

## Paragliding/Parapente

### PLAN DE L'AIGUILLE & AIGUILLE DU MIDI

**Plan de l'Aiguille -110€ per person (1300m vertical descent)**

**Aiguille du Midi - 280€ per person (2550m vertical descent)**

#### Plan de l'Aiguille

The half way stage of the Aiguille du Midi lift. A superb site allowing beautiful flights towards the Bossons glacier, nestling under the high peaks of Mont Blanc and offering a rugged "natural" ambiance to the flight.

After a three minute walk down from the cable car station you launch just above the tree line from a grassy hillside at 2300m and usually traverse towards Europe's longest icefall: the Bossons glacier, flying above small mountain torrents and often spotting wild deer in the forest below. The jagged seracs of the glacier and the imposing peaks of the Mt Blanc massif create a dramatic vista. The latter part of the flight is over the pine forest and then overflying the town centre of Chamonix before landing at Bois du Bouchet just behind the lake of the sports centre.

In winter months, in contrast to Planpraz the snow is never packed down for us by the piste machines because there are none - this makes for a superb natural mountain ambiance but it can be very hard to run so as to launch in the deep snow. It is for this reason that you cannot fly very often from Plan de l'Aiguille in the winter. The summer months are perfect but we are only authorized to fly here outside of July and August when the mountain rescue helicopter require this area for rescuing climbers from Mt Blanc and surrounds.

Generally speaking flights from this site are from 11am until 4pm.

**Flight time:** approximately 20-25 minutes (*whole event time approximately 1 hour to 1 hour, 30 minutes*).

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#### Aiguille du Midi

Probably THE most dramatic lift served flight in the whole of the French Alps and often cited by enthusiastic solo pilots as one of the most dramatic flights in the world!

Accessing the launch areas is not for the faint-hearted, especially in the summer months when the ridge is no longer equipped with a fixed rope and walkway, as you have to descend a precipitous snow covered ridge.

The take off area and flight is dictated by wind conditions: -

**South-East** sector winds mean you will launch from a gentle snowy slope and have the opportunity to fly over the incredible Vallée Blanche glacial valley, famed for its ski descents and lofty mountains, passing in front of Les Grands Jorasses, Les Drus, Grands Montets, Montenvers and then back into Chamonix.

**North-West** sector winds allow you to launch facing Chamonix using a perfectly shaped but intimidating (from the passengers viewpoint!) launch area, a preferred flight as you can then fly amidst the Aiguilles of Chamonix before flying over the stunning Bossons glacier nestling beneath the Mont Blanc and its adjacent 4000m+ mountains.

**Flight time:** approximately 30-40 minutes (*whole event time approximately 2 hours, 30 minutes*).

## PLAN DE L'AIGUILLE & AIGUILLE DU MIDI

**Meeting Point:** in front of the big Aiguille du Midi sign to the left of the ticket desks.



**Access:** Maximum ten minutes easy walk from any part of central Chamonix. The free shuttle bus service “le mulet” runs every 20 minutes in the town centre - ask for Aiguille du Midi stop.

**Car Parking:** There is limited free parking in front of the Hotel Les Aiglons and on Allée Marcel Burnet. There is inexpensive and more convenient parking in the Parking du Grepon. This car park is clearly signposted at the roundabout as you arrive in Chamonix, just off the “Route Blanche”.

### **Landing Fields:**

Generally you will land at **Clos du Savoy** (off rue Mummery) for 8h, 9h, and 10h flights, and **Bois du Bouchet** (Chemin des Gourgnés) for 11h or later flights.

The pilot will advise which landing field depending on weather conditions.

**Clos du Savoy:** whilst sometimes it is possible for spectators to watch the take off from Planpraz, and then hurry down to see the landing, it really is a rush to try and see both.

**Bois du Bouchet:** Spectators will not have time to watch the take off and travel to watch the landing.



Clos du Savoy landing field



Bois du Bouchet landing field

