

Our Chalet

Discover 2027



Open to Guides and Scouts aged 11-18

Discover the magic of your
home in the Swiss Alps

Key Information

Who can attend Discover 2027?

Our Discover programme is for Guides and Scouts aged 11-18 accompanied by a limited number of leaders age 18+. Discover is designed with younger Guides/Scouts and those on their first international experience in mind. It is less physically demanding than our Explore and Adventure programmes, but still offers plenty of exciting activities!

Our summer programmes are designed for groups of around 8-20 youth accompanied by adults in a ratio of 2 adults per 8 youth. For very small groups (fewer than 6 youth) and large groups (more than 20 youth) please contact us to discuss suitability prior to booking.

Our Discover programme is well suited to Guides/Scouts with disabilities and/or additional needs, who are able to participate in a busy programme with peers of their own age. Please see the accessibility page of this brochure for further details.

Summary: Groups of 8-20 Guides/Scouts age 11-18 accompanied by up to 2 leaders (18+) per 8 youth. Great for younger (age 11-14) Guides/Scouts and those new to travel!

Dates and Prices

Discover 1 - 21 - 27 June 2027

Discover 2 - 13 - 19 July 2027

Discover 3 - 16 - 22 August 2027

Youth (11-15):

Camping (self-catered): CHF 366

Squirrel House (self-catered): CHF 540

Indoor (catered): CHF 885

Youth (age 16-18) + Leaders (2 per 8 youth):

Camping (self-catered): CHF 393

Squirrel House (self-catered): CHF 567

Indoor (catered): CHF 912

Extra costs: Tent hire CHF17 large tent, CHF8.50 small tent. Single/twin room: +CHF10 pppn.

Caterer: Free accommodation for one caterer (age 18+) for groups of 10+ camping or in Squirrel House. This adult is in addition to the 2:8 ratio. The caterer cannot take part in programme.



Programme Activities

How many activities are in the event?

- 4 day programmes
- 4 evening programmes
- Pinning ceremony and tour after dinner on arrival day

Day programmes usually start at 09:00 and finish between 17:00 and 18:00. Except for onsite day we are away from the Centre all day so expect busy, action packed days!

Evening programmes start at 20:00 and last 60 to 90 minutes.

Can we plan our own activities?

There is one free day in the middle of the event. On this day you can plan your own activities or relax at Our Chalet.

Can we skip activities we don't want to do?

Yes, all activities are optional. We ask you to let our staff know so we don't wait for you. As this event is sold at a package price we cannot give refunds for missed activities.

How much walking is there to get to activities?

Our Chalet is located 1.2km (0.75 mile) up a steep hill from the nearest bus stop. On days where we use public transport we must walk to/from the bus stop. See accessibility pages for more details.

Are activities guided or self-led?

All programme activities (day and evening) are guided by Our Chalet staff or volunteers. Kayaking is led by qualified, local kayak guides in conjunction with Our Chalet staff.

Do leaders have to take part in all the activities?

At least one leader aged 18+ must take part in all activities with their group. The leader is responsible for behaviour of their group and any first aid needs. The leader must be physically and mentally fit for the activities and willing and able to lead by example.

Your Member Organisation may require more than one leader to take part, groups are responsible for checking their own Member Organisations rules.

Are activities risk assessed? Who is responsible for first aid?

Yes, all activities are risk assessed. Our risk assessments are reviewed prior to the start of each season to keep them up to date. It is the responsibility of the group to check that activities meet their Member Organisations rules and are covered by their travel insurance.

Leaders are responsible for first aid for their group at all times. Our Chalet staff are only permitted to provide first aid in a life-threatening emergency. We expect leaders to be prepared and capable of handling first aid situations for all their group.

INTERLAKEN

KAYAKING



Spend half a day on the water at the beautiful glacier-fed Lake Brienz. Learn to kayak (or improve your technique) with a guided kayak tour of the lake. All participants use single sea kayaks with experienced instructors and Our Chalet staff helping you make the most of your time on the water.

You will spend approximately 2 hours on the water paddling a circular tour and playing games along the way.

The other half of the day is spent exploring the famous town of Interlaken with a short walking tour led by our volunteers followed by free time to explore at your own pace. Perfect for souvenir shopping, enjoying a local sweet treat, or simply watching the paragliders land in the centre of town.

Good to know

- Non-swimmers can kayak but we must be informed of the number of non-swimmers in advance. Non-swimmers are required to wear a full life jacket with neck float (provided).
- Swimmers must wear a bouyancy aid (provided). A T-shirt must be worn underneath.
- Those with epilepsy (inc. absence seizures) or any condition that may result in sudden loss of consciousness are not permitted to kayak. We cannot make exceptions to this rule.
- Travel on this day is by private coach.

