ALASKA EXPEDITION PRIMER

This course is designed for individuals seeking to learn mountaineering expedition skills. It combines instruction with an exciting series of climbs that are designed to develop each person’s skill and technique. We will cover ice axe and crampon use, rope team management, anchors, belays, crevasse rescue, navigation, hazard/risk assessment, avalanche awareness/transceiver use, rock and ice climbing technique and more. The extended format of this program gives participants the opportunity to learn more advanced skills and techniques, and to attempt select climbing objectives. The area used for these courses is some of the wildest mountain terrain in the world. It is an ideal setting for learning and applying mountaineering skills. This course is outstanding for people seeking to prepare themselves for major expeditions such as Denali, Aconcagua, or any of the big peaks in the world’s great ranges. It provides a strong background for individuals who want a solid base in mountaineering. The Expedition Primer is an expedition in its own right! No previous experience is necessary.

HAINES: Haines Alaska is the starting/finishing place for this trip. Haines is a small community located along the fjords at the top of the Inside Passage. The natural beauty and wilderness access found here are responsible for Haines’ reputation as a center for wilderness adventure in Alaska.

GETTING TO THE MOUNTAINS: This trip is scheduled to use ski planes, helicopters, or 4x4 vehicles to access the mountains. The approaches are beautiful and take us over some of the most heavily glaciated terrain in the world! Depending on the weather and climbing conditions, we may travel to mountain terrain outside of Haines, British Colombia or Yukon Territories in Canada. Either way you are sure to yourself in a remote and mountainous setting unlike any other.

THE MOUNTAINS: Haines borders Glacier Bay National Park. The Park and the adjacent 27 million acres, including Wrangell-St Elias National Park, comprise the largest protected wilderness area on the planet. It is an extremely jagged, glaciated, mountain landscape. This terrain is amongst the best in North America for learning mountaineering skills, and the climbing, trekking, and skiing are world class!
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 have a wealth of experience from guiding throughout Alaska and the world, and they genuinely enjoy sharing their knowledge. Their skill and positive attitudes help our guests to have the best possible experience during their trip. Your safety and enjoyment are their primary goals.

LENGTH: Seven days Haines to Haines.

INCLUDED: Transportation to the course location from Haines, all food during the trip, instructors/guides, and all group climbing and camping equipment.

NOT INCLUDED: Transportation to/from Haines, lodging and meals while in town, personal equipment, and sales tax.

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL OPTIONS: Haines based programs can easily be combined with rafting, sea kayaking, and mountain bike trips. Sea kayak and mountain bike rental are also available. Contact us if you would like more information.

DATES/PRICES: Please see our schedule for current dates and prices information.

ITINERARY

This is a flexible trip itinerary that shows the general progression of the trip. Our exact schedule will depend highly on the weather, strength of the group, and time of year.

Day 0: Pre-trip meeting at 6:00 PM (unless otherwise noted) at the AMG office in Haines. After a brief meet and greet with your instructors and fellow guests, we will discuss the course and your goals and expectations.

Day 1: We’ll transport to the mountains via ski plane, helicopter, or 4x4 vehicle depending on weather, climbing conditions, and available access. Once at our location we will set up base camp amongst a few climbing objectives.

Day 2-6: We will focus on developing skills associated with mountaineering and big mountain climbing. The group will tackle technical climbing objectives to solidify their new skills.

Day 7: Return to Haines.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions!