



3 DAY MT BAKER ASCENT

Mt. Baker, WA

PROGRAM ITINERARY

Program Details:

The three-day Mt. Baker Skills and Climb course is designed to introduce beginner climbers to the world of mountaineering. This course focuses on the fundamental skills of mountaineering such as roped glacier travel and rope management, self-arresting, and crampon use. Additional skills pertaining to mountaineering such as navigation, glaciology, weather, packing and camping in an alpine setting are also covered. The final day of the course culminates in a summit attempt of Mt. Baker.

Please keep in mind that this is a standard yet loose itinerary and is subject to change depending on conditions, weather, group dynamic and pace or summit strategies.

Difficulty Grade:

Beginner to Moderate

Program cost Inclusions and Exclusions:

Inclusions: Permits and access fees; Transportation during the course; Guide; Group technical equipment; Biffy bags.

Exclusions: Food costs; Personal equipment; Lodging costs (for the night before your course starts and the night you come back to Bellingham); Personal health, Baggage and Trip Insurance; Transportation before and after your course dates.

Itinerary:

Day 1 – Rendezvous at the AAI Equipment Shop and Head to Mt. Baker (6400ft/1951m)

Plan to meet your fellow climbers and instructor(s) at the AAI Equipment Shop promptly at 7:00am. Your guide(s) will take the time to go over equipment, finalize rentals and purchases, review the itinerary, and ensure everyone is adequately prepared.

Once everyone is ready we will make the roughly one and a half hour drive up to the north side of Mt. Baker and park at the Heliotrope trailhead at 3700 feet. The hike to the Hogsback basecamp is anywhere between two and a half to three miles depending on where we decide to set up camp, generally between 5400 feet and 6400 feet. Once we arrive we will set up camp and spend the rest of the day discussing concepts of glacier travel, glaciation, mountain weather, and geology. We may start on snow skills today if time allows.

Day 2 – Glacier Skills (7000ft/2133m)

We will get an early start today and make our way up onto the Coleman Deming glacier, roughly an additional half mile to an appropriate location to practice ice axe and crampon use, glacier travel, rope work, snow anchors, self-arrest, and navigation. After we wrap up the day we will either hike back down to basecamp for an early night of sleep, or we will pack up camp and move slightly higher on the glacier in order to make the summit push the next day shorter.

Day 3 – Summit Bid and Hike Out (10,778ft/3285m)

Summit day! Weather and conditions permitting we get an alpine start (typically 1-3am) and head for the summit of Mt. Baker, which is at 10,778'. Our goal is to reach the summit by daybreak so we can utilize snow conditions during the night and early morning and be heading down by the time the sun warms the slopes. After our summit bid, we descend to camp, pack up and head back to the institute. We shoot for getting climbers back to town anywhere between 3-7pm. This can vary a bit based on how the last day of the trip goes.