Accessibility

- Adaptive equipment is available for kayaking, including outriggers (stabilisers), transfer boards, and paddle grips.
- Double kayaks may be used for those with neurodiversity or sensory or learning disabilities that prohibit them from safely using a single kayak. A leader must paddle in the double kayak with the participant. Kayak guides & Our Chalet staff must be in single kayaks.



BRIG CASTLE

WORLD NATURE FORUM

Explore Switzerland like a local, traveling by public transport (bus and train) through the mountains to the neighbouring canton of Valais, known for having an average of 300 days of sun per year.

Our destination is the historic town of Brig. Over 800 years old there's plenty of history to see and we learn more about it at the 17th Century Stockalper castle. A guided tour leads us through it's eventful history.

By contrast, the World Nature Forum is a very modern museum full of hands on exhibits telling the story of the first UNESCO World Heritage site in the Swiss Alps, Jungfrau-Aletsch. With the motto "play and discover" there's lots of fun to be had while learning about the Swiss Alps and how we can protect them for generations to come.

Good to know

- Travel by train and bus is on a group booking. Participants must stay together for the entire journey in both directions.
- Leaders must be prepared to supervise their group in the World Nature Forum museum and help them engage with the exhibits. Information is provided in English, German, French, and Italian.

Accessibility

- All transport is wheelchair accessible.
- The World Nature Forum museum is fully wheelchair accessible, with the exception of a historic train carriage exhibit.
- Stockalper castle is a historic building with partial wheelchair access. Details of the access can be found [here](#).

BRIDGE HIKE &

COOKING OVER FIRE



Take on a traditional Guiding/Scouting activity of a hike followed by cooking lunch over an open fire.

We start the day crossing the Hohstalden suspension bridge, hanging 38m up from the river bed. The reward for crossing is a cake at the tiny, family-run cafe on the other side, famous for its lemon cake.

Once we're fuelled for our hike we walk for 1 to 1.5 hours (depending on group pace) through the forest and hills to reach our cooking spot. There we split in to smaller groups to light fires and cook our traditional Swiss lunch.

A short downhill walk brings us back to a road from where we catch the public bus back to Adelboden.

Good to know

- The bridge is not suitable for those with vertigo or a severe phobia of heights.
- The walk is mostly on wide gravel trail and tarmac surface, there is a short section on narrow dirt trail. It is largely flat with short uphill and downhill sections.
- Food and equipment for cooking is provided and must be carried, we expect all participants to help carry at these items. Dietary requirements must be noted in advance.

Accessibility

- The bridge has a flat surface but is only suitable for narrow manual wheelchairs. It is 134m long with handrails on both sides. The bridge does move/sway slightly, especially in windy weather. There is seating on both sides of the bridge.
- For those with disabilities or vertigo it is possible to skip the bridge and walk and meet at the cooking spot. It is also possible to skip the bridge and meet part way in to the walk. This requires the leader to self-guide a short walk to the meeting point.

ONSITE DAY



Spend a day learning traditional Guiding/Scouting skills such as fire lighting and shelter building, playing team games, and giving back to Our Chalet.

Activities vary depending on weather conditions and needs of the Centre. Whatever we do it's a great opportunity to mix with other groups and make new friends while learning something new.

Good to know

- As with all programme, at least one leader must take part in onsite day activities with their group.
- Activities take place outdoors in all weather, even though we are onsite! Indoor spaces are often in use by day tour visitors.
- This day has a longer lunch break, during which time our shop is open.

Accessibility

- Activities can be adapted to meet the access needs of all participants.

EVENING PROGRAMME



Evening programmes take place onsite at Our Chalet on all evenings except the free day and lasts from 1 to 1.5 hours. These range from traditional favourites like campfire and International Night to WAGGGS programme tasters and special celebrations like Our Chalet's birthday (31 July).

On your first evening we do a pinning ceremony and tour to start your event and help you get to know our site.

All evening programmes are optional, if your group needs an early night or simply wants some time to relax and chat you are, of course, welcome to do that instead.

Good to know

- During dinner on your arrival day there will be a leaders meeting. One leader from each group needs to attend this meeting, where you will meet our programme staff and make sure you have all the information you need for the week ahead.

Accessibility

- Activities can be adapted to meet the access needs of all participants.
- Our campfire circle is located up a very short, steep gravel path. Powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters may not be able to get up this path. We are currently working on improving this access and hope to have a more accessible path in place by 2027. There is seating at the campfire circle.

Meals

Meals are included in indoor accommodation packages for Main Chalet/Spycher House only.

Meals are not available for campsite or Squirrel House packages. Groups staying in these accommodations must self-cater.

For groups booked on to the indoor accommodation package all meals from dinner on arrival day to packed lunch on departure day are included in the cost and provided by Our Chalet.

