

Chapter 1 : 10 Highest Mountain Peaks To Conquer In The Alps Mountains

Tallest Peaks in the Alps Range. The Alps, located in Europe, is one of the most popular destinations in the world for a variety of outdoor activities including hiking, trekking, climbing, and skiing.

Print this map Alps: Located in south-central Europe, they extend for almost miles from the coastline of southern France near Monaco into Switzerland, northern Italy and Austria, then southeast through Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina as the Dinaric Alps. Ending in Albania on the rugged coastline of the Adriatic Sea. The highest point is Mont Blanc at 15, ft. Appennino miles 1, km in length, form the backbone of the country, and run the entire length of the Italian Peninsula, ending on the island of Sicily. The highest point is Mt. Corno at 9, ft. Formed million of years ago during the Caledonian mountain-building periods as western lands were forced or pushed against the Scandinavian Shield. Significant mountain ranges here include the Kjolen in Norway and Sweden, and the Pennines that stretch through the central United Kingdom. Balkan Mountains These mountains extend from Yugoslavia across Bulgaria. Additional ranges run through Albania, Greece and Macedonia. Its most famous mountain is Mt. Olympus, the highest and most awe-inspiring peak in all of Greece. In ancient times it was the mythical home of Zeus, and was declared the first national park in Greece in It stands at 9, ft. They form the natural border between Slovakia and southern Poland, and then extend southward through Ukraine and into Romania. There are major subdivisions, and the highest point is Mt. Gerlachovkain in northern Slovakia, standing at 8, ft. Caucasus Mountains Stretching from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea, these volcanic mountains have many peaks above 15, ft. The highest point and the highest point in Europe is located here; Mt. Elbrus at 18, ft. Great Hungarian Plain Located in southeastern Europe, and surrounded by mountains, the land features several small forests and large patches of grassland. It averages only meters above sea level and often suffers from dry conditions, thus relying on winter snow run-off from the Alps and Carpathian Mountains. Kjolen Mountains This jagged mountain system runs along the border of eastern Norway and western Sweden. Kebnekaise, standing at 6, ft. Mesata The central plateau, or Mesata, covers nearly half of the entire country of Spain. This high plateau averages about 2, ft. These mountains separate the Meseta from the Costa Verde, the Ebro valley, the Mediterranean and the valleys of Andalucia. It continues east for almost 2, miles km, on into the Russian Federation. The land is largely flat with smaller areas of hills, including the Central Russian Uplands. Farming is prevalent and agricultural communities dot the landscape. Pyrenees These mountains form the natural border between France and Spain and extend for about miles from the Bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean Sea. The highest point is Pico de Aneto at 11, ft. Ural Mountains The Urals are 1, miles 2, km in length and extend from the northern-edge of the Russian Federation down through Kazakhstan. They form a natural border between Asia and Europe. Narodnaya at 6, ft.

Chapter 2 : Alps - Wikipedia

Europe is actually home to a myriad of world-famous, world class mountains, particularly those with impressively high peaks. So, for the adventure travelers who isn't afraid of a little snow, we've compiled a list of the highest peaks in Europe; the ones that should be highest on your list.

