

IMG Denali Expedition

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You asked, and IMG is happy to deliver. In conjunction with Denali concessionaire Alaska Mountaineering School (AMS), IMG is proud to announce our boutique expedition to. At 20,320', Denali is simply the tallest mountain in North America and one of the most coveted of the fabled Seven Summits.

IMG owners and guides have been climbing Denali since the early 1970's. In fact, they were some of the first to guide on Denali. The four owners of IMG have over 50 ascents of Denali between themselves. That's an experience base which is hard to match. This trip will be staffed with IMG/AMS guides. Our 3 week expedition is limited to 6 customers led by 2 guides. That's only 6 spots this year for this popular expedition. The personal service for which IMG is famous will be one of the distinguishing factors of our Denali program.

With only one departure, you can be assured that you won't be just another number among many. Constant, personal contact throughout the planning stages will be yet another reason to climb with IMG. Think about it - would you appreciate being able to email Eric Simonson, George Dunn or Phil Ershler with a climbing question or help in selecting a piece of equipment? Or, is it important to you to speak directly to your lead guide a question or concern? We have based IMG on the philosophy that the personal touch and access to the company owners is very important in creating a successful expedition, especially one as serious as Denali, and that is what you'll receive.

Anyone considering a Denali expedition is concerned about safety. Our safety record is unsurpassed and our guides are some of the best in the business. We pride ourselves on our reputation for success in the mountains, but even more so for our ability to keep clients safe over 30 plus years in operation on many hundreds of adventures spanning all seven continents. Our main priority is safety.

"I left the mountain without a doubt that we chose and were with the best organization and people on the hill. I think most of the rest of base camp knew it too."

—Jeff

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

Denali: Just The Facts

Summit:

20,320' • 6194m

Set Your GPS:

63°, 07' N • 151°, 01' W

Size Does Matter:

Denali is the highest mountain in North America and one of the Seven Summits.

First Boot-Prints on Top:

Hudson Stuck, Harry Karstens, Walter Harper and Robert Tatum on June 7, 1913. The first ascent of the West Buttress route was made in 1951, by the party of Dr Bradford Washburn. The first winter ascent was made by Dave Johnston, Ray Genet & Art Davidson; the title of their book says it all: *Minus 148°*

By Any Other Name:

Denali (The High One) in Native (Athabascan) American was renamed Mount McKinley for presidential nominee William McKinley by gold prospector, William Dickey, who liked McKinley's politics on gold.

Air Just Doesn't Get Thinner:

Because Denali is one of the northern-most peaks (its latitude is 63° while Everest's is 27°) and because the troposphere is thinner at the earth's poles, the barometric pressure on Denali is lower than other popular peaks. So on a typical summit day in May, the Denali climber will be at the equivalent of 22,000' (6900M) in the Himalayas.

And It Can Get Brisk:

"Everything was cold, even our souls..." -- Dougal Haston on his 1976 climb with Doug Scott

If Bobby Had Five Pitons:

Bradford Washburn has estimated that above 18,000' (5500M,) a person is reduced to roughly 50% of their mental capacity. During the winter climb of 1967, the three members stranded at 18,200' on Denali Pass for six days required approximately twice as much time to answer a series of subtraction problems as they did at 7000' on the Kahiltna Glacier.

WHO ARE THE GUIDES?

Our guide staff is a big attraction to many IMG customers and now you have an opportunity to climb with those same leaders on Denali, the Great One. Our Denali guides are often the same guides leading our Himalayan, Vinson, South American, and Rainier programs. Joining these guides on Denali will allow you to continue a relationship that you have built with them on other programs, or to start building a rapport with guides prior to a Himalayan climb, Vinson expedition, or other trip. Feel free to contact us to learn who your Denali expedition leaders will be and to get in touch with them directly. Don't allow yourself to get lost in the shuffle with a company and guide staff you don't feel completely comfortable with. As always, the most important question to ask when considering an expedition is simply "who are the guides?"

The trip will operate under a concession contract held by Alaska Mountaineering School. This Talkeetna-based company owned by Colby Coombs and Caitlin Palmer provides another layer of strength and support to our programs. AMS has a comprehensive Base camp set-up in Talkeetna for us to use on our way in and out of town. Denali with the combined strength of IMG and AMS working together -- what could be better?

The key is to act quickly. Remember, we will only take 12 customers per year. This allows us to create the small, highly personalized program we want on Denali. No more cookie cutter Denali climbs.

Denali is a great climb and a great experience. Join IMG to get the most of your time, training, and effort, and to give yourself the best chance at success.

WHY CHOOSE IMG?

The advantages of IMG's program are clear. We personally select the group of 6 climbers based on their resumes and past experiences. Our group is small and manageable. The trip leaders are chosen for their past experience on Denali, but that is just one part of the equation. The lead guides have a wealth of climbing knowledge based on years of climbing experience around the world. Our guides go to Denali prepared to have a fun, relaxed trip, with a proven strategy for the best chance of success and safe return.

"In short, you run incredible expeditions to the degree that if all the 'clients' out there climb with you just once, all the other outfits will go out of business. And when people ask me how many people were on the trip, I don't say 3 guides and 9 clients, I say we had a team of 12. And that is very important. Thanks again for an outstanding two weeks..."

—Brian S.

"I could go on and on, but the bottom line is that your organization is first-rate in every respect. Thanks for everything... I hope to make use of your services again..."

—Tom G.