The kitchen at Our Chalet is operated by the Catering Coordinator and a team of volunteers. We do our best to accommodate dietary requirements, however, if your group has a participant with a severe allergy or complex dietary requirement we recommend you discuss your needs prior to booking.



Breakfast A continental breakfast of cereals, yoghurt, bread, cheese, and fruit is available every morning in a self-service buffet style. Hot and cold drinks are also included.

Packed lunch of sandwiches, fruit, & a small snack is made by participants each morning to take with them on programme. All participants are required to bring a lunch box or bag to carry their lunch. Please note: we strongly encourage groups to bring additional snacks that they know they like and will keep them energised for a busy day!



Dinner is served at one sitting and offers one option for everyone. Typical dinners include Swiss dishes such as rösti and camp favourites like chilli or pasta. Dinners always include salad or vegetables and are two courses with a main meal and dessert. Special diet meals, including vegetarian, are available only to participants who have notified us in advance of their need for a special meal.

Accommodation



Indoor accommodation package includes six nights of accommodation, meals from dinner on arrival day to packed lunch on departure day, luggage transfers, and all event programme activities.

Our indoor accommodation is offered across two buildings:

Main Chalet opened in 1932 and offers dorm rooms, triple rooms, twin rooms, and a single room. The largest dorm room can sleep up to 14 participants. None of the rooms in Main Chalet have bunk beds.

Spycher House opened in 1999 and offers one dorm room (sleeps up to eight participants), quad rooms, twin rooms, and two single rooms. Some rooms in Spycher House have bunk beds.

Rooms will be assigned to your group by our office staff based on your needs. To maximise availability, groups may be split across both buildings. Our staff always ensure at least one leader is in the same building as participants from their group. Participants from different groups do not usually share rooms (unless by request), however, different groups will share the same common facilities such as bathrooms and hallways. Our Chalet is open to Scouts and Guides of all genders.

For details of wheelchair accessibility in our indoor accommodation please e-mail info@ourchalet.waggs.org. As a broad overview, accommodation suitable for manual wheelchair users is available in Spycher House. Users of powered wheelchairs or mobility scooters who can transfer to a manual chair without the use of a hoist can also access this accommodation.

Accommodation



Camping package includes six nights of accommodation, luggage transfers, and all event programme activities.

Note: Tent hire is not included in the camping package. We have a limited number of tents (with mattresses) available for hire at an additional cost.

Our campsite can accommodate up to 50 people. For hygiene reasons participants must bring their own sleeping bags, even if hiring a tent from Our Chalet. Camping is available as a self-catering option only.

Camp House contains a small kitchen for the use of campers. Equipment for outdoor cooking is also available. Please note: **in summer multiple groups share the kitchen.**

Toilets and showers are available in Camp House. The upstairs of Camp House can be used for shelter in wet/stormy weather. Note: **it is not permitted to sleep in Camp House, campers must sleep in their tents.**

It is approximately a five minute walk from the campsite to Main Chalet and Spycher House. Grocery deliveries are available from Coop@Home and can be delivered Monday – Saturday. Our campsite is partially wheelchair accessible, for full details please e-mail info@ourchalet.wagggs.org.

Accommodation



Squirrel House accommodation package includes six nights of accommodation, luggage transfers, and all event programme activities.

Please note: there is a minimum group size of eight to book Squirrel House for a Summer Youth Event.

Squirrel House is perfect for smaller groups who would prefer not to camp but do not need the full indoor accommodation package. In summer Squirrel House is available as self-catering accommodation only. Squirrel House sleeps up to six people downstairs on bunk beds and up to ten people upstairs on mattresses. There is a small kitchen in the downstairs sleeping area for self-catering. Squirrel House has two toilets – one downstairs and one upstairs – and one shower.

Squirrel House is not suitable for wheelchair users and is not recommended for those with limited mobility. Grocery deliveries are available from Coop@Home and can be delivered Monday-Saturday.

Accessibility

Our Chalet is passionate about offering international experience and adventurous, outdoor activities to girls and young women with disabilities. Our Discover programme is well-suited for Guides/Scouts with disabilities to try outdoor activities for the first time or build on existing skills. If you are unsure if Discover is suitable for your Guides/Scouts, please contact our programme team and we will be happy to advise.

IMPORTANT: Discover is a busy, activity-packed programme for Guides/Scouts aged 11-18. All participants must be able to participate in high-energy activities with peers of their own age. It is not suitable for those who need frequent rest periods/naps or who have learning, behavioural or social communication needs that would prevent them from participating in age-appropriate group activities.

Can youth who need 1:1 support take part?