But long before that time humans have been climbing mountains for the challenge it poses. A few months later he disappeared on the way to the summit. Some of the mountains on this list still provide a great challenge for the professional mountaineer. Others can be visited more easily by foot or cableway. But all of them can be appreciated from a safe distance providing magnificent vistas and spectacular scenery. Volcanic mountains can be found in a separate list. The mountain is known worldwide for its tremendous botanical and biological species biodiversity. Over species of ferns, species of birds, and mammalian species have been identified at Mount Kinabalu and its surrounding. The main peak of the mountain can be climbed easily by a person with a good physical condition, and requires no mountaineering equipment although climbers must be accompanied by guides at all times. The Amphitheatre is one of the geographical features of the Northern Drakensberg, and is widely regarded as one of the most impressive cliff faces on earth. The Amphitheatre is over 5 kilometers 3 miles in length and has precipitous cliffs rising approximately meters ft along its entire length. The area is well known for its scenery, sunsets, peculiarly-shaped granite peaks and views of the clouds from above. Mount Huang is a frequent subject of traditional Chinese paintings and literature, as well as modern photography. The tallest peak in the Huangshan mountain range is the Lotus Peak at 1, meters 6, ft. In ancient times almost 60, stone steps were carved into the side of the mountain. Today there are also cable cars that tourists can use to ride directly from the base to one of the summits. The mountain lies in a national park of the same name which contains 27 other mountains which peak at over meters. A popular tourist destination, it is also a favorite destination for mountain climbers. It is is a challenging ascent, with frequent storms and very steep snow and ice climbing to reach the peak. The mountain was first climbed successfully in by three New Zealanders who reached the summit via the north ridge. Despite its average height the mountain has a reputation of being extremely difficult to climb because the sheer granite faces present long stretches of arduous technical climbing. In addition, the weather in the area is exceptionally severe and treacherous. The mountain also attracts many tourists and photographers thanks to its otherworldly shape. In Hinduism, it is considered to be the abode of Lord Shiva. Every year, thousands make a pilgrimage to Kailash, following a tradition going back thousands of years. It is believed that moving around Mount Kailash on foot will bring good fortune. It is the most significant peak in the world that has not seen any known climbing attempts. The mountains of the Valley of the Ten Peaks near the crystal clear Moraine Lake are also known for providing scenic vistas. K2 With a peak elevation of 8, meters 28, ft , K2 is the second-highest mountain on Earth, after Mount Everest. The mountain is part of the Karakoram range, located on the border between China and Pakistan. K2 is also known as the Savage Mountain due to the difficulty of ascent and one of the highest fatality rate for those who climb it. K2 is notable for its local relief as well as its total height. More extraordinary is the fact that it is a consistently steep pyramid, dropping quickly in almost all directions. An Italian expedition succeeded in ascending to the summit of K2 on July 31, There is a cableway that takes passengers to the top of the mountain with views overlooking Cape Town, Table Bay and Robben Island to the north, and the Atlantic seaboard to the west and south. Matterhorn The Matterhorn is a famous mountain and an iconic emblem of the Swiss Alps. The mountain derives its name from the German words Matte, meaning meadow, and Horn, which means peak. With its 4, metres 14, ft high summit, lying on the border between Switzerland and Italy, it is one of the highest peaks in the Alps. It is also one of the deadliest peaks in the Alps. From the first time it was climbed in to , alpinists have died on it. It is located on the border between Nepal and Tibet. The highest mountain in the world attracts climbers of all levels, from well experienced mountaineers to novice climbers willing to pay substantial sums to professional mountain guides to complete a successful climb. Although other eight-thousanders such as K2 are much more difficult to climb, Mount Everest still has many inherent dangers such as altitude sickness, weather and wind. People who die during the climb are typically left behind

and it is not uncommon to find corpses near the standard climbing routes. You Might Also Like.

Chapter 3 : The Best Christmas Markets in the Alps | Confused Julia

Alps, a small segment of a discontinuous mountain chain that stretches from the Atlas Mountains of North Africa across southern Europe and Asia to beyond the blog.quintoapp.com Alps extend north from the subtropical Mediterranean coast near Nice, France, to Lake Geneva before trending east-northeast to Vienna (at the Vienna Woods).

