



# American Alpine Institute

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## *The Spirit of Alpinism*

### - Program Itinerary -

#### **Alaska Range Alpine Mountaineering - Denali Prep**

**Meeting Location:** Best Western Golden Inn, Anchorage, AK

**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 1:** The shuttle we will be taking to the town of Talkeetna will be arriving at 6:45am. We will be packed and ready to go when the shuttle arrives. After the 2-hour ride to Talkeetna we will do a brief orientation at the Ranger Station and then fly onto the glacier and establish camp. If there is time we will review some basics of roped glacier travel at camp. In the evening we will talk about camp preparation and etiquette, camp duties, and cook tent use.

**Day 2:** Snow school! You can expect to practice the different positions for self-arrest, learn ice axe and crampons techniques for climbing snow and ice of varying degrees of steepness, and to discuss and practice the basics of rope team travel.

**Day 3:** We will practice anchor building and belay methods for low to moderate angled snow slopes.

**Day 4:** Crevasse rescue training and prusiking skills.

**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.

**Day 5:** Approach and prepare for an ascent.

**Day 6:** Climbing day. Objectives can 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:** Return to base camp. Debrief climbing days.

**Day 9:** Curriculum review. We will clarify any questions on skills learned and repeat crevasse rescue to further commit the technical knowledge to memory.

**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.