Yes, for Guides/Scouts who need 1:1 support we allow groups to book carer/assistant places. Adults fulfilling carer/assistant places can be in addition to the 2 youth to 8 adults ratio for this event. Please tell us **prior to booking** if you need a carer/assistant place. Please note that to keep this system fair we may ask for proof of the need for 1:1 support. Carer/assistant places are charged at the full leader rate and the person must take part in all activities with the youth they are supporting. Youth who need 1:1 support may be eligible to apply for a scholarship, please ask us about this when making a booking enquiry.

Can youth with medical conditions such as epilepsy, diabetes, food allergies, etc. take part?

In most cases, yes. We encourage leaders to contact us prior to booking to ensure we can enable the Guide/Scout to participate safely in our programme. Participants with epilepsy or any condition that causes sudden loss of consciousness cannot take part in kayaking.

Those with severe food allergies are strongly recommended to contact us prior to booking.

Can neurodiverse youth or those with learning disabilities take part?

In most cases, yes. Youth must be able to participate in age-appropriate group activities and be able to cope with a busy programme schedule. The programme is not suitable for youth who are prone to/have a recent history of elopement or wandering.

Can youth with mental health conditions take part?

In most cases, yes. The programme is not suitable for youth who have a recent history of self-harm or of aggressive or violent behaviour.

Access to toilets

During off-site programme we often have access only to public toilets. Often this means we do need to queue to access toilets. In general there is a toilet break opportunity at least every 2 hours. The exception to this is kayaking where there is 2.5 to 3 hours between toilet breaks.

For those who need to know where the nearest toilet is we can provide this information on a printed sheet, please let us know prior to arrival if you need this so we can prepare it.

Wheelchair accessible toilets are available at most locations, including on trains. However, some wheelchair toilets require a Eurokey. As Eurokeys can only be purchased by people with a registered disability we do not have a Eurokey and are not able to provide one.

Restricted mobility

For wheelchair users and those with restricted mobility due a long-term medical condition or disability, we can provide transport to/from the start point (bus stop, coach pick up point) of programme. Public transport is wheelchair accessible and we can book a wheelchair accessible coach.

Please note the transport to/from the start of programme is not available to those who simply prefer not to walk or who have a low level of physical fitness or a temporary injury. This is due to local taxi regulations. Leaders may book taxis at their own expense in these cases.

Sensitivity to noise/crowds & difficulty waiting

As we visit popular locations during the height of the tourism season we often encounter crowds and need to wait/queue at some locations. Below are some examples, we advise guests to contact us if they need more information.

- **Public bus** - buses are often extremely busy in summer, often with other youth groups and some people may need to stand (max journey time 20 mins). It can be hot and loud inside the bus. To ensure we do not miss a bus we usually arrive at the bus stop 10 to 15 mins prior to departure and must wait.
- **Kayaking** - the changing rooms are small and can be crowded. The boat launch ramp can be busy especially on sunny days. It usually takes 30-45 mins from arrival at the kayak school to being on the water. Non-swimmers are required to wear a life jacket with a head float. Some neurodiverse people find the feeling of this restrictive, we recommend trying one before your trip to get used to the feeling and see if it works for you. For safety reasons it is not possible to provide an alternative to this. Confident swimmers can wear a buoyancy aid without a head float.
- **Dining Hall** - our dining hall is small and can get hot and very loud in summer. Guides/Scouts sit up to 10 per table on benches. Middle seats can be hard to exit quickly. We can arrange for a limited number of people to eat outside the dining hall. Groups with multiple participants who struggle with noise or crowds are encouraged to consider our self-catered accommodation.

Leaders with disabilities

We strongly believe in the value of young people seeing adults with disabilities lead and we strive to have staff and volunteers with disabilities and neurodiversity in leadership roles.

The focus of our summer programmes is the youth participants, therefore the programmes are not suitable for leaders who need 1:1 support to fulfil the duties of a leader.

Leaders must be able to support youth to participate in all activities, be responsible for the behaviour and emotional wellbeing of their youth members, and provide first aid if needed. In many cases leaders with physical disabilities, medical conditions, or neurodiverse leaders can meet these requirements. If a leader needs to attend with a carer/assistant to help with personal care or mobility, please contact us to arrange this. The carer/assistant should not be one of the other leaders in your group so that all leaders focus is on the Guides/Scouts.

Neurodiverse leaders, those with mental health conditions such as anxiety, or learning disabilities should carefully consider how they will handle the unfamiliar setting and their ability to handle unexpected or emergency (inc. first aid) situations in a foreign country. Our summer programmes are youth-focussed programmes and are not suited to leaders who need 1:1 support to fulfil the duties of a leader.

We have a range of adult-focussed and leadership-development focussed programmes that are open and accessible to adults of all ages. We encourage those who are not currently ready to lead internationally without support to attend one of these events instead of a summer programme.

