



Alpine Institute

Mt. Shuksan Skills & Climb 4-Day Itinerary

Program Details

The four-day Mt. Shuksan Skills and Climb course is designed to introduce beginner climbers to mountaineering or to provide climbers who already have some climbing experience, with additional exposure. This course focuses on the fundamental skills of mountaineering such as roped glacier travel and rope management, self-arresting, crampon use, and an introduction to alpine rock. The first day is a rock climbing day that covers the basic skills of top-roped rock climbing, such as movement on rock, belaying, and rappelling. Additional skills pertaining to mountaineering such as navigation, glaciology, and weather. The goal of this course will be to summit Mt. Shuksan on the second day, or potentially the final day depending on conditions. 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

Inclusions and Exclusions

Inclusions: Permits and access fees, transportation during the course, guide, group technical equipment, and biffy bags.

Exclusions: Food, personal equipment, lodging the day before and after your course, personal health, baggage and trip insurance, and transportation before and after your course.

Itinerary

Day 1 – Rendezvous at the AAI Equipment Shop and Head to Mt. Erie

Plan to meet your fellow climbers and instructor(s) at the AAI Equipment Shop promptly at 7:00 am. 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 45-minute drive to Mt. Erie, a local crag, to start introducing students to concepts of rock climbing. We will cover belaying, rappelling, movement on rock, and basic knots. Additional concepts will be covered based on the time available and the climbing level of the students. We will camp at a front country campsite nearby and review the itinerary for the remainder of the trip that evening.

Day 2 – Drive to Mt. Shuksan (5500ft/1676m)

On the second morning, we will start early, load up the vans and make the two-hour drive to the south side of Mt. Shuksan to the Shannon Ridge Trailhead. We will spend the day hiking into our first base camp, roughly a five-mile hike, and set up camp anywhere between 5500 feet to 6500 feet. Once we establish camp we will review glacier travel, self-arresting, and additional basic skills in order to prepare for the climb.

Day 3 – Summit bid (9131ft/2783m)

Today will be a long day, as we will make our summit attempt. We will wake up early and hop onto the Sulphide glacier and make the roughly two and a half mile climb to the base of the summit pyramid. Once we arrive at the pyramid we will harness up to climb the several pitches to the top of Mt. Shuksan at 9131 feet. We will spend a moment at the top to appreciate our hard efforts before making our descent back down to basecamp.

Day 4 – Hike Out

Today we will begin the long hike out. We will pack up base camp and finish the descent, where we will load up the cars and head back to the AAI shop. We aim to be back roughly between 3-7pm.