

Mt. Baker, Easton Glacier 3-Day Ascent

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Mt. Baker is the fourth highest peak in the Northwest at 10,781 feet (3286 meters) with the second largest glacier system in the lower 48 States (second only to Mt. Rainier). Mt. Baker now holds the world record for annual snow fall, 95 total feet in 1998. Our route of ascent is via the Easton Glacier, a direct and relatively moderate route up the mountain with the fewest technical difficulties. However, it should be noted that the summit day is long (a 10 hour round trip summit day) and glaciated (roped glacier travel to the summit). The broad expanse of the Easton Glacier provides a moderate roped glacier ascent at an angle of up to 35 degrees. The summit crater provides a spectacular view of the surrounding Cascade Range. Mt. Baker is a perfect first introduction to roped glacier travel on snow and ice and one of the classic North Cascades summits.

Mt. Baker has it all for the aspiring mountaineer: A beautiful hike up into the alpine zone to camp at around 5500 feet. The rolling glacier terrain above camp is perfect for training in ice axe arrest, cramponing and crevasse rescue skills. On summit day the team will ascend glaciated terrain the entire way to the very summit of the volcano. Your IMG guides will take you through the training process and up on the glacier terrain of Mt. Baker for a classic Northwest mountain experience.

The second day of the program will involve training with crampons, use of an ice axe, ice axe arrest, roped glacier travel and crevasse rescue. This is a good introduction to glacier travel for first time climbers or a comprehensive refresher course for those with previous experience looking for a spectacular glacier ascent.

Skill Level

We backpack our full load of gear in to base camp. All participants must be in very good physical condition. The need to physically train for this climb cannot be overstressed. For several months prior to the start of the climb, training should include lots of long, slow, distance runs over hilly terrain, an hour or more in duration. Add additional weekend outings working up to carrying a heavy pack (50 plus lbs.) up steep hills or stairs. These sessions should gain 2-3,000 feet over 3 or more miles. It would also be helpful to get out in the snow during the winter and practice with a pack on steeper slopes.

Dates

July 19-21, 2012
August 4-6, 2012
August 24-26, 2012

Landcost: \$850

Included in your fee are: dinners and breakfasts for the climb, all group equipment including shared tents, stoves, climbing ropes, hardware and climbing permits.

Not included is: transportation to the trailhead, parking pass, lodging the evening prior to the start of the climb or the last night of the trip, or meals other than breakfasts and dinners on the program.

[Travel Insurance](#) (which we highly recommend).

Maximum group size: 6 climbers with 2 guides

Mt. Baker Ascent Itinerary

Day 1: The group meets at the Sedro Woolley Ranger Station in the North Cascades at 8:00 a.m. Car pooling is encouraged by IMG from the SeaTac airport. A team roster and contact information is shared with the group 30 days in advance to facilitate this. After check-in at the Ranger Station we drive together to the trailhead for final pack check and issue of team equipment. The trailhead at Schreiber's Meadow is approximately 3,200 feet in elevation. We hike up into the alpine zone to camp at approximately 5,500 feet on the edge of the Easton Glacier. A good hike with 50 lb. packs, approximately 4 hours in duration.

Day 2: Training day. After a leisurely breakfast, we will head out to the nearby slopes for a day of training in crampon skills, ice axe arrest, roped glacier travel, snow anchors and crevasse rescue. A full and informative day.

Day 3: Summit day. Up before first light, cramponed, harnessed and roped up and then off we go up the rolling slopes of the Easton Glacier. The glacier is generally moderate with some navigation around crevasses required. We'll reach the crater rim and then continue on to the true summit for a breathtaking view of the North Cascades. A full day getting to the summit and back, perhaps 6 hours up and half that time in descent.

“Every time I go on one of George Dunn's expeditions, I come back saying, 'that was the best adventure I've ever been on'!!!... I had the time of my life on each trip...” —Bruce G.

For more comments from IMG climbers, please see our website at: www.mountainguides.com/comments.shtml

Mt. Baker Ascent Equipment List

Clothing

- Long underwear top and bottom (light or medium weight)
- Expedition weight long underwear top
- Fleece or soft shell jacket
- Stretch nylon (Schoeller fabric) pants or lightweight fleece pants
- Waterproof/ breathable shell with hood
- Waterproof/ breathable pants (full side zips preferred)
- Warm, roomy down or synthetic jacket with hood (not an 8,000 meter jacket)
- Wool or fleece hat
- Insulated ski or climbing gloves
- Fleece or lightweight climbing gloves
- Heavy wool or synthetic socks with liners (one extra change)
- Baseball or sun cap
- Synthetic T-shirt (white works best for sun reflection)
- Nylon Hiking shorts or pants optional

Gear

- [] Full size internal frame pack, 5000 to 6000 cubic inches
- [] Sleeping bag with stuff sack, rated to at least 20 degrees F.
- [] Sleeping pad
- [] Plastic mountaineering boots or leather climbing boots- must be rigid soled and insulated
- [] Full length gaiters
- [] crampons, fitted to your boots
- [] Complete block sunscreen and lip balm
- [] Ice Axe, 60 or 70 cm. in length
- [] Climbing harness with adjustable leg loops.
- [] Climbing helmet
- [] 2-3 Carabiners (One locking pear shaped)
- [] 24' of 6 mm perlon rope (for constructing prussik loops)
- [] Adjustable ski poles
- [] Headlamp, LED works well, bring an extra set of batteries
- [] Dark glasses, UV rated with side protection (wrap around or side shields)
- [] Double lens ski goggles or spare glasses
- [] Two wide-mouth plastic water bottles, 1 liter capacity
- [] Pocket knife
- [] Plastic bowl, plastic insulated mug, spoon
- [] Camera. The smaller and more convenient the camera the more opportunity you will have to photograph the climb. Have a cord that allows you to hang it around your neck and store inside layers to keep it warm.
- [] Personal lunch food for three days. Bring a variety of your favorite foods. Include easy to eat non-perishable snacks for the trail.
- [] Light toiletries: toothbrush and paste, small roll of t.p., ear plugs for sleeping
- [] Personal FA kit to include moleskin or blister pads, a few Band-Aids, tape, aspirin, Advil, any required personal prescriptions.
- [] 2-3 Large heavy duty plastic garbage bags for waterproofing inside of pack.

“Thank you for a professional, safe and successful climb. We had the experience of a lifetime. I learned a lot and appreciated the way you strategically and tactically approached the mountain...”

—John H.

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