ARDENT OFF ROAD
ADVENTURES
ALPS HOTEL
ALPS HOTEL OVERVIEW

Exploring the Alps by 4x4 in the summer is a wonderful trip. High up in the mountains we drive along tracks built hundreds of years ago, such as The Salt Road which originally ran from Nice to Turin. We also visit the 4x4 show in Valloire for an afternoon, where you can explore the wide variety of displays and stay in the town overnight.

This hotel-based trip is a mixture of road and off-track driving through soaring mountains and famous passes that are some of the best in Europe. These roads include the Col De Galibier, famous for its part in the Tour de France, the Col de la Bonette which is the highest tarmac road in Europe and the Col de Turini, the Monte Carlo rally stage voted by Top Gear as one of the top 10 roads in the world!

Our Alps 4x4 adventure takes you to the highest heights and with that some truly stunning vistas. You will enjoy four days of off road tracks which ascend the peaks, take you through tunnels, track high mountain paths and pass Napoleonic forts as we travel the Fort Central Route and negotiate the Salt Road along the Italian border.

As well as natural beauty, this area is home to many historic towns, bridges and churches, particularly when we follow the ancient routes. Rest assured, this is a 4x4 adventure AND a holiday, so we'll always find time to stop, get out the vehicle and take in the magnificent scenery. At all times you will be under the guidance of our expert team who will ensure that, no matter what crops up, you and your vehicle will remain safe.
DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

7 nights/8 days

Day 1 - Ferry from UK to Beaune
We meet just outside Dover at 6.00am to catch the 7.35am ferry to Calais. Upon arrival, we drive towards Reims for a lunch stop near the disused racing circuit and a good photo op of your vehicle on the start/finish line! Then it's a six-hour drive across the day to Beaune, one of the top wine centres in France where we dine in the old town square.

Day 2 - Beaune to Valloire
The journey to Valloire takes 5 hours where we will spend the afternoon/evening at the excellent Valloire 4x4 Show. There are interesting exhibitor stands and excellent bars, shops and restaurants all along the main street, with plenty of opportunities to seek out upgrades for your next overland trip! We overnight just outside Valloire in a ski resort and enjoy a tasty fondue in a nearby restaurant.

Day 3 - Valloire to Valberg
A day of spectacular alpine scenery as we cross the Col du Galibie (Tour de France route) and the Col de la Bonette, which is the highest tarmac road in Europe. There is a fabulous track to end the day’s driving before spending the night in the beautiful resort of Valberg.

Day 4 - Valberg to Breil-Sur-Roya
We leave Valberg driving towards Nice via the spectacular Gorges du Cians where the road clings to the side of the valley. We then drive the Col du Turini, a section of the Monte Carlo Rally, stopping at the famous crossroads to check out the memorabilia. From there it’s some track driving to visit some abandoned forts before we head to our hotel near Breil-s-Roya, where we stay for three nights.

Day 5 - Mountains and forts
After a superb breakfast we head to Fort Central. Travelling through the mountains, the views expand across the valleys and we stop at a Napoleonic fort where you can see into France and Italy! You'll get to step back in time, explore the ruins and take some stunning photos. You'll experience some incredible views, great tracks and we finish the day inside Italy, travelling back through the Tende Tunnel.

Day 6 - Heading north into Italy
The highlight of the week is travelling the famous Salt Road. This is one of the best tracks you will ever travel and to tell you more would spoil it! Let’s just say its stunning, one of our absolute favourites and something you’ll not want to miss!

Day 7 - Dijon and towards home
We return to Italy, skirting around Torino towards the Col du Mont Cenis the “Hannibal Trail", a beautiful road taking us north to Dijon for our overnight stop. Dijon is a beautiful old town with a great selection of restaurants and there is much to explore in the evening. The following morning, we drive to Calais and our homeward ferry.
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD
The accommodation is bed and breakfast – we usually use local restaurants for evening meals and either stop at a restaurant for lunch or call in at local shops to buy provisions for a picnic. We’ll tell you the plans each day.

WEATHER AND CLOTHES
Usually good but take a fleece and some trousers as it can get cold at altitude. With mountains you can get the odd shower, so good to be prepared.

- Summer clothes
- Warm clothes
- Wet weather coats
- Sturdy boots
- Hat and gloves, especially for the evenings
- Cotton trousers rather than jeans, which can take a long time to dry out when wet
- A pair of sturdy gloves may be useful for recovery or when working on your vehicle

TERRAIN AND DRIVER ABILITY
Driving will suit all abilities. Some tracks ascend high into the mountains so a head for heights is of benefit. Tracks are a mix of forest, farm and cross-country generally with a rock, shale or gravel solid base.

For every Ardent Off Road Adventure there are two guides in the lead vehicle, who are on hand throughout your trip to provide everything from basic instruction to improving existing skills and recovering your vehicle. However, we do understand that some people may want to build their 4x4 driving confidence and skills prior to their holiday, which is why we also provide Adventure Ready Training at our track in Carlton Towers, Yorkshire. Please contact us for more information.

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS
This adventure is suitable for a vehicle with a low-box and recovery points and a set of all terrain tyres. If you are unsure of anything, please contact us before booking.

We advise you bring a European travel kit which includes a hi-vis jacket, breathalyser, first aid kit, warning triangle and head lamp converters.

The tour guides will carry a first aid kit, recovery gear and tools. While not essential, we do advise having your vehicle serviced before the adventure.

SAFETY
We carry medical kits, our guides are all first-aid trained and we have emergency beacons to hasten location and evacuation in emergency situations. Lead vehicles have full recovery equipment which is tested before departure and we also carry a range of tools and spares. Our top priority is to keep both you and your vehicle safe at all times.

MORE INFORMATION
We will be in contact with you six weeks before your departure date with a full check-list of things you will need to prepare before your trip. You can of course contact us at any time if you have any questions.
PRICE
£2,500 per vehicle for this 7-night hotel-based adventure.

INCLUDED
- Accommodation and breakfast
- Driver and one passenger
- Ferry Dover to Calais
- Professional instructors in fully equipped lead vehicles
- All paperwork and ticketing
- Expert route knowledge
- We will send a comprehensive check-list six weeks before departure

EXCLUDED
- Lunch, dinner, snacks and drinks
- Fuel
- Vehicle insurance and recovery
- Motorway tolls – either have euros or you can purchase a ‘toll tag’, which collect payment automatically, reducing time at the toll booths (www.saneftolling.co.uk)

BOOKING
If you would like to go ahead and book with us, please visit our website www.ardent-adventures.com to book online, or if you prefer to discuss any trip details or have any questions regarding your vehicle, please call us on 01757 638 479 or email us on ask@ardentoffroad.com

Simon said: “The whole week was a blast, but our absolute favourite was driving the Salt Road. Great weather, great tracks, nice hotels and some fun evening meals. We didn’t want to come home!”

OTHER ADVENTURE RECOMMENDATIONS
If you like to soar high in the mountains, we can also recommend our Pyrenees Altitude adventures which we run several times and year, and we also have a special Alps Recce trip programmed for 2019.