Physical features
Geology The Alps emerged during the Alpine orogeny , an event that began about 65 million years ago as the Mesozoic Era was drawing to a close. A broad outline helps to clarify the main episodes of a complicated process. At the end of the Paleozoic Era , about million years ago, eroded Hercynian mountains, similar to the present Massif Central in France and Bohemian Massif embracing parts of Germany, Austria, Poland , and the Czech Republic , stood where the Alps are now located. A large landmass, formed of crystalline rocks and known as Tyrrenia, occupied what is today the western Mediterranean basin, whereas much of the rest of Europe was inundated by a vast sea. During the Mesozoic about million to 65 million years ago Tyrrenia was slowly leveled by the forces of erosion. The eroded materials were carried southward by river action and deposited at the bottom of a vast ocean known as the Tethys Sea , where they were slowly transformed into horizontal layers of rock composed of limestone , clay , shale , and sandstone. About 44 million years ago, relentless and powerful pressures from the south first formed the Pyrenees and then the Alps, as the deep layers of rock that had settled into the Tethys Sea were folded around and against the crystalline bedrock and raised with the bedrock to heights approaching the present-day Himalayas. These tectonic movements lasted until 9 million years ago. Tyrrenia sank at the beginning of the Quaternary Period, about 2. Throughout the Quaternary Period , erosive forces gnawed steadily at the enormous block of newly folded and upthrust mountains, forming the general outlines of the present-day landscape. The landscape was further modeled during the Quaternary by Alpine glaciation and by expanding ice tongues, some reaching depths of nearly 1 mile 1. The river valleys have been eroded to relatively low elevations that are well below those of the surrounding mountains. Thus, Aosta , Italy, in the Pennine Alps , and Sierre, Switzerland, look up to peaks that tower a mile and a half above them. In the valley of the Arve River near Mont Blanc , the difference in relief is more than 13, feet. Glaciation therefore modified what otherwise would have been a harsher physical environment: Vigorous glacial erosion continues in modern times. Many hundreds of square miles of Alpine glaciers, such as those in the Ortles and Adamello ranges and such deep-valley glaciers as the Aletsch Glacier near Brig, Switzerland, are still found in the Alps. The summer runoff from these ice masses is instrumental in filling the deep reservoirs used to generate hydroelectricity.

Physiography The Alps present a great variety of elevations and shapes, ranging from the folded sediments forming the low-lying pre-Alps that border the main range everywhere except in northwestern Italy to the crystalline massifs of the inner Alps that include the Belledonne and Mont Blanc in France, the Aare and Gotthard in Switzerland, and the Tauern in Austria. From the Mediterranean to Vienna, the Alps are divided into Western, Central, and Eastern segments, each of which consists of several distinct ranges. Their forms include the low-lying arid limestones of the Maritime Alps near the Mediterranean, the deep cleft of the Verdon Canyon in France, the crystalline peaks of the Mercantour Massif, and the glacier-covered dome of Mont Blanc , which at 15, feet 4, metres is the highest peak in the Alps. The Central Alps occupy an area from the Great St. Within this territory are such distinctive peaks as the Dufourspitze , Weisshorn , Matterhorn , and Finsteraarhorn , all 14, feet high. Differences in relief within the Alps are considerable. The highest mountains, composed of autochthonous crystalline rocks, are found in the west in the Mont Blanc massif and also in the massif centring on Finsteraarhorn 14, feet that divides the cantons of Valais and Bern. Other high chains include the crystalline rocks of the Mount Blanche nappe – which includes the Weisshorn 14, feet – and the nappe of Monte Rosa Massif, sections of which mark the frontier between Switzerland and Italy. Farther to the east, Bernina Peak is the last of the giants over 13, feet 4, metres. In the valleys of the Eastern Alps north of Venice, elevations of only about feet are common. Page 1 of 5.

Chapter 4 : Alps Questions including "What are the most popular vacation mountains in Europe"

The Alps is a mountain range system that is located in Europe and stretches across Austria, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland covering a total distance of approximately miles. This mountain range is the highest and the most extensive mountain range in Europe.

