugozor (2950m) – Mir (3500m) – Garabashi (3750m). The Ascent Tour to the Pastukhov's Rocks. Ascent 3-4,5 hours, descent 1-1,5 hours. Discussion of the tactic of the ascent to the Mt. Elbrus, viewing and selection of personal equipment, preparing for the ascent. Overnight at the mountain hut.

Day of ascent. An early start (at 3 o'clock). If you take a snowcat to the Rocks, you can start later, at 4-5 a.m. The climb will take you 12-16 hours with the way down to the Barrels. Moving on skis or crampons, depending on the snow condition. If there is a lot of snow, you can go up to the saddle by skis; if it is not possible, you can leave them in the end of the ridge or at the Pastukhov's rocks. The track to top is marked by landmarks, but it is advisable to go on climbing only in good weather. There are lots of closed crevasses on the glacier, and you should keep the path. You should go only using crampons. In May and November the slope to the saddle can have a long part of pure ice. In this case the route is possible only for well-prepared sportsmen. The way down is especially dangerous (3,5 km at a steepness 30) They say, you can see both the Caspian and the Black seas in the ideal weather from the top. Overnight at the mountain hut.

Rest day. Accommodation in the high-altitude shelter

Reserve day. Descent to the Azau. Lunch, transfer to the hotel. Final Party, Free time. Handing in certificates on climbing to Mt. Elbrus and Elbrus T-shirts. Overnight at the hotel.

Breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the Mineral Vody airport.

## Accommodation/hotels:

We deal with the hotels "Ozon"***, "Povorot"***, "Chiran"**. These are the modern comfortable hotels with all the necessary structure, cozy rooms (double room), polite and respectful staff. At the mountain hut (3840m ) accommodation conditions are modest. There is sleeping area and a kitchen (dining rooms), an outdoor toilet. Beds with mattrasses and pillows, tables, electric heaters are on your availability. Temperature: +18 C, it is colder near the floor (+5 C), sleeping bags are recommended.

## Additional information

We cannot but mention that in wintertime the Elbrus slopes above the Pastukhov Rocks usually look like a huge icy field more than 500 m long. That is why moving along the ice surface requires definite alpine experience. That is why we

recommend to the tourists who would like to climb the Elbrus in winter to have at least tourist or alpine training and experience in moving along an ice relief using crampons, you should have a rope and ice-screws with you and have some practice in using them. You should understand well what you are doing.
It often happens that people come to climb the Elbrus in winter without required preparation. In this case we strongly recommend you to hire a professional individual guide while climbing the Elbrus in a company which can be trusted (Alpindustria) and which will take care of your safety during the climb.

## Itinerery

You will be met by our representative at the airport Mineralnie Vody and you will come to the hotel by minibus.
In the next four days you will get an optimal acclimatization for a forthcoming ascent to the Elbrus. The program of preparation (acclimatization) includes outings to the slopes of the mountain of Cheget (3452м), from where in good weather conditions you can see beautiful views of Mt. Elbrus, Donguz-Orun, Nakra and many others, most beautiful tops of area, the way of ascent to 4050м up to a former Shelter 11 and the way to the Pastukhov's rocks (4600м). On the 6th-7th day it is the time for an ascent which usually takes 9-14 hours together with descent.

The description of the route of an ascent Mt. Elbrus Western 2a category of complexity.

1. Barrels (3780m) to Shelter (4050m) route takes 1.5 hours. Move along the snow-and-ice fields. There can be cracks in the area of the plateau before the ascent to Shelter 11. Be careful!
2. Shelter (4050m) to Pastukhov Rocks (4600m) route takes about 2 to 3 hours. The rise trails between two rocky ridges (4300m), further it's a snow-and-ice rise (15 to 20 degrees, 50 m) with an exit to the plateau under Pastukhov rocks. The climb to the "Pastukhov Rocks" is along the closed glacier (20°). There are no cracks here. There exists an approach along the plateau under the bottom stones of Pastukhov Rocks (5 degrees, a rock-fall is not ruled out in a summer afternoon). Then climb to the top of Pastukhov rocks through the snow-and-ice slope of 15 to 20° steep.
3. Pastukhov Rocks (4600m) to Slanting Shelf (5000m) route takes about 1 to 1.5 hours. The snow-and-ice rise of 500 to 600 m has a slope of 15 to 20°. The ascent is straight up, avoiding the bends of ice (but you should not go far to the left, not to fall under the faults on the southern cirque glacier) and by turning to the left, we go out to Slanting Shelf (5000m).
4. Slanting shelf (5000m) to Motorcycle couloir (5340m) route takes about 2 to 2.5 hours. It is rather a flat traverse with a smooth climb. The steepness of slope on the inclined traverse is 15°, and in some places, up to 25°.
5. Motorcycle couloir (5340m) to Saddle (5350m) route takes about 20 to 30 min. Take a detour around the foot of the eastern peak (400 to 500 m) below. On this site, you can sense the smell of sulfur dioxide emitted from fumaroles on the southern slope. In case of an adverse wind, it poses a serious hurdle to the hikers. Traverse to get to the saddle, and move cautiously on the trails, as there can be cracks. On the left, under the slopes of the western summit, at the beginning of snow trough there is the structure of an old ruined hut, and in front of it at the top of the eastern summit, a new hut has been built, designed solely for rescuing persons caught up in inclement, extreme weather conditions during the ascent (construction of the hut was completed in August 2010).
6. Saddle (5350m) to the point of entry into the summit plateau (5550m) route takes about 1 to 1.5 hours. At 50m from the hut, turn right and along the fairly steep snow slope (30 to 35°), climb up to the rocky ridge. There may be an ice patch before the ridge. At this point, there can be movement on the railing.
7. Summit plateau (5550m) to the top of West Elbrus (5642m). Start here to climb up and left on the summit plateau. Through a 400-meter flat area, we reach a low dome of the top (40 minutes to 1 hour).
8. The western peak of Mount Elbrus is a small, snow and ice rise of 15° steep with a stone pedestal at the top.
9. Descend via the ascent route.

