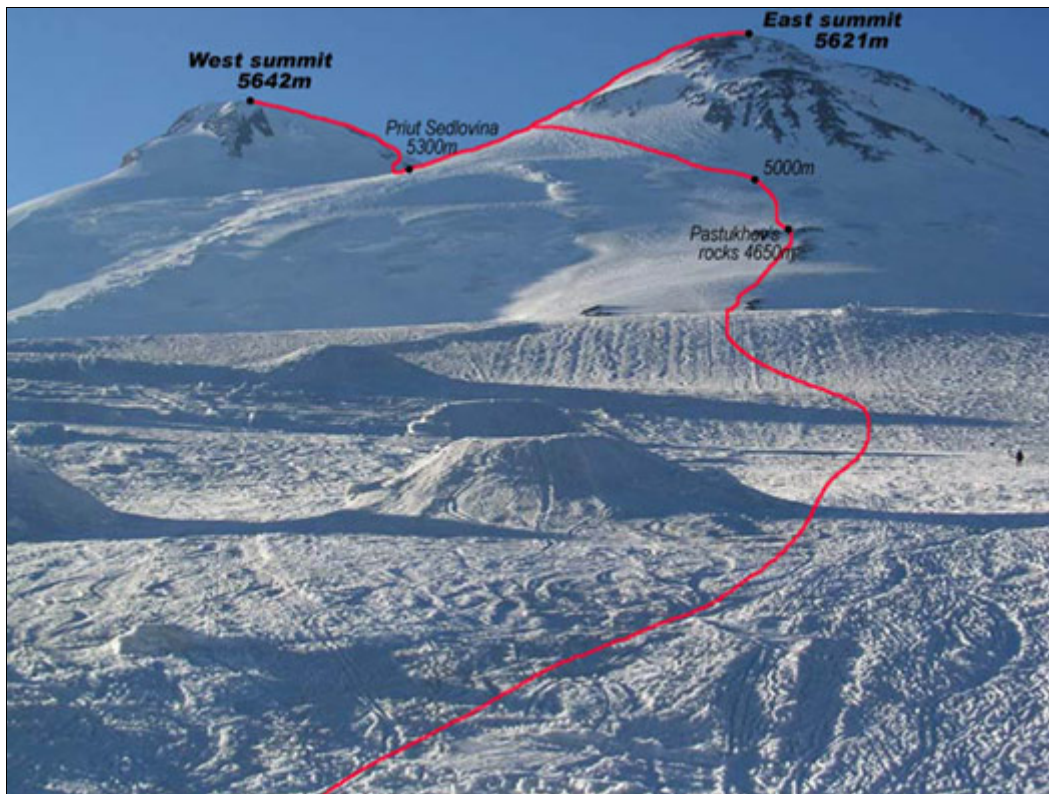


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## Elbrus (5642m), the highest mountain of the Europe 2012



The Main Caucasian Ridge stretches for 1200 km from the West to the East, from the Black Sea to the Caspian. Its width reaches 180km, and it forms not only a geographical, but also ethnic and political barriers, separating Russia from the Caucasian region and its mosaic of nationalities. Greater Caucasus is traditionally divided into three regions: West Caucasus, Central and East Caucasus. The borders of these territories go along meridians that cross the Main Ridge over Mt.Elbrus (5642 m) in the West and Kazbek (5033 m) in the East. It is between these two giants that the most beautiful and interesting peaks stand, with more than forty of them surpassing the level of 4000m above the sea. It is here where seven caucasian fivethousanders arise their heads to the sky.

Among variety of regions composing the Central Caucasus it is the Elbrus Region that is a genuine gem. In spite of that high altitudes, rarified air, changeable weather have scared people away from this region for ages, now it is the most frequently visited sport and recreation center on the Caucasus. Many lateral valleys go aside of the main one where river Baksan flows. They lead to famous peaks of the Caucasus, such as Donguz-Orun (4492m), head-turning walls of Shkhelda (4300m), Tchatyn (4368m) with its vertical 500m North Face, the legendary Ushba (4710m) and, of course, Mt.Elbrus (5642m), the highest summit of Europe which surpasses the pride of the Alps, Mt.Blanc, by more than 800m.

The two-headed ice giant crowns the panorama of the Central Caucasus. It is by at least 1000m higher than all its neighbors. Volcano craters, filled now with ice and snow, form summit plateaux of 300-400m in diameter on both the tops. The Eastern Peak is a little lower than its western brother: 5621m and 5642m respectively. All the massif is covered by a gigantic ice cap.

