



WINTER MOUNTAINEERING

5-Day Curriculum (Snowshoe)

Ouray, CO

PROGRAM ITINERARY

Program Details:

Our Winter Mountaineering Program in Ouray, Colorado offers some of the best climbing and skiing in the US. Due to the avalanche hazard of the Colorado snowpack, a large alpine objective is uncommon and our program focuses on getting more mileage and experience on the snow and ice terrain available in mountainous areas with less avalanche hazard. Specific objectives will vary from course to course, depending on the students' skills and interests.

Difficulty Grade:

Beginner to Advanced

Prerequisites:

- Backpacking experience
- Good physical condition
- No previous climbing experience is required

Program cost Inclusions and Exclusions:

Inclusions: Climbing equipment (ropes, ice and rock protection); Permits; Guide; Ice tools and Crampons. As part of the expedition training, we will be backcountry camping on the 4th night of the course, these camping fees are included.

Exclusions: Food costs, and personal equipment. During the waterfall ice portion of the course, you will be responsible for the cost of front-country camping or other lodging (x3 nights). We highly recommend staying in a cabin or lodge to maximize the time and energy that can be devoted to climbing.



Itinerary:

Day 1

Meet your guide at the Breakfast on Main ([630 Main St #766, Ouray, CO 81427](#)) at **8:00 am** for a pre-trip orientation. Please leave your climbing packs in your vehicles; we will verbally go over gear to bring for the day. Please bring food and water for a full day of climbing. We will then head to the Ouray Ice Park (0.2 miles out of town), where basic and moderate ice climbing movement will be covered in the morning. In the afternoon, basic anchors, protection systems, and rappelling will be demonstrated and taught. The skills we cover on Day 1 will provide an excellent foundation for the rest of the curriculum.

Day 2

On our second day, the program will head back to the Ouray Ice Park. As a group we will build our climbing anchors for the day and review all of the material covered on Day 1 before moving on to the day's lessons. Ice protection and anchor systems on technical ice is taught this day. If time allows, we may do a lead demo as well.

Day 3

Our third day, we will typically work on some multi-pitch ice and mixed climbs in the region as well as cover avalanche rescue gear/skills and basic travel techniques in backcountry terrain. We will finish in the early afternoon and return to town to discuss options for the backcountry overnight. NOTE: We will only camp in the backcountry if weather and avalanche conditions permit.

Day 4

Our fourth day will start with a gear check and lesson in packing. We will then head to Red Mountain Pass. We will travel into the backcountry and find a suitable site to establish our camp, where we will cover winter camping basics. For the remainder of the day we will cover snow protection systems and other essential winter mountaineering components and enjoy an amazing night in the Colorado backcountry.

Day 5

Our final day! Depending on the group and the weather we will either ascend a small peak in the alpine, climb a winter route or climb a multi-pitch route back in Ouray. Regardless of activity, we will break down our camp (when we do so will depend on objectives) and head back to Ouray for a final course debrief.