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Mount Elbrus · 11 days

Elbrus Traverse from East to South

Cross the wild Irik Chat Gorge and eastern slope of Elbrus, then descend through the south after an attempt on both summits.

Currently unavailable

TAF Travel is currently unable to operate Mount Elbrus tours because of the current political situation in Russia and related cross-border travel conditions in the Caucasus. Departure dates have been removed, and we are not accepting reservations for these programs at this time.



[Prepare for this journey](#)[View the tour brief and equipment checklist](#)[Essential details, route requirements and what to pack.](#) ↗ [Printable guide](#)[Download tour PDF](#) ↗

Mount Elbrus overview

About the Elbrus Traverse from East to South

This demanding 11-day expedition follows the Irik Chat Gorge, Achkeryakol lava flow, and Elbrus's side crater. Eight days of full autonomy lead to the summit camp and the final descent by snowcat and cable car.



Irik Chat Gorge and Paton Peak



Roped glacier crossing and camp autonomy



Acclimatization at the side crater



Eastern and western summit attempt

At a glance



Duration

11 days



Difficulty

3/3 · Demanding



Group size

6 people minimum · up to 3 climbers per guide



Best season

July–August

Currently unavailable

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Price from

4,000 EUR

This route is not currently operating. We will review availability when conditions allow.

Mount Elbrus itinerary

The Elbrus Traverse from East to South itinerary

The itinerary follows the source-based Elbrus program, presented in the TAF Travel format for future reference.

Day 1

01

Arrival

Meet at Mineralnye Vody Airport, or arrive through Tbilisi the day before. Transfer to the local office, meet your guide, check personal equipment, and stay at a 3-star hotel in twin rooms.

Day 2

02

Camp 1 in the Irik Chat Valley

Drive to the village of Elbrus and begin the walk through the Irik Chat Valley. Stop at a natural Narzan spring and camp in a pine forest beside a river and waterfall.

Day 3

03

Higher in Irik Chat Valley

Practice walking and breathing techniques as the forest gives way to alpine meadows. Cross the steep valley and camp on the grass at about 2,750 metres.

Day 4

04

Paton Peak

Climb Paton Peak at 3,930 metres for acclimatization and panoramic views of Elbrus, the Achkeryakol lava flow, and the surrounding valleys. Cross the mountain river by fixed steel cables and lunch beside a mountain lake.

Day 5

05

Irik Chat Pass

Ascend through rocky terrain along the glacier tongue to Irik Chat Pass at 3,667 metres. Camp with views of the valley, Djikaochenkez ice plateau, Kalitsky Peak, and Mount Elbrus, then practice rope-team skills.

Day 6

06

Glacier crossing

Cross the snow-and-ice plateau roped together because of hidden crevasses. Continue beside the Achkeryakol lava flow to Camp 3 at about 4,000 metres, and train in crampon movement and self-arrest.

Day 7

07

Acclimatization to 5,000 m

Climb toward the edge of Elbrus's side crater with only essentials in your pack. The route alternates between rock and snow and gains about 1,000 metres.

Day 8

08

Rest day

Review the mountaineering techniques and prepare for the summit push. If the weather window is unfavorable, the team may use this day for the attempt instead.

Day 9

09

Summit day

Start around 22:00 for the summit attempt. After the eastern summit, descend to the saddle and continue to the western summit only if time, weather, and strength allow. Descend by the south slope, snowcat, and cable car, then celebrate at the hotel.

Day 10

10

Reserve day

Use this extra day for another summit attempt if needed. If all summit windows close, descend along the ascent route and return to town by evening.

Day 11

11

End of the program

Have breakfast and transfer individually to Mineralnye Vody Airport or Tbilisi. The Tbilisi transfer is not included in the tour price.

Mount Elbrus tour inclusions

What is included in the Elbrus Traverse from East to South

- ✓ Visa invitation and flight-arrangement assistance
- ✓ Airport pickup and return transfer from Mineralnye Vody
- ✓ Mountain guiding with a maximum of 3 climbers per guide
- ✓ Program transfers, snowcat, and cable-car descent
- ✓ Hotel nights, tents, mats, and group equipment
- ✓ Full board on the route and cook service
- ✓ Porters and horses for food and group equipment
- ✓ Emergency oxygen, national park registration, and rescue service
- ✓ Elbrus ascent certificate and official climb badge

Not included

- Flights to Mineralnye Vody or Tbilisi
- Lunches and dinners in towns and villages
- Transfers from Tbilisi or Kutaisi unless arranged
- Personal gear and clothing

- Mandatory mountaineering insurance

Mount Elbrus availability

Current availability for Elbrus Traverse from East to South

Departure dates and reservation prompts have been removed while this operating pause is in effect.

Currently unavailable

TAF Travel is currently unable to operate Mount Elbrus tours because of the current political situation in Russia and related cross-border travel conditions in the Caucasus. Departure dates have been removed, and we are not accepting reservations for these programs at this time.

Operational notice

We will review Elbrus Traverse from East to South when conditions change.

TAF Travel is currently unable to operate Mount Elbrus tours because of the current political situation in Russia and related cross-border travel conditions in the Caucasus. Departure dates have been removed, and we are not accepting reservations for these programs at this time.



TAF Travel

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TAF Travel Terms & Conditions

Our general terms and conditions

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Questions?

Please contact TAF Travel before booking if you need clarification about a tour or its conditions.

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TAF Travel

TAF Travel terms for mountain, trekking, and ski tours

Preliminary Remark

All tours and courses are carefully prepared by us. Many offers involve adventure, risk, and uncertainty, which gives them a special appeal. Despite our best intentions, we cannot guarantee subjective travel expectations or individual preferences. Especially in mountain sports, there is an increased risk of accidents, which cannot be completely ruled out. Customers must exercise considerable personal responsibility and caution. Services included in the price are part of the contract. The scope of services is based solely on the travel confirmation and the advertisement in the brochure or online.

Travel Contract / Registration

Cancellation by the Customer and Payment Obligation

- If a cancellation occurs 15 days or less prior to the tour start date, the participant is obliged to pay 75% of the total tour price stated on the invoice. Once the invoice is sent to the participant, these terms are considered accepted.

- This deposit is non-refundable. The prepayment percentage you pay serves as the penalty deducted in case of tour cancellation:
 - A: Deposit without flight ticket: 25%
 - B: Deposit with flight ticket: 50%

!!! Prepayment percentages are strictly non-refundable.

For flight services, the airline's commercial and cancellation conditions apply. Paid flights will not be reimbursed by TAF Travel; the customer must seek any possible (partial) reimbursement directly from the airline.

Tour group policy. Solo travelers may join Mount Ararat and Kilimanjaro tours. Mount Ararat 6-day and 7-day departures require at least 4 participants; both Kilimanjaro routes require at least 3. Other tours are available only to existing groups of at least 6 people; TAF Travel does not assemble open groups for those tours.

Changes in Service and Price After Contract Conclusion

In case of a subsequent price change, the tour operator will immediately inform the customer. The main reason may be currency risks due to fluctuations in the € rate. Price increases within 20 days before departure are ineffective. In case of a price increase exceeding 5%, the customer is entitled to withdraw from the travel contract without charge or request participation in a tour of at least equivalent value, if the tour operator can offer such a tour without additional cost. These rights must be asserted immediately upon notification of the price increase.

Cancellation and Termination by the Organizer

The organizer may terminate the contract in the following cases:

1. If the customer persistently disrupts the event, fails to meet advertised requirements despite warnings, endangers the planned execution, or breaches the contract to an extent that justifies immediate termination. In such a case, the organizer retains the right to the travel price and offsets saved expenses.
2. Up to 2 weeks before departure, if the minimum number of participants is not reached. The organizer must immediately notify the customer and refund the travel price.
3. The organizer / course leader reserves the right to change or cancel the program for safety or unforeseen reasons. Saved expenses will be reimbursed.

Limitation of Liability

1. Our contractual liability is limited to three times the travel price, unless damage is caused intentionally or by gross negligence, or solely by a service provider's fault.
2. We are not liable for third-party services, luggage damage (including theft), delays due to traffic, or timetable changes.
3. Liability is excluded or limited to the extent permitted by law.
4. In case of unforeseeable or uncontrollable events, the customer has no claim for compensation or impaired service.

Invalidity of individual provisions does not render the entire contract invalid.



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