



FOR SCHOOLS

- * Outdoor Education
- * Ski & Study
- * Leadership Training Camp

Established in 1972, Village Camps is a Swiss-based company specialising in organising camps as well as educational, sports and recreational programmes for international schools and students from around the world.

VILLAGE CAMPS FOR SCHOOLS
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www.villagecamps.com/schools

VILLAGE CAMPS // A partner you can TRUST

During these past 40 years Village Camps has hosted and cared for many thousands of young people principally from the international schools sector.

LOOKING AFTER YOU

An experienced Village Camps management team looks after you 'on-the-spot' throughout your stay. From the moment you arrive until you depart, our friendly, experienced counsellor team will be with your group providing effective supervision and strong guidance for each student. At Village Camps the staff-campers ratio is 1:8 while the comprehensive recruitment process and intensive training courses, perfected over 40 years, are an assurance that the very best trained personnel are caring for the students in your group.

TAILOR-MADE PROGRAMMES

This brochure outlines the range of educational, sporting and recreational programmes which we put together for school groups. At the same time, we'll work with you to choose the workshops or activities which suit your group's specific needs and in this way set-up the ideal schedule for your students. This is particularly relevant for schools travelling in term-time and that need to link their activities to their school curriculum. We can accommodate groups of different sizes for their preferred length of stay which can be 4-5 days, 10 days or 2 weeks.

PRICES-RESERVATIONS

As soon as you have decided on the type of programme, the length of stay and have an approximate number of participants, we will supply you with a firm, all-inclusive price. Simply call or email us with your request and we will get back to you with a proposed schedule and a price. We are here to help you put together a valuable and memorable experience for your students!



LEYSIN // In the Heart of the Swiss Alps!

The traditional alpine village of Leysin is the long-established base for Village Camps in Switzerland. For the past 40 years, Village Camps has organised sports and recreational programmes for schools and students from all over the world. Leysin, with its all the-year-round international schools and colleges is considered to be the alpine educational capital of Switzerland. The village stands in a glorious mountain position high above Lake Geneva offering spectacular views across to the French Alps with the impressive 'Dents du Midi' mountain range in the foreground and Mont Blanc in the distance. Leysin enjoys long hours of sunshine both in the summer and winter, yet is only 90 minutes from Geneva International Airport and 30 minutes from the attractive lakeside resort of Montreux. As well as a picturesque mountain setting, the village has an impressive range of first class leisure facilities and an efficient and sophisticated local infrastructure that helps Village Camps offer top quality programmes. Over the years, many thousands of students have had memorable experiences in this stunning setting.



THE SWISS ALPINE CENTRE

This marvellous residence is the Village Camps operating base in Leysin, perfectly situated in a commanding position just above the centre of the village, a short walk or three minute shuttle ride away. Our centre welcomes up to 300 students, staff and counsellors with accommodation in comfortable, spacious rooms for up to four guests. All rooms have either full en-suite facilities or a shower inside with common toilets on each floor. There are breathtaking views over the Rhône Valley to the French Alps in the distance. The Centre has a large modern dining room and great in-house facilities including classrooms, meeting rooms, a large and well-equipped theatre, dance studio, internet café, tuck-shop, arts & crafts room, climbing wall and common rooms with table tennis, foosball, TV and board games.

In addition to the excellent facilities of the Swiss Alpine Centre, quite an amazing range of further facilities is available to students in two modern, well-equipped sports centres (see list below). Outside, in the fresh, clear mountain air and usually sunny weather, are trekking trails, a natural rock-climbing training area, cycling paths, adventure trails, campfire, river for rafting and welcoming mountain huts for overnight stays.

FACILITIES IN LEYSIN

- Multi-Sports Indoor Hall
- Indoor swimming pool
- Full size ice-skating rink
- Tennis courts, carpet and clay
- Mini golf course
- Squash courts
- Football pitch
- Mountain hut
- Archery range
- Basketball courts
- Climbing range
- Beach volleyball court
- Fitness gym
- Ropes course (Aigle)
- Climbing walls

EXCURSION OPTIONS IN THE AREA

- Cable-car or cog railway ride
- Les Diablerets and its Glacier
- The salt mines in the Rhône Valley town of Bex
- Gruyère - traditional Swiss village and famous cheese factory
- Montreux and the Château de Chillon
- Lausanne on Lake Geneva and the Olympic Museum.
- Geneva - visiting the lake, the Old Town, the United Nations and Red Cross buildings
- Zermatt, the famous ski resort on the Swiss-Italian border with the Matterhorn, Europe's highest peak, towering above

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

EXPERIENCING NATURE



A hands-on programme that helps teachers and students build a bond of trust and encourages teamwork. Projects are designed to investigate some of the great conservation and environmental challenges facing the world today and are combined with teaching outdoor living skills, a variety of challenging activities and an interesting selection of local outings. The programme can be as short as five days to especially suit Swiss and other European schools using this trip as an in-term integral component of their curriculum but it can easily be extended into a 2-week programme suitable for schools coming from further away. In coordination with the school's management, the precise schedule is planned in advance, taking into account the ages of the students and the specific curriculum needs of each school. One can pose the question "why is *Outdoor Education* important?" To put it simply, *Outdoor Education* is important because it allows students to experience life at the grass-roots level and helps them develop a perspective of the natural settings that should be an integral part of growing up. For today's students, finding the time and having the opportunities for outdoor learning is not always an easy task, therefore, our well-structured *Outdoor Education* programmes which are specially-designed for school trips, are even more valuable for students and their development process.