Or mountains in the background. And when you combine the two? So where to go in Europe to find this combination? Christmas markets in the Alps. The Alps are a tried-and-true winter wonderland, and in December each year the mountain valleys and hilltop villages overflow with some of the cosiest and – dare we say – most romantic Christmas markets in all of Europe. No Christmas market crawl is complete without a stop at one of the many Christmas markets in the Alps, and here are a few of our favourites. Kitzbuhel, Austria A modern ski mecca with medieval history awaits you in Kitzbuhel, home to one of the most popular Christmas markets in the Alps. The cozy market runs for four weeks each year, and is abuzz with lovingly adorned rustic chalets, steaming Tyrolean delicacies, and warming mulled wine. An especially enchanting alpine Christmas market for children, Kitzbuhel is home to a weekly carol concert from singers dressed as shepherds, daily pony rides, with its nearby ski slopes offer fun toboggan runs. Both markets are open daily from late November until just before Christmas. The market opens each weekend during Advent late November through Christmas , and is home to local crafts being sold from snow-caked chalets, tasty Austrian food and spirits, and an authentic mountain atmosphere that is hard to beat. Small touches like fire-pits carved out of logs and a blacksmith only add to the ambiance, and onion-shaped church that crowns the town completes the perfect Christmas picture. Vipiteno, Italy About as far north as you can go on the map and still be in Italy, you will find the charming alpine town of Vipiteno and its wintry-wonderful Christmas market. The historic mining town is graced with arched porticos and an ancient spire called Tower of the Twelve that looks like it was taken straight from a fairytale, and in the center of it all an intimate Christmas market. The Christmas market is open daily from late November until early January and features locals meats, cheeses, jams, brandy, and of course strudel all surrounded by alpine hills. Note that Vipiteno is also referred to as Sterzing, which was its traditional German name. Innsbruck, Austria Home to the largest collection of the Christmas markets in the Alps, Innsbruck is the place to go for the refreshing combination of cosmopolitan flair and crisp mountain air. From the heart of the bustling city, you can see directly up to mountainsides strewn with chalets and snow, and the main Christmas market that sprawls out below is home to rows of stalls selling comforting food, warming drink, creative crafts, and clothes made for bundling up in. Other markets in town there are a half dozen official ones include the Marktplatz market – scenically set up besides the rushing Inn River and featuring rides for children – and the Hungerburg market – located on a panoramic overlook reachable only by funicular. All markets in Innsbruck are open everyday from late November until just before Christmas, and with its plentiful connections, Innsbruck is a perfect first or last stop on any Alpine Christmas market crawl.

The Alps are a crescent shaped geographic feature of central Europe that ranges in a km (mi) arc from east to west and is km (mi) in width.

This area, which has the coldest climate, is permanently coated with compressed snow. The alpine zone lies between the height of 2, and 3, metres. Wildflowers and grasses grow here. Just below the alpine zone is the subalpine zone , 1, to 2, metres high. Forests of fir trees and spruce trees grow in the subalpine zone as the temperature slowly goes up. At about 1, to 1, metres high is the arable zone. Millions of oak trees sprout in this area. This is also where farming takes place. Below 1, metres are the lowlands. Here, a larger variety of plants are produced. Aside from plants, villages are also in the lowlands because the temperature is easier for humans and farm animals. The Alps is a classic example of what happens when a temperate area at lower altitude gives way to higher land. A rise from sea level into the upper regions causes the temperature to decrease. The effect of mountain chains on winds is to carry warm air belonging to the lower region into an upper zone, where it expands and loses heat, and drops snow or rain. Plants[change change source] The typical trees " oak , beech , ash and sycamore maple have a natural height limit: Their upper limit matches the change in climate which comes with increasing height. The change from a temperate to a colder climate is also shown true by a change in the wild flowering plant life. The Alps do not always have the typical trees. People have felled them in many places. Except for the beech forests of the Austrian Alps, forests of the typical deciduous trees are hardly found. Where such woods were, Scots pine and Norway spruce now grow. These trees are less sensitive to the attacks of goats who eat the saplings of deciduous trees. Above the tree line, there is often a band of dwarf pine trees *Pinus mugo* , which is taking place of dwarf shrubs. These shrubs are *Rhododendron ferrugineum* on acid soils or *Rhododendron hirsutum* on non-acid soils. Above this is the alpine meadow. Above the alpine meadow is where plant life becomes less and less common. At these great heights, the plants are likely to make separate groups. These are like *Ranunculus glacialis*, *Androsace alpina* and *Saxifraga biflora*.

Chapter 6 : Europe's most beautiful mountains - Smart Travel

Europe's 10 Most Epic Hiking Trails. from the fjords of Scandinavia to the peaks of the Alps. While many trails on the Continent are worthy of considerations, this list contains only the.

Maurus Servius Honoratus , an ancient commentator of Virgil , says in his commentary A. X 13 that all high mountains are called Alpes by Celts. The term may be common to Italo-Celtic , because the Celtic languages have terms for high mountains derived from alp. This may be consistent with the theory that in Greek Alpes is a name of non-Indo-European origin which is common for prominent mountains and mountain ranges in the Mediterranean region. Albania, a name not native to the region known as the country of Albania , has been used as a name for a number of mountainous areas across Europe. In Roman times , "Albania" was a name for the eastern Caucasus , while in the English languages "Albania" or "Albany" was occasionally used as a name for Scotland , [5] although many scholars[who? In modern languages the term alp, alm, alpe or alpe refers to a grazing pastures in the alpine regions below the glaciers, not the peaks. Geography of the Alps The Alps extend in an arc from France in the south and west to Slovenia in the east, and from Monaco in the south to Germany in the north. The mean height of the mountain peaks is 2. The countries with the greatest alpine territory are Switzerland, France The peaks in the easterly portion of the range, in Austria and Slovenia, are smaller than those in the central and western portions. The secondary chain of the Alps follows the watershed from the Mediterranean Sea to the Wienerwald , passing over many of the highest and most well-known peaks in the Alps. From the Colle di Cadibona to Col de Tende it runs westwards, before turning to the northwest and then, near the Colle della Maddalena , to the north. Upon reaching the Swiss border, the line of the main chain heads approximately east-northeast, a heading it follows until its end near Vienna. Principal passes of the Alps The Alps have been crossed for war and commerce, and by pilgrims, students and tourists. Crossing routes by road, train or foot are known as passes, and usually consist of depressions in the mountains in which a valley leads from the plains and hilly pre-mountainous zones. A railroad with a tunnel 1 mile 1. The pass was used by Napoleon Bonaparte to cross 40, troops in The col du Mont-Cenis m at the centre left of the picture gives access to a large alpine lake, and further away to the Italian peninsula 12 kilometres beyond the pass. The pass was crossed by many troops on their way to the Italian peninsula. Alpine orogeny and Geology of the Alps Important geological concepts were established as naturalists began studying the rock formations of the Alps in the 18th century. In the midth century the now defunct theory of geosynclines was used to explain the presence of "folded" mountain chains but by the midth century the theory of plate tectonics became widely accepted. The formation of the Alps was a segment of this orogenic process, [21] caused by the collision between the African and the Eurasian plates [24] that began in the late Cretaceous Period. Coarse sediments from the continual uplift and erosion were later deposited in foreland areas as molasse. The tip of the mountain consists of gneisses from the African plate; the base of the peak, below the glaciated area, consists of European basement rock. The sequence of Tethyan marine sediments and their oceanic basement is sandwiched between rock derived from the African and European plates. While Mont Blanc was first climbed in , most of the Alpine four-thousanders were climbed during the second half of the 19th century; the ascent of the Matterhorn in marked the end of the golden age of alpinism. He completed his series of ascents in By the mids Swiss mountaineers had ascended most of the peaks and were eagerly sought as mountain guides. Edward Whymper reached the top of the Matterhorn in after seven attempts , and in the last of the six great north faces of the Alps was climbed with the first ascent of the Eiger Nordwand north face of the Eiger.

Chapter 7 : The Tallest Mountains In The Alps - blog.quintoapp.com

The Alps is among the most popular destinations in the world for adventurous activities including hiking, trekking, climbing, and skiing. The incredibly massive Alps stretches across 8 countries: France, Monaco, Switzerland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Germany, Austria, and Slovenia.

