

MT. BONA EXPEDITION (16,421 ft)



Mt. Bona is located in the heart of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and is the highest mountain in the American Wrangells. It is a spectacular climb situated in a remote and wild setting. Mt. Bona is an outstanding spot to gain expedition and altitude experience; it is also a significant climbing objective in its own right! The trip begins with a flight from Chitna to the Ultima Thule Lodge. The fly-in lodge is the only private land inside the boundary of the Park, and is a beautiful place to stage our expedition from. From the lodge we will fly-in to the mountain in ski planes and establish a base camp. We will use two or three camps above base to move us into position for summit day. Summit day will be between eight and fourteen hours. Remember to bring your camera for the incredible views!

Mt. Bona can also be climbed as a ski mountaineering peak! Please contact us for more information regarding the use of skis on the climb.

Expedition Information

ANCHORAGE: Anchorage will be the start and finish point for this trip. It is an interesting city and is a good hub for arranging any additional travel before or after your trip.

TRAVEL TO THE ULTIMA THULE LODGE: From Anchorage, we will take a private van for the three-hour ride to Chitina. From Chitina it is a 45-minute scenic flight into the lodge. Once at the lodge we will either fly directly into the mountain, or stay for the evening, depending on the current conditions on the mountain.

THE MOUNTAINS: Mt. Bona is located in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. The Park and the adjacent 27 million acres comprise the largest protected wilderness area in the world. It is an extremely jagged, glaciated, mountain landscape containing several of the largest non-polar ice caps in the world. This terrain is amongst the best in North America for learning mountaineering skills and the climbing, trekking, and skiing here is truly world class!

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THE CLIMB: We will fly into the 10,000 ft. level on the mountain and spend a couple of days acclimatizing before moving up. The climbing on Mt. Bona involves moderate snow and ice climbing. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding your ability to participate in this expedition. After we are done with the climb we will retrace our route to Anchorage for flights home, or continued Alaska adventures.

ITINERARIES & ALTITUDE: The following itinerary is designed to give guests an understanding of the climb, the itinerary is extremely flexible in order to accommodate different weather and route conditions. This trip is primarily an expedition summit climb and may be shorter or longer in length as weather and conditions permit.

Day 0: Arrive in Anchorage in time for pre-trip meeting at 6:00pm. We'll go over your personal equipment and answer any questions that you might have.

Day 1: We'll take a private van to Chitina, a three-hour drive. From there a 45-minute scenic flight to the Ultima Thule Lodge will take us into the park and on to the staging area for this expedition. If weather permits we'll fly by ski plane, landing on the mountain at approximately 10,500' on the Klutlan Glacier. Establishing base camp will be the first step as we get settled in.

Day 2: Acclimatization Day. An important step to make the trip to altitude more enjoyable, we'll spend the day acclimating and going for short hikes to help prepare for the climb. The guides will also review important topics such as expedition climbing, glacier travel, and crevasse rescue.

Day 3: Move to Camp 2. We'll begin moving up the mountain to around 12,000'. Bringing essential equipment and supplies up with us, we'll dig in and establish camp 2.

Day 4: Acclimation Day. With the change in elevation we'll take time to allow our bodies to adjust. A great opportunity to practice steep snow climbing and review skills to stay active and help with the acclimatization process.

Day 5-6: Move to Camp 3. We'll continue to move upward on the mountain and establish camp 3 around 14,000'. A grand view of the southeastern region of the park awaits, with clear weather we'll be able to see many impressive peaks in the surrounding area including, Mt. Logan – 19,850-foot (6,050 m) and Mt. St. Elias – 18,008-foot (5,488 m).

Day 7: Rest Day: We'll enjoy the view from Camp 3 and allow time for acclimatization before making our summit push

Day 8: Summit Day. Crossing Bona's broad plateau we'll head for the summit ridge. Putting crampons on as we prepare to ascend the summit ridge, we'll do the most technical bit of climbing on the trip, encountering slope angles of 40 degrees or more we'll navigate crevasses and hard windblown snow. Guests should prepare for a long 8 to 12 hour day and bring enough warm layers and water to protect themselves from the elements and stay hydrated. After passing two false summits we'll ascend to the final high point and celebrate with the grandeur of our surroundings before descending back to camp.

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Day 9: Descend back down to base camp. We'll work our way down the mountain and prepare to catch our flight back to Ultima Thule Lodge / Chitina

Day 10,11: Weather days. These extra days give us time to allow for weather on the mountain associated with flights or reaching the summit.

Day 12: Depart. After our return to Chitina a private van will take us back to Anchorage. Spend the night in town, freshen up with a warm shower at your hotel and revel in your experiences on Bona.

OUR GUIDES: Alaska Mountain Guides & Climbing School Inc. instructors and guides are professionals. They are special individuals who have a passion for being in the mountain environment. They bring a wealth of experience from guiding throughout Alaska, and the world, to every trip. Their skill and positive attitudes help our guests to have the best possible experience during their trip. All of our guides are also professional climbing instructors who genuinely enjoy sharing their knowledge. This is an important consideration for individuals who have not spent a lot of time at altitude and are interested in learning the safest and most efficient ways to climb.

PULSE OXIMETERS & SATELLITE PHONES: Pulse oximeters are small, precise, medical instruments that essentially give a digital readout of how you are acclimatizing. With this information we can make more informed decisions as to how we can best tailor the trip to meet your individual needs. We use them every step of the way, on every trip to altitude. In our opinion all high altitude guides should have one to help assure your safety! We also use satellite phones on the mountain to provide the optimum ability to communicate and plan.

INCLUDED: The following is provided in the trip cost: ski plane flights and ground transportation from Anchorage to Anchorage, all food during the trip, professional guides, and all group climbing and camping equipment.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare to/from Anchorage, hotel and food in Anchorage, and personal equipment.

LENGTH: 12 days

DATES/PRICES: Please see our schedule for [current dates and prices information](#).

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