Ardèche, Southern France - another idyllic setting for Outdoor Education, the private VC campsite is located right on the banks of the Ardèche River in the midst of a national park!



At Village Camps we maintain our own philosophy of a 'Triple Bottom Line' by blending three areas of outdoor learning:

Personal/Social, Adventure, and Environmental/Ecological.

Each theme alone has direct value to children of course, and there are opportunities to focus on each but the aim is to integrate the three areas when appropriate in delivering a complete and balanced programme.

The implementation depends heavily on the expertise, knowledge and very importantly, the energy of the outdoor leaders that we employ. The staff team in each location form a raft of diverse experiences from around the world and bring many years of camp experience and training to Village Camps. Our activity sessions are organised around themes each of which is supported by age-appropriate activities and concepts. Some are easily recognisable such as Rock Climbing, or Hiking, others such as 'Where are we?' or 'Earthworks' depend much more on the age of the students and the possible connections that can be made to what is taught in school that year.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

CAPTIVATING WORKSHOPS

Every workshop is designed to involve and fully-engage the students. To maximise interest, the programme objectives are achieved through intriguing games and character-building challenges, all with a valid educational purpose even when perceived as 'fun' activities. These are some of the most popular workshops and activities from which you can choose, in what is a very flexible programme, developed individually to meet your specific needs:

The environment

- * The environment and man's impact upon it.
- * 'Earthworks' - a special session studying the links with nature and the interdependence of plants, animals and humans.
- * Recycling, study of energy and water supply including the monitoring of meters.
- * Conservation - saving our precious but limited resources.

Personal development and working as a team

- * Fun games, challenges and competitions that build the foundations of trust, co-operation and teamwork with teachers, students and counsellors all working together.
- * Students begin to see each other in a different light in this new setting.
- * Problem-solving methods are taught and co-operation is encouraged in finding solutions

"Where are we?"

- * The basic principles of working a compass as a team with compass games, map work, navigational exercises an orienteering course and team competition.

"Summit Quest"

- * Students, in their counsellor groups, set off for a full-day trek using their newly- acquired navigational skills. In the alpine meadows and forests, students take part in environmental awareness games that focus on wildlife, habitats, food chains and the human impact on the local environment.



"I think the most remarkable thing about Village Camps must be your recruitment policy - talk about getting the right people "on the bus!" Your staff here are tremendous. Our students are absolutely hanging on their every word and learning a huge amount; skills, local knowledge, geology, history and about themselves. Absolutely spot-on appropriate for students of this age and outlook. How do you do it? Whatever your system is, it works!"
Becca, France.



FASCINATING ACTIVITIES

Living with Nature and Outdoor Survival Skills

* Campers learn survival techniques with a "hands-on" approach on shelter-building, fire-making, outdoor cooking, the basic skills of surviving in the wilderness, succeeding in an emergency scenario - and, maybe an opportunity to spend the night in their shelter!

* One of the highlights of the trip and a campers' favourite, the overnight experience is used to increase the students' sensory awareness and their understanding of the natural world.

Mountain Biking and Trekking

Each of these activities has its own set of adventure and physical skills to be learned and practised. Both are forms of activity where the journey is more important than achieving a comparative level of success. Along the way time is taken for skill development, appreciation of surroundings and most importantly developing the group work necessary for everyone to succeed.

Canoeing, Rafting and Caving

These are some of the most spectacular activities and they are very popular among campers. Canoeing is an essential part of the river-based Ardèche camp; after students have gained the necessary skills they embark on the 26 kms descend of the river which is the highlight of their trip. In Leysin, rafting is an optional activity for the groups who want to emphasize the important of teamwork when facing a challenge in nature.

'Get It Together' sessions

Specific sessions look at the participation of the individual and how they fit-into their counsellor group. Individual and group responsibilities are reviewed while this extends not just to the interaction within the group but to the trip as a whole. Also, how do we act and react to the outdoors to keep ourselves safe as well as look-after the natural world? Activities, games and challenges are processed and analyzed in order to emphasise behaviours which increase our level of success.



SKI & STUDY

This programme takes place during the winter season from January through mid-April and is conducted in your chosen language of English or French combining an innovative approach to language learning with skiing and other exciting winter sports & activities. Students also enjoy exciting local visits, indoor sports and special evening events carefully planned by the experienced Village Camps counsellors.

Skiing in Leysin

Leysin, with its international schools and colleges, is not only regarded as the alpine educational capital of Switzerland, but it is also a great place to ski with ideal conditions especially for beginners and intermediate-level skiers. The village stands at a height of 1260 metres in a sunny position above Lake Geneva with spectacular views across the Rhône Valley to the French Alps in the distance. Skiing takes place every weekday for approximately three hours under the supervision and guidance of our carefully selected, qualified instructors and counsellors.