Mont Blanc, the tallest peak in the Alps, is also well-known for its spectacular beauty. The Alps is a mountain range system that is located in Europe and stretches across Austria , Liechtenstein , Monaco , Slovenia France , Germany , Italy , and Switzerland covering a total distance of approximately miles. This mountain range is the highest and the most extensive mountain range in Europe. The Alps contain about peaks that have summits higher than 13 thousand feet. These mountain ranges were created over ten million years ago as the African and the Eurasian tectonic plates collided. Tallest Peaks in the Alps Mont Blanc Mont Blanc is the tallest peak in the Alps and stands at almost 16 thousand feet above the sea level. This mountain is located in both France and Italy, and it is ranked as the 11th highest peak in the world. The summit of this mountain is an ice and snow dome that is thick. This thickness varies and, as a result, the exact elevation of the summit can be determined. Mont Blanc is also famous for its hiking and winter sports as many tourists travel to the Mont Blanc massif to take part in these activities. This peak is the second tallest one in the Alps, standing at a height of approximately 14, feet. Monte Rosa is known for being completely covered in ice, and this is due to a large number of glaciers that are found on this mountain. A famous glacier on the massif is the Gorner Glacier which is a valley glacier that is approximately 7. The Monte Rosa massif is also very popular among tourists because of the multiple ski resorts that it hosts. Matterhorn Another mountain that covers both Switzerland and Italy is the Matterhorn. The Matterhorn is known as an almost symmetrical peak that is shaped like a pyramid. The location of this mountain is in the same area as Monte Rosa. The height of the Matterhorn is 14, feet which make it the sixth highest peak in the Alps. A feature that is different from the peaks already mentioned is that the Matterhorn is an isolated mountain and due to this reason and the great height of the peak, the weather changes rapidly. Building on this, the mountain also has very steep faces which make the peak prone to banner clouds formation. Climbing The Alps The Alps have attracted many mountaineers, and some peaks are considered to be among the most challenging climbs in the world. Both the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc grouped among the most challenging peaks in the world. The Matterhorn has claimed more than lives since its first summit in while Mont Blanc has taken around lives. It is important to note that though these mountains do not require as much technical skill as K2 and Mount Everest, they are still challenges even for the best climbers in the world.

Chapter 8 : List of mountains of the Alps above m - Wikipedia

Interlaken, Switzerland. Interlaken is located in the Bernese Oberland region of the Swiss Alps. The town became a popular destination for artists during the 19th century, and is captured in the landscape works of Franz Niklaus KÄ¶nig and other Swiss artists.