### Ascent of Elbrus - 9-day tour

Day 1	Arrival to Mineralnye Vody airport. 4-hour bus transfer to Terskol village in the Baksan valley (about 2000 m above the sea). Accomodation in a hotel for two nights.
Day 2	Acclimatization ascent on Observatory of Elbrus (3000 m) and continue up to an altitude above 3400-3500m - Glacial Base. Excursion party to the local bazaar (souvenirs and handmade woollen things). Night in the hotel.
Day 3	Checking out of the hotel. 4-km transfer up to "Azau" (2250m) - the lowest station of the Elbrus cable-way. Lifting by the cable-way up to the highest point - "Gara-Bashi" station (3750 m), which includes 2 lower cabin spans, and the upper part - chair-lift. The latter one does not operate sometimes depending on the weather conditions. Accomodation in the "Bochki" ("Barrels") high mountain hotel or in some other huts hereabouts. 1.5-hour acclimatization walk up to another hotel - "Priut odinnadtsati" ("Shelter of the 11", 4050 m), return down to "Barrels".
Day 4	Acclimatization ascent up to Pastukhov's Rocks (4700-4800 m) or higher. Return down to "Barrels" (3-4 hours up and 1-1.5 hour down).
Day 5	Summit day. Ascent of Elbrus West (5642 m) or Elbrus East (5621m). Leaving for the ascent at 2-3 A.M., 10-12 hours totally. Night in "Barrels".
Days 6, 7	Reserve days for bad weather.
Day 8	Return to Terskol. Overnight in the hotel.
Day 9	Transfer to the airport, flight home.

### Price per person for groups

number of participants	4	5-6	7-8
price per person, EUR€	<b>885</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>725</b>

### Ascent of Elbrus - 12-day tour

Day 1	Arrival to Mineralnye Vody airport. 4-hour bus transfer to Terskol village in the Baksan valley (about 2000 m above the sea). Accomodation in a hotel for two nights.
Day 2	Acclimatization ascent on Observatory of Elbrus (3000 m) and continue up to an altitude above 3400 - 3500m - Glacial Base. Excursion party to the local bazaar (souvenirs and handmade woollen things). Night in the hotel.
Days 3-5	Checking out of the hotel. Bus transfer up to Elbrus village in the Irik-Chat-river valley then 3,5-4 hour up-stream walking to campsite on the meadow (2900 m). Base Camp installation. Snow and ice training on the glacier and ascent of Peak Irick-Chat East (4020 m) or Peak Sovetsky vojn (4100 m) - routes are of 1B, 2A (Russian scale) or F, PD (French scale) difficulty grade. Nights in tents.
Day 6	Return a foot down in Elbrus village and bus transfer to the Terskol hotel. Overnight in the hotel.
Day 7	Checking out of the hotel. 4-km transfer up to "Azau" (2250m) - the lowest station of the Elbrus cable-way. Lifting by the cable-way up to the highest point - "Gara-Bashi" station (3750 m), which includes 2 lower cabin spans, and the upper part - chair-lift. The latter one does not operate sometimes depending on the weather conditions. Accomodation in the "Bochki" ("Barrels") high mountain hotel or in some other huts hereabouts. 1.5-hour acclimatization walk up to another hotel - "Priut

	odinnadtsati" ("Shelter of the 11", 4050 m), return down to "Barrels".
Day 8	Acclimatization ascent up to Pastukhov's Rocks (4700-4800 m) or higher. Return down to "Barrels" (3-4 hours up and 1-1.5 hour down).
Day 9	Summit day. Ascent of Elbrus West (5642 m) or Elbrus East (5621m). Leaving for the ascent at 2-3 A.M., 10-12 hours totally. Night in "Barrels".
Day 10	Reserve days for bad weather.
Day 11	Return to Terskol. Overnight in the hotel.
Day 12	Transfer to the airport, flight home.

### Price per person for groups

number of participants	4	5-6	7-8
price per person, <b>EUR€</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>785</b>

### The price includes:

- invitation;
- lodging in valley hotels according to the program;
- lodging in the "Barrels" hotel or in huts according to the program;
- full board during stay in the Elbrus region;
- all transfers in the Elbus region according to the program;
- **1 CET Neva guide-organizator;**
- cook in "Barrels" or in mountain hut;
- Elbrus cable lifts;
- tents;
- necessary permits and registration;
- administrative fees in Kabardino-Balkaria.

### The price does not include:

- insurance;
- internal regular flights to Min. Vody airport and back;
- luggage air transportation;
- unexpected premature evacuation;
- cost of visa;
- porters;
- "snowcat";
- personal expenses;
- extra pay due to change of the appointed departure time.