Leysin is part of the famous 'Glacier-Alpes Vaudoises' circuit and it includes 60kms of pistes with 16 lifts. Nearby are several other ski-villages, notably the world-renowned resorts of Gstaad and Les Diablerets, which boast reliable perma-snow and glacier skiing. The ski-pass covers the lifts and the regular bus services within the village. There are excellent beginner slopes in Leysin both at village level and on the higher snowfields at the top of the Berneuse Express gondola. From here campers soon negotiate the beginner and intermediate wide, sweeping runs above, and then through the trees, back to the base station. By the end of the stay, many young skiers tackle the more challenging black runs with confidence.

Exciting Winter Sports

Aside from skiing and snowboarding campers have the opportunity to enjoy unique winter sports in this idyllic Alpine environment. Leysin has its own tobogganing park with tubes for all levels and a full-size ice skating ring. There are also possibilities for sledging and snow-shoe trekking, a challenging but always a very popular activity.

English or French Language Programme

Groups who want to add an educational value to their ski trip can request English or French lessons for their students. The highly successful Village Camps approach to language learning concentrates mainly on the spoken word, using techniques based on participation, role playing, projects and comprehension, all part of a serious but 'fun' programme which helps students achieve impressive results.

On arrival, students are assessed and placed into groups of 8 to 10, according to ability and age. There's a total of 10 hours of language lessons per week taking place either in the mornings or during the afternoons. Moreover, during the skiing sessions, and throughout the whole day the language immersion continues with students practising their new language skills.

Prices

Contact us so that we can help plan your programme and supply you with an all-inclusive quotation.

"Winter in the majestic Swiss Alps is a unique experience in every sense!"



LEADERSHIP TRAINING CAMP

Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders

This is a challenging, fun and productive programme that students thoroughly enjoy while deriving great value and practical take-home aspects which make a difference in their lives. The LTC has been designed to provide young adults with a high quality educational experience which will result in reinforcing their existing leadership skills and introducing them to new ones.

The expectation is that this programme will serve as a basis for these youngsters to increase their self-esteem and become influential leaders of the world community. Here are some of the goals and objectives which LTC sets out to achieve:

TARGETED AREAS & OBJECTIVES

- Learn how to work with a budget
- Develop communication and debate skills
- Appreciate the value of teamwork
- Take home and be able to apply new problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Understand the qualities of a good leader in order to better use them at home, in the community and in the school/work environments
- Think at a higher level, prepare for university
- Build self-esteem, confidence and become responsible young adults
- Have a stimulating, rewarding and fun experience



INSPIRING WORKSHOPS & THE VALUE OF TEAMWORK



Group Problem-Solving, Decision-Making and Leadership

This segment explores the best ways of using the knowledge and creativity that exists within a group, to understand effective leadership and problem-solving. "Fishbowl" techniques permit students to both participate in the process but also observe it from outside and thus better understand the techniques of good decision making. After each workshop and at the end of the week there's time for feedback, evaluation and discussion which helps participants reinforce how they can be more effective and make constructive changes for their future lives.

Communications

Different exercises are used to illustrate the importance of communications. We study the classic ways of communicating and listening as well as the negative aspects involved. Finally, we look at the effects of cultural differences and the use of different techniques for practical application to business, family, school and social situations.

Business Leadership

LTCers dialogue with business leaders about their unique experiences to illustrate how to succeed in the business world through effective planning and organization. The importance of vision and mission is stressed.

Leadership Styles

This session describes methods of assessing leadership demands and then selecting the appropriate style for the situation. Students are assisted in identifying their own preferred leadership style and assessing its suitability. Through questionnaires, they are shown how their peers perceive their leadership style and any changes in behavior that might be helpful. They then use this information in a variety of exercises designed to help them increase the range and effectiveness of their leadership.

Developing Self-Esteem and Confidence

Self-esteem and confidence are two vital ingredients that hold the key to unlocking potential and productivity. Nothing affects the goals we set and achieve, our happiness, the quality of our relationships and our competence as much as the health of our self-esteem. Through exciting, fun and interactive exercises, will explore strategies to achieve greater personal empowerment.

Negotiating Skills

An intense, highly participatory session in the art of negotiating. This is about getting the most out of your deals while preserving the important relationships that are involved.

"My Leadership Camp experience was the best experience of my entire life. It was truly life changing for me. I want to thank you so much for all of the knowledge that this camp has given me. I feel as though I have learned and experienced things many people never obtain. The VC program challenged both my mental and physical abilities. The sessions helped me realize the kind of person I want to grow to be. They helped me to recognize the most important things in my life and how to make them better. The activities taught me how to keep going and not give up, how to work as a team, and that sometimes you have to tie to win!" Meredith

OTHER VILLAGE CAMPS OFFERS:

Summer Camps for 7-18 year olds in Switzerland,
England, France, Austria, USA and Canada.

Geneva Day Camp for 4-14 year olds.

Winter Camp in Switzerland

CONTACT US!

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