A cold stein of beer in a warm public bar in Germany? How about a snow-capped mountain? No, not the Alps. Well, not just the Alps. Europe is actually home to a myriad of world-famous, world class mountains, particularly those with impressively high peaks. However, those whose pondering of the Swiss Alps has never made it past The Matterhorn and Mont Blanc will be surprised to learn of the majesty of Dom, the third highest peak in the range clocking in at an impressive 4, m or 14, ft. As far as mountain climbing goes, Dom is actually considered an easy climb, despite its impressive height. It is also the point of intersection between the main Alps chain and an auxiliary chain running from Schwarzberghorn in the South to Distelhorn, meaning the summit offers impressive views of neighboring mountains peaks. Dom, Switzerland Dom and Taschhorn in Switzerland 9. Monte Rosa, Switzerland Another treat from the Alps, Monte Rosa is actually considered the highest peak in Switzerland, and the second highest in the Alps, making it a respectably daring choice for any mountain aspiring mountain climber. But Dufourspitze is only one of many slightly peaks to explore on a trip up Monte Rosa. Monte Rosa is snowy year-round, and therefore a popular tourist destination for hiking, skiing, snowboarding, and mountaineering, as well as trekking. A complete trek of the mountain can be completed in about 10 days, but is not for the faint of heart or the cold-fearing, as temperatures can often drop sub-zero, even before sunfall. Monte Rosa, Switzerland 8. Ushba, Georgia Located in the Svaneti region of Georgia, near the Russian border, the Georgian Ushba mountain is often called the Matterhorn of the Caucasus Mountains, not for its height which is impressive at 4, m 15, ft , but rather for the truly awe-inspiring nature of its spindly double-summit, which is the subject of many impressive photos. However, Ushba is considered the hardest climb in the Caucasus Mountain Range, with the average climb-time running at over 12 days of exhausting mountaineering, so those pictures can come at a steep cost. Heavy snowfall and impressive year-round storms can make the climb arduous at best and treacherous at worst. Summit of the north peak mountain also technically involves a border crossing into Russia, which is an added bonus for travelers looking to cross another country off their list. It is a stunning 4, m 15, ft tall, and the stately views from the top do not disappoint, whether on foot or seen from the comfort of a plane journey from Paris to Milan. Lovers of winter sports will be impressed by the plethora of skiing, snowboarding and other winter sport adventuring, though the biggest and best way to experience Mont Blanc is, of course, mountaineering. For adventurous ice-climbers, Monte Blanc also features the Mer de Glace glacier, the second longest in the Alps. Mont Blanc, Italy, France 6. Its highest peak, Adishi, clocks in at 4, m 15, ft , and is definitely a sight for sore eyes. This peak wins Tetnuldi the title of the 10th highest peak in the Caucasus as well as grants it some absolutely stunning views of its neighbors, including Mount Elbrus, and the tiny town of Mestia. Year round blanket of powder fresh snow makes it an appropriate home to many new and up-and-coming ski resorts. Those who love skiing will be pleased at the array of new ski resorts popping up on and around Tetnuldi, granting it greater accessibility and enjoyment as a touristic destination. However, once hitting base camp, camping is the only option for those wishing to summit the peak. Mount Kazbek, Georgia The third Georgian charmer on the list, Mount Kazbek also known as Stepantsminda is actually a dormant subclass of volcano known as a stratovolcano, as well as a part of the Caucasus Mountain Range. Kazbek is considered the third highest peak in Georgia, at a height of 5, m 16, ft , but only the seventh highest in the Caucasus system. Mount Kazbek is considered the crown jewel and main site of the Kazbegi National Park, official designated in and home to an abundance of alpine meadows and beech tree forests, making it a lovely destination for mountain climbers and nature lovers alike. However, unpredictable weather makes for a potentially treacherous and harrowing climb, so aspiring mountaineers should be careful as and well prepared for the adventure of a lifetime. Mount Kazbek, Georgia 4. Koshtan-Tau, Russia Moving across the border into the Russian section of the Caucasus, there is the Koshtan-Tau mountain, with a height of 5, m 16, ft. Though technically considered a massif,

meaning there are several separate peaks on the mountain, the Koshtan-Tau is the only to go above the impressive 5, meter mark. Since its discovery and first climb in , the mountain has remained rather remote and not a particularly popular climb, making it an advantageous trek for those interested in venturing into relatively uncharted territory. However, travelers will be pleased to note that routes of many different terrains and difficulties exist, from easy rock routes to treacherous traverses. The highest point is a 12 km 7. Shkhara was first summited in , and is not considered an easy climb by any means. Shkhara is a high-risk, high reward kind of climb. Those who tough it win both commanding views and bragging rights. Though journey times vary widely, skilled climbers can complete a Shkhara trek in 6 or 7 days. This second highest peak of the Caucasus Region is located in Russian territory, and known for the technical difficulty created by its jagged terrain and the frequent avalanches they cause. It is a truly steep 5, m 17, ft at its highest point, and offers absolutely stunning views from its peak. Climbing takes an average of 13 days camping on the mountain, which can quickly stretch into more due to the challenging nature of the climb. Mountaineers, be sure to pack accordingly and choose wisely between the bitterly cold winter, and the summer when the rocks are out their roughest. To the surprise of many, Elbrus actually consists of two main peaks, both dormant volcanoes, stretching to the West and East. But lava-shy climbers, have no fear! The last eruption was in the year 50 CE. Despite its impressive size, Mount Elbrus has been fairly well carved out for travelers, making it an easier summit than many of the other giants on our list. The ascent can be aided by chairlift, and generally can take as little as eight hours. Mount Elbrus, Russia Map of the highest peaks in Europe:

