

Alaska Range Ski/Splitboard Mountaineering Program Itinerary

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

Meeting Time: There will be a pre-trip meeting at 10am 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. Ski/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: Meet at the hotel in Anchorage at 10am for a complete gear check. Travel to an equipment shop in Anchorage for last minute needs.

Day 2: 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.

Objectives:

- Snow camp construction and fortification.
- Sled rigging for expeditions.

Day 3: The third day has a focus on movement efficiency and technical systems. Depending on the venue, the team may conduct ski crampon drills, rope team travel, steep skinning techniques, and companion rescue scenarios. Short tours near camp allow guides to evaluate fitness, movement skills, and snowpack conditions while acclimating to the environment.

Objectives:

- Rope team travel
- Steep skinning transitions
- Avalanche hazard assessment
- Short ski tour

Day 4: The team begins moving farther from base camp with a moderate summit or ski objective. The goal is to establish expedition rhythm while introducing the scale and complexity of Alaska Range terrain. The emphasis is on efficient systems and conservative decision-making.

Objectives:

- Intermediate ski/splitboard alpine objective
- Route-finding practice
- Snowpack observations

Day 5: The fifth-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.

Objectives:

- Crevasse rescue studies will include prusiking, a 2:1 Drop C, a 3:1 Z Pully and a 6:1 C on Z.
- Practice stopping falls on skis or a snowboard.
- Upon return to camp, a map, compass, altimeter and GPS lecture will cover the uses of each of these instruments.

Day 6: Ski day. Objectives may include the following:

- **Pika Glacier:** The Munchkin, The Hobbit King, Italy's Boot, unnamed couloirs
- **Kahiltna Area:** Kahiltna Dome, Mt. Crossin
- **Ruth Area:** Explorer's Peak, Mount Barrill, Mount Dickey, Consolation Peak

Day 7: Ski day

Day 8: Ski day.

Day 9: Ski day. With systems established, the team targets a more technical line. Guides emphasize movement efficiency and terrain management in consequential terrain.

Objectives:

- Technical ascent systems
- Steep skiing/riding
- Terrain management
- Avalanche forecasting
- Short rappels
- Ice axe and crampon climbing
- Complex glacier navigation

Day 10: Weather Day – If needed. If not needed this day may be used for additional instruction or an additional objective.

Day 11: 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 12: Fly home. Plan flights for the afternoon.