

LOCAL MOUNTIAN GUIDES

Verbier 4 vallées



In the Company of Mountains

A Guide to Verbier's Mountain Guides

Verbier doesn't show off. It reveals itself slowly — in snowfall patterns, shifting light, and the quiet confidence of those who know where to look.

Follow a local guide beyond the marked trails, and the mountain changes.

The Guides: More Than Expertise

Mountain guides in Verbier are quiet professionals. Many are IFMGA certified, with years, often decades, spent reading terrain like a second language.

They're not adrenaline dealers. They're skilled navigators who understand that true luxury isn't speed, it's access — to quiet corners, to snow that holds days after a storm, to lines you'd never find alone. Not because they're hidden, but because you wouldn't know to look.



Classic Off-Piste & Guide Routes in the 4 Vallées

1. Japanese Garden (Jardin Japonais)

Where: Backside of Mont Fort, accessed via the Mont Fort cable car

Style: High alpine, wide-open powder bowls with playful rolls and flow

Why Guides Love It: Reliable snow quality, photogenic terrain, early-season gem

Notes: Glacier terrain – requires a guide, glacier gear, and knowledge of crevasses

2. Rock Garden

Where: Near the Rosablanche zone, often accessed via a skin or heli-drop

Style: Technical, steep sections with tight rock features and cliff options

Why It's Special: A natural terrain park for experienced freeriders

Guide Notes: Only suitable with stable conditions – often paired with longer backcountry runs

3. Stairway to Heaven

Where: North face of Mont Gelé

Style: Steep couloir skiing, narrow entrances, challenging exposure

Why Go: One of Verbier's most iconic expert lines

Guide Use: Often scouted in advance; requires precise timing and snow stability

4. Hidden Valley (Vallon d'Arbi)

Where: From La Tzoumaz to Riddes

Style: Long, scenic descent through natural terrain and forest

Why It's Popular: Feels like an adventure – cliffs, gullies, powder, trees

Guide Insights: Ideal for mixed-ability groups seeking off-piste variety

5. Backside of Mont Fort (Col de la Chaux > Tortin)

Where: Drop behind Mont Fort, skiing toward Tortin

Style: Big-mountain terrain, glaciers, and bowls

Why Guides Rate It: A Verbier classic; great conditions mid-winter

Requirements: Always glaciated – certified guide

6. Bruson Trees

Where: Forested terrain below the top lift at Bruson

Style: Tight trees, natural pillows, and storm-day bliss

Why It Works: Holds snow well, ideal in white-out conditions

Guide Bonus: There are dozens of variations – guides often have “secret stashes” not on maps

7. Col des Mines

Where: Above Médran, skiing down from Attelas

Style: North-facing bowl, often with great powder and few crowds

Why It's a Gem: Easily accessible, yet rarely tracked out

Guide Tip: Excellent half-day option; watch for terrain traps

8. Prafleuri to Grand Désert (Ski Touring)

Where: From the top of Mont Fort, skinning beyond Rosablanc

Style: Remote ski touring through glacial and alpine terrain

Why It's Unique: Part of the Haute Route, offering high-alpine silence

Guide Strategy: Often linked with hut-to-hut adventures (e.g., Cabane de Prafleuri)

9. Bec des Étagnes (Freeride + Ski Touring)

Where: From the top of Tortin or via skinning from Siviez

Style: Steep, sustained freeride lines with technical features

Why It Stands Out: True big-mountain experience – a test piece for confident skiers

Guide Note: Very condition-dependent, but deeply rewarding

10. Mont Rognon (Ski Touring Classic)

Where: Near Bruson; usually accessed via skinning

Style: Rolling ascent and open descent – ideal for ski tourers

Why Guides Use It: Reliable snow, stunning panoramas, approachable for intermediate tourers

Optional: Combine with the Cabane Brunet for a proper alpine lunch