Attention! In case of weather getting rough, it becomes difficult to focus on long and smooth slopes of the Elbrus! When lenticular (lens-shaped) clouds appear above the top or cloudiness over Ushba and Donguz-Orun, it is necessary to either postpone or cancel the hiking. The time period from the first signs of bad weather to complete loss of visibility may take up to 3 hours.

## Route

Mineralnye Vody - Terskol (2200) - Cheget (3452) - Barrels Shelter (3700) - Diesel-Hut Shelter (Shelter 11) (4050) - Western Elbrus (5642) - Terskol (2200) - Mineralnye Vody

## Price includes

AlpIndustria guides for all the program.
Transport. All transfers according to the program (Minvody airport - hotel- airport, transfers in the region).
Accommodation. Double hotel rooms - 4 nights HB.
The mountain hut (3840 m) accommodation on Elbrus - 3 nights FB.
An English speaking guide.
Elbrus and Cheget cableway/chairlift return tickets according to the program.
Food. Full board in the Caucasus - 2 meals a day in hotel restaurants. Lunch in cafes. Pocket lunch while touring and climbing.
Certificates on Elbrus expedition.
Cook service on Elbrus.
Rental kitchen equipment.
Tickets for cableway\chairlift during the program.
Guide-assistant for the climbing period (for groups more than 4 people).
Local and state tourist taxes:
• Passport registration;
• Border area Pass;
• Visa invitation;

## Price does not include

Single accommodation.
Additional food and drinks.
Additional transfers and cableway tickets (not included in the program).
Equipment rental.
Snowcat (snow grooming machine) for climbing. (600 - 1000 euro per a snowcat)
Extra night at the Elbrus hotel ifcoming from the Elbrus earlier than it was planned.
National Park permit for climbing.

Not included:
Domestic and international air fare. Insurance.

Important:
Only ONE attempt of climbing Elbrus is included.

## Documents required

International passport, migration card, visa (for foreign citizens).

## Safety

Climbing Mt.Elbrus is an active kind of sport in the mountains potentially dangerous for life and health for all the participants of this program. Our guides will provide the necessary level of safety in case you follow the Safety Instruction. The guide has a radio, GPS, a mobile telephone, all necessary group equipment.
Decision of stopping the programme when the weather and snow conditions impose a threat to lives of the participants is in exclusive competency of the guide accompanying the group on the route and can not be discussed. The guide is responsible for providing safety on all kinds of mountain relief.
All guests should have medical insurance in case of incidents or immediate illness which can cover medical and other expenses in emergency.

## Transport

For transfer we use comfortable sedans (depending on the group size) or minibuses (for 10-15 people) like Mercedes, Volkswagen or Ford. Transfer "airport – hotel – airport" is a group transfer and it works once on the arrival day and once on the departure day. In case of necessity we can book an individual car for extra fee. We use the cableway skilift to come to the Barrels. You can book a snowcat to reach the Pastukhov's rocks.

## Food

Full board in the Caucasus is 2 meals a day in hotel restaurants. Pocket lunch while touring and climbing.
We offer you complete and balanced meals useful for people exercising up in the mountains. They include vegetables, meat, fish, bread, cereals, tea, coffee and milk.
If you have food restrictions (for example you are a vegetarian), you should warn us beforehand. We'll try our best to make you feel comfortable.

## Weather

Temperature in the Valley varies from 20 to 30 degrees. It can be from +15 to -5 on the mountain at an altitude of 3500 m, and from +10 to -15 on the top depending on the weather. In bad weather conditions we try not to venture out.
In winter it can be up to -20 in the valley, but this is rare, usually -5 to 10 degrees. On the mountain, the temperature can drop up to -40 at an altitude of 5000 m.

## Medicine

During the trips the guide has the first aid kit. It is possible to contact the Rescue service in any place. It is necessary for you to have individual medicines.

## Extra costs

Moscow - Mineralnye Vody - Moscow flight, international flights.
In case of an early descent from the high-altitude shelter before the period stipulated in the program, hotel accommodation.
Money paid for shelters, booked in advance in accordance with the tour program is not refunded. We earnestly hope that you understand these conditions well. In peak season, seats in the shelters are not adequate for all guests, so we book the seats in advance considering the required number of reserve days.
Local souvenirs.
Self-catering in the valley (the average price for lunch/supper starts from 300 rubles per head). In the valley, there are many cafes and restaurants, mostly of Caucasian cuisine.
Climbing by ratrak on the day of ascent costs 600 euros per ratrak (a group of up to 10 persons).
Excursion ticket by chair lift to Cheget costs 450 rubles per person and by shuttle ropeway to Azau costs 750 rubles per person.

## Payment conditions

Please meet our rules of payment conditions.
To provide a successful and safe realization of the program we undertake definite efforts and preparation which require expenses.
Down payment when booking is 200 Eu. In case you cancel the trip it is not refundable.
Full payment should be done not later than 20 days prior to the beginning of the program. Unless full payment is made we consider the trip cancelled in this term and quit the booking.
Please, be aware that the first payment is not refunded in this case.
You can pay in cash in our offices in Moscow and Terskol and make a bank money transfer.