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

DATES:**June 25 - July 14, 2012 (led by Greg Vernovage)**

We prefer to climb in late season when the crowds on Denali are quickly diminishing so you end up having the mountain almost all to yourself. The weather is warmer overall which can be a huge plus. Many of our guides purposely choose to climb Denali late season because of these benefits. Coming out, the lower Kahiltna will be a bit more broken which can add an aspect of serious adventuring and navigation.

LANDCOST: \$6,000 US**Costs included:**

The bush pilot fee, group climbing food, group equipment (tents, stoves, shovels, ropes, sleds, etc.), and park concession fees.

Costs not included:

Airfare to and from Anchorage, the new rescue fee imposed by the Park (\$200), group transportation to Talkeetna (IMG will arrange), or food and lodging in Talkeetna. There are several motels and informal eating places in town.

CANCELLATION/REFUNDS

Cancellation and refund policies are discussed in the General Terms and Conditions page included in the application package. We encourage you to read that information carefully. Business realities force us to strictly adhere to the conditions outlined in that document.

FLIGHT INFORMATION AND TRAVEL PLANS

We encourage you to make your reservations early and we urge you to contact CTT Destinations. They are linked from our web site or you can contact them at: 800 909 6647 or by email at: img@cttdestinations.com. This is an agency that specializes in group travel. We've worked with them for years and we can highly recommend them to help make your travel arrangements. By knowing our programs, they can do a lot to facilitate your travel plans. It is also beneficial for us to have knowledge of everyone's travel arrangements. Do yourself a favor and check in with them. Remember, you are responsible for making all of your own flight arrangements.

“If I had to sum up what impressed me the most, I would have to say that it was never once in the entire 2-plus months, did I ever feel like IMG or its people ever cut a corner on anything. Everything was a class act, well organized, and people really seemed thrilled and enthusiastic about being a part of something great...”

—Jeff

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IMG Denali Expedition Itinerary

- Day 01** Fly to Anchorage, group will meet after 2:00 p.m. in the Anchorage airport baggage terminal and will be transported to Talkeetna. Group will spend the night in Talkeetna. IMG will arrange the shuttle pickup and the group lodging in Talkeetna in advance to be paid by each member upon arrival.
- Day 02** Day in Talkeetna. We will meet with the NPS for a briefing, go over each individual's personal equipment, familiarize ourselves with the group equipment and divide it. Second night in Talkeetna.
- Day 03** Our scheduled "Expedition Departure Date." Bush pilot will fly us in to Base Camp on the SE Fork of the Kahiltna Glacier at 7,200 feet. A 45 minute flight. It is possible to move this day, or we may sit and wait until the cooler temperatures of evening.
- Day 04** Load sleds and drag them several miles on the low-angle Kahiltna Glacier to Camp 1 at 8,000'.
- Day 05** Continue dragging sleds and all equipment up "Ski Hill" to Camp 2 at 9,500'. Camp is just below Kahiltna Pass.
- Day 06** As group energy permits, we will move up to Camp 3 at 11,000' or do a carry of gear.
- Day 07** Likely time for first rest day.
- Day 08** Carry extra gear to 13,500' up around "Windy Corner". Sleds go no higher than 14,000', and are light above 11,000' if used at all. Return to Camp 3.
- Day 09** Move up to Camp 4 at 14,000'. This is the location of the manned ranger post with medical supplies.
- Day 10** Drop down to 13,500' to pick up cache. Second night at 14,000'.
- Day 11** Possible rest day, Third night at 14,000'.
- Day 12** Carry one week supply of food and fuel to high camp at 17,200'. Return to 14,000' for fourth night.
- Day 13** Fifth and final acclimatization day if needed at 14,000'.
- Day 14** Group moves camp to high camp at 17,200'.
- Day 15** Possible rest day at high camp or first summit option.
- Day 16** Likely summit day.
- Day 17** Descend to 11,000', Camp 3.
- Day 18** Descend to Base with pickup by our bush pilot if we are lucky.
- Day 19** Likely pickup by bush pilot. Return to Talkeetna with option of spending night in Talkeetna or return to Anchorage.

This itinerary is approximate. Our rate of ascent will be dictated by the weather, the strength of the group, and our rate of acclimatization. All climbing decisions will be made by the guides, with the best interest of the group as a whole in mind. There will be a cache of food at Base Camp and we will carry 20 days of food with supplements to stretch it to 25 days if necessary. Allow an average of 21 total days for the entire trip, but be flexible enough to extend the trip another 4 or more days if necessary. A perfect weather expedition can take 15 days on the mountain; more normal is 22-25 days. Average time is perhaps 18 days.

IMG Denali Expedition Required Personal Equipment List

- Boots: Plastic double boots only. Asolo AFS 8000, La Sportiva Spantik or Nuptse, Koflach Arctis Expedition, Scarpa Inverno with high-altitude liners or equivalent.
- Overboots: Outdoor Research Brooks Ranger Overboots or 40 Below Purple Haze are recommended. A good snug fit is extremely important for either choice. Bring a regular gaiter for the lower mountain.
- Socks: Four complete changes of heavy wool/synthetic socks with liners. Wear two sets up to 14,000 feet, then break out the other two for climbing higher.
- Underwear: Two lightweight or medium weight synthetic tops and one medium weight longjohn bottom.
- Shirt: Expedition weight synthetic (100 weight Polartec), or equivalent.
- Fleece or soft shell: Jacket and pants. Full-length zips are recommended for pants.
Option: bring a light pair of down pants (like the Feathered Friends Helios pant) to back up a pair of Schoeller fabric climbing pants and leave the heavier fleece at home.
- