

## **Alaska Range Mountaineering Program Itinerary**

**Meeting Location:** [Hyatt House Anchorage](#) (AAI Preferred Hotel)

**Meeting Time:** There will be a pre-trip meeting at 2pm on the day before the first day of your program. Guides and climbers will meet in the main lobby at the hotel and commence with the gear check and packing procedures shortly thereafter.

\*As a reminder, this itinerary can and will change from trip to trip. Climbing days and rest days are often dictated by weather and conditions. This day-to-day plan is rough and should be used for general reference only.

**Day 0:** Meet at the hotel in Anchorage at 2pm for a complete gear check. Travel to an equipment shop in Anchorage for last minute needs. *Skills to be Covered:* Equipment selection for snow camping, snow and glacier travel and an Alaskan ascent.

**Day 1:** Drive from Anchorage to Talkeetna. (2 hours). Meet with the Denali National Park staff to pick up permits and complete a briefing. Travel to the airstrip and fly to the glacier. *Skills to be Covered:* Snow camp construction and fortification. Sled rigging for expeditions.

**Day 2:** Develop techniques for operating in glaciated terrain. *Skills to be Covered:* Snow school techniques to be covered include: snow travel with and without an ice-axe, parts of an ice-axe, self-arrest, glissading, shuffle step, plunge step, diagonal ascent, piolet canne, and piolet manche. Snow anchors to be covered include: deadmen, pickets, snow flukes, ice-axes and snow bollards. Glaciology discussion will include the following terms: crevasse, bergshund, moraine, ice fall, serac, compression zone, accumulation zone and ablation zone.

**Day 3:** Study and practice the skills required for steep angle climbing. *Skills to be Covered:* Continue to practice glacier travel techniques. Practice anchor construction and belay techniques for multi-pitch snow climbs. Develop the skills required for the ascent and descent of fixed lines.

**Day 4:** The eighth-day of the program will primarily concern glacier travel and crevasse rescue. Students will spend the full day on the glacier and everyone will have the opportunity to go down inside a crevasse. *Skills to be Covered:* Crevasse rescue studies will include prusiking, a 2:1 Drop C, a 3:1 Z Pully and a 6:1 C on Z. Upon return to camp, a map, compass, altimeter and GPS lecture will cover the uses of each of these instruments.

**Day 5:** We will travel to an ice climbing area a few miles from our camp and practice our steep ice climbing techniques and methods for protecting and belaying steeper terrain. *Skills to be Covered:* Topics to be covered include: French, German and American technique, step cutting, pied a plat, pied en canard, pied assis, piolet ramasse, piolet rampe, piolet panne, piolet poniard, piolet appui, piolet ancre. If there is adequate time, participants may practice piolet traction. Note: The amount of time spent on this curriculum will be determined by snow cover.

**Day 5:** Pack up camp, rig the sleds and make an approach to a climbing objective. *Skills to be Covered:* Glacial navigation, sled rigging, sled pulling and a review of camp construction.

**Day 6:** Climbing day. Objectives may include the following:

- **Kahiltna Area:** Radio Control Tower, Annie's Ridge, Mount Frances
- **Ruth Area:** Explorer's Peak, Mount Barrill, Mount Dickey, Consolation Peak
- **Pika Glacier:** The Munchkin

**Day 7:** Climbing Day. We will have an opportunity to make a second attempt of our climbing objective if the weather is poor, or even a second ascent of another peak in the area.

**Day 8:** Weather Day – If needed. If not needed this day may be used for additional instruction or an additional objective.

**Day 9:** Travel back to basecamp. Skills to be Covered: Travel times back to camp vary. But if there's time the team will debrief and review and enhance skills.

**Day 10:** Pack for the flight off the glacier. Return to Talkeetna and possibly even Anchorage if so desired. Most climbers opt to spend the night in Talkeetna and enjoy the local atmosphere including hamburgers and refreshments at the famous West Rib pub or the Fairview Inn. AAI is happy to provide recommendations for entertainment and activities in the area if climbers would like to stay and enjoy Alaska for a few days after their trip. Possibilities include tours of Denali National Park, train rides, river boat tours and fishing, and scenic flights over the range. Some climbers do travel back to Anchorage after arrival in Talkeetna.

**Day 11:** Fly home. Plan flights for the afternoon.