Chapter 9 : Top 10 Wonderful Sites in the Alps | Places To See In Your Lifetime

1. *Wengen, Switzerland. This charming little town is a treasure in the Swiss blog. quintoapp.com Wengen is not only one of the most beautiful places in Europe, but in time and history, too: the timber houses and holiday chalets were built in the belle Époque, and the style remained the same ever since.*

The Alps are the youngest and highest mountain system in Europe. They stretch across the western and southern part of the continent in a broad arc. Then it curves north- and eastward through northern Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, southern Germany, Austria and Slovenia. The Alps are about 1,000 km long, the broadest section over 100 km wide. The highest peak, Mont Blanc, situated on the border between France, Italy and Switzerland, rises 4,810 meters above sea level. The whole mountain range is divided into three sections: The western Alps lie west of the Great St. Bernard Pass and include the highest mountains. The central Alps lie between the Great St. Bernard and Lake Constance. They are the lowest section of the mountain range. The southern land mass started moving northwards. This movement folded rock layers at the bottom of the sea. Today these regions are the highest parts of the Alps. Most of the newly formed rock is granite and gneiss, but many ranges consist of limestone which also formed on the seabed. During the Ice Age, which started about a million years ago, the Alps were covered with a thick blanket of snow. Glaciers moved down valleys and made them wider and deeper. As they moved they took rock and other material with them, creating moraines. When glaciers started to melt water filled up behind these natural dams and created the alpine lakes we know today. The largest of these glaciers is the Aletsch in Switzerland which reaches a length of about 25 km. The ice and snow of the alpine regions helped create the large rivers of today: Higher areas are colder than the valleys and they get more rainfall and snow because cold air cannot hold as much moisture as warm air. Sometimes warm dry foehn winds, blow downward along the mountain sides. The valleys have rich, green pastures with beech and oak trees growing in the lower regions. Above the tree line, which is located between 1,000 and 2,000 meters above sea level you can find alpine meadows, mosses, shrubs and unique flowers like the Edelweiss. Animals living in alpine regions must become used to living in higher mountain locations. The ibex is a sturdy wild goat that lives above the tree line. The chamois is a graceful animal that looks like an antelope. Small family farms are very common in alpine areas. The main crops are barley, oats and rye, as well as corn and wheat. Farmers also raise cattle, goats and sheep. Dairy farms produce milk and other products for a large part of the population. Wine is grown in sunny areas of the southern Alps up to a sea level of 1,000 meters. Most of the energy comes from the hydroelectric power plants that operate either high up in the mountains or on rivers. These power stations produce enough energy so that surpluses can be exported to other European countries. In the 20th century tourism became one of the main sections of the economy. Skiing resorts have become popular throughout the region. Famous winter resorts include Grenoble and Chamonix France, St. Numerous Olympic Games have also taken place in the Alps. Skiing resorts in the Alps History and Transportation People have lived in the Alps for thousands of years. German cultures developed in the eastern Alps while Roman culture influenced the western part. Celtic tribes controlled much of the region. In the 1st century B.C. They built roads through alpine valleys and across mountain passes to link Rome with its northern provinces. These roads allowed the Romans to expand their influence to other parts of central and western Europe. There are more than 40 natural passes in the Alps. The Brenner Pass metres is the most widely used pass of the eastern Alps. Gotthard Road Tunnel has a length of 17km and is one of the longest motorway tunnels in the world. It is part of the St. Gotthard road, the most frequently used transit route through the central Alps. Climbing the Alps Few people attempted to conquer the Alps in the early centuries. Many alpine peaks were first climbed during the mid 1800s when mountaineering became a popular sport. Today, professional guides use modern equipment to help people reach the highest peaks. In 1786 two Frenchmen became the first to reach the top of Mt. Environmental problems In the past two centuries many changes have taken place in the alpine region. Increased industrialisation and tourism have led to air and water pollution, slope erosion and the destruction of forests. Increased trade between European Union countries has led to growing road traffic.