



VILLAGE CAMPS™

Est 1972

EDUCATION THROUGH RECREATION™

Outdoor Education in **Switzerland**

**SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR GROUPS AND SCHOOLS
BY AN EXPERIENCED VILLAGE CAMPS TEAM**

52

YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE



Outdoor Education



Ski & Study



Leadership Programmes

Educating in the outdoors since 1972

Village Camps is a **Swiss Company** specialising in organising camps as well as educational, sports and recreational programmes for international schools and students from around the world. During these past 52 years Village Camps has hosted and cared for hundreds of thousands of young people of whom many are from the International Schools sector.

Looking After You

A focus on Quality and Care: an experienced Village Camps management team looks after you on-the-spot' throughout your stay. From the moment you arrive until you depart, our friendly, experienced counsellor team will be with your group providing effective supervision and guidance for each student.



A staff-camper ratio is 1:8



A comprehensive recruitment and intensive training courses



Qualified staff

Tailor-made Programmes

Creating the perfect programme for your school is our specialty. Many schools have different needs as they are travelling in term-time including theme-appropriate stays that fit into the curriculum as well as specific outdoor adventure thrills in various seasons.



Autumn



Winter



Spring

Affiliations



Prices-reservations

As soon as you have decided on the type of programme, the length of stay and have an approximate number of participants, we will supply you with a firm, all-inclusive price. Simply call or email us with your request and we will get back to you with a proposed schedule and a price. We are here to help you put together a valuable and memorable experience for your students!

"Overall we had a great trip and we are so thankful for the personalisation that we were able to do. We loved it! The programme, the staff, the location, it was all amazing." - **Dhirubhai Ambani International School** -

Play with purpose

As children's lives become ever more connected to a global, virtual, and electronic world we must strive to help them stay connected to the real world around them. Working, learning, travelling, and playing in group settings, while experiencing interpersonal contact and immersion in the natural world has never been more important for children. All Village Camps Outdoor Education programmes include opportunities for learning in the natural world.



Personal growth



Social education



Adventure skills development

Benefits:

Depending on the needs of the group we can adapt programmes to meet the school curriculum, social, or activity needs



IB Schools: many of our clients, especially those from the IB World, appreciate our focus on the Learner (Student) Profile characteristics, for all students from the IB PYP through to the Diploma.



International Award: those schools offering their students The International Award will be able to enhance the student's outdoor abilities with our skilled international staff.

Common theme requests from schools are for:



Team building



Resiliency



Collaboration



Adaptation to climate change

Programmes can be adapted to suit primary, middle years and high school year groups.

"Thank you for all your hard work, flexibility and enthusiasm. We are always impressed with how everything runs well and how good the counsellors are!!!" - **International School Lausanne** -



Saastal: Multi-day programmes

Saas Grund, Saas Fee and Saas Almagell are three alpine villages surrounded by majestic 4000m peaks and glaciers. The valley is well suited to learning about one's place in the world, the interaction between glaciers and climate, carbon neutral electricity generation and adventure activities.



PROGRAMME OPTIONS INCLUDE:

Glacier Day: In, on and about glaciers, the relationship between them and climate, and vice versa. Students look at the causes of glacial change and the results of glacial action, especially with respect to greenhouse gas emissions.

Mattmark Dam Day: Experience the immenseness of the Mattmark Dam. Learn about the human and environmental costs, and the environmental advantages of Switzerland's largest earth filled dam and the associated hydroelectric system.

Saastal Myths And Legends: People have populated Saastal since before the Middle Ages even with (or because of?) its fair share of natural challenges and mountain spirits. Children connect with the stories and legends that have evolved through the centuries and will share stories from their own cultures and backgrounds.

Alpine Hut Trekking And Overnights: There are many mountain refuges from which we can choose to link in a single to multi-day mountain itinerary. Students may meal plan and cook for themselves as they experience the 4000m mountains surrounding Saas Fee, The Pearl of the Alps.

Other Activity opportunities include:

• Saas Almagell Adventure trail • Saas Fee Ropes Course • Mountain biking • Outdoor cooking • Orienteering, Land Art



Leysin: single day to week long programmes

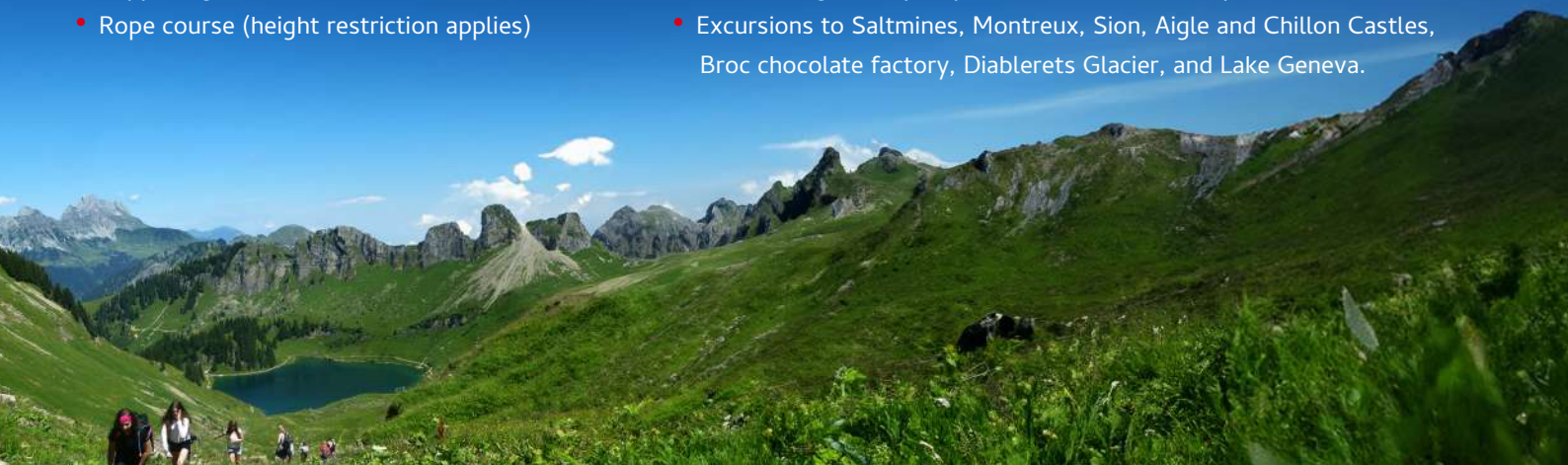
Leysin is well-known in the international community for its residential boarding schools, colleges, and for its skiing. With convenient access to rock climbing, forest and outdoor classrooms, and trekking routes, Leysin is a terrific location to base outdoor learning experiences.

- **Orienteering/mapwork:** Students learn the skills of making maps to scale, use of symbols and legends and micro navigation. Campers use compasses, problem-solving and running top off the activity in tests against the clock and each other.
- **Earthworks/alpine/forest ecology:** The geology and climate of Leysin create a rich diversity of plants and insects. If lucky, students may see deer, foxes, marmots, and other mountain residents. When schools have specific curriculum requirements, we can tailor these sessions to connect to them.
- **Living with nature/campcraft:** Students learn outdoor living skills, and work together to create shelters, raise tents, start fires, filter water, cook on fires and stoves. Knot-work, hygiene, group safety and personal responsibility are important in this session too.
- **Alpine trekking/mountain navigation:** Leysin has a variety of trails leading from the village to lookouts, alpine peaks, and mountain huts. The treks can be routed to accommodate a wide range of physical challenge, and be half-day, full-day, or multi-day.
- **Camping:** Sleeping under the stars, the forest canopy or in tents is a part of a childhood that many students might miss out on without school-lead outdoor trips. We supply tents, sleeping mats, guiding and location, the campers supply their energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to adventure.
- **Single/multi-day hut trips:** As an alternative to camping, schools can choose to include overnights at mountain huts within trekking distance from Leysin.



OTHER PROGRAMME OPTIONS INCLUDE:

- For schools within easy driving distance of Leysin we can provide a taster day as preparation for an overnight programme. This is especially suitable for primary grades when staying away from home for the first time can be a challenge.
- Mountain biking, for grades 7 and over.
- Rafting (height restriction applies)
- Rappelling
- Bike touring on bicycle paths in the Rhone Valley.
- Rope course (height restriction applies)
- Excursions to Salamines, Montreux, Sion, Aigle and Chillon Castles, Broc chocolate factory, Diablerets Glacier, and Lake Geneva.



Swiss Alpine Skiing For Schools

Leysin, Switzerland's Alpine educational hub, offers ideal skiing for all levels. Situated 1260 meters above Lake Geneva and only 1h30 away from Geneva International Airport, it is an convenient international location. Supervised skiing with carefully selected and qualified instructors takes place on weekdays for three to five hours depending on the programme. Leysin is part of the 'Glacier-Alpes Vaudoises' circuit, featuring 60kms of pistes and 16 lifts. Nearby, Gstaad and Les Diablerets provide reliable snow and glacier skiing. Leysin boasts excellent beginner slopes at village level and higher snowfields accessed via the Berneuse Express gondola. Young skiers quickly progress from wide, sweeping runs to confidently tackle challenging black runs.

Exciting Winter Sports: Aside from skiing and snowboarding campers have the opportunity to enjoy unique winter sports in this idyllic Alpine setting. Leysin has its own tobogganing park with tubes for all levels and a full-size ice skating rink. There are also possibilities for sledging and snow-shoe trekking, a challenging but always a very popular activity.

Ski & Study in the Alps

English or French Language Programme: Groups who want to add an educational value to their ski trip can request English or French lessons for their students. This will take place for 3 hours a day in the afternoon and is provided by qualified teachers.



"The room and accommodations were great, very clean and comfortable for the students. Well divided and set up comfortably. We are very pleased and really hope to return next year :) Thank you! Excellent camp experience." - SIS Swiss International School. -

Leadership Training in The Alps

We welcome international speakers to deliver seminar-style talks to the students, enhancing their knowledge with hands-on activities that reinforce the lessons. The primary goal is to foster teamwork and emphasize the critical role leadership plays in shaping group dynamics. Each programme typically features two dynamic speakers per week, aligning with the chosen theme for that specific week. These immersive experiences in the stunning Swiss Alps offer students a unique and transformative educational adventure along with other adventure and educational alpine activities.



KEEPING YOU SAFE AND COMFORTABLE

Food & dietary needs: We are capable of accommodating most dietary preferences with advance notice. Our in-house Italian chef is exceptionally skilled and renowned for his food. Just ask our guests!

Availability of medical services: Leysin features two well-equipped medical clinics that provide high-quality healthcare services. For more extensive medical care, there is a hospital located just a 20-minute drive down the mountain.

Travel Arrangements: If you're arriving at Geneva International Airport or Zurich and require transportation, we can make the necessary arrangements for your transfer.

Insurance Options: Travelling from abroad? With our partners Antae, we're able to offer all students comprehensive travel insurance during their stay in Switzerland.



"Excellent organisation. The activities were very well led by the counsellors. Very good demonstration of the activities and the materials, the students learned a lot from them." - Collège du Léman -



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