



SIERRA WINTER MOUNTAINEERING ITINERARY

Program Details: Winter mountaineering encompasses one of the most aesthetic and rewarding aspects of the varied sport of climbing. Like all forms of the sport, winter mountaineering has as much to do with the mental challenge as it does with physical endurance and the successful application of technical skills. In addition to applying a range of climbing skills, as a winter climber you also must understand and evaluate snowpack stability, avalanche hazard, and mountain weather; do route finding under difficult winter conditions; and maintain suitable shelters in the cold and wind. The weather and climbing conditions during this program will determine the exact daily itinerary. Some of the material may be presented on different days in order to take advantage of good alpine weather and conditions.

Itinerary

Day 1 - Rendezvous and meet with guide(s) and team members

This is the first scheduled day of the program. During the meet up, you will review equipment for the course and make sure everyone is adequately prepared. Once you have completed the equipment review, you will begin the approach to Mt Whitey. *Depending on the snowpack, you may be able to drive to the trailhead at the Whitney Portal, or you may have to hike a few miles on the road.

Upon arrival at camp, you will discuss winter camping and the specific techniques required to stay warm, cook in a winter environment, and fortify your camp.

- Accommodations: Back-country camping

Day 2:

The second day will expand on the knowledge gained during the first day's lessons. The team will move camp to a higher location, and before leaving you will spend some time on snow school including self-arrest, snow protection, rope team travel, snowpack analysis, and avalanche awareness.

- Accommodations: Back-country camping

Day 3:

If conditions permit, the team will move camp a third time, working your way higher up the mountain. On day three, you will continue to work on techniques for avalanche awareness including avalanche beacon work, self-rescue, and snow analysis. In addition to snow techniques, movement on rock in crampons, protective systems, and mixed climbing will be introduced.

- Accommodations: Back-country camping

Day 4:

The fourth day of the trip will be reserved for a summit attempt. Most parties will take around 10 - 14 hours roundtrip from the camp.

- Accommodations: Back-country camping

Day 5:

The final day will be spent reviewing any skills as necessary and hiking out of the backcountry.

- Accommodations: On your own - front-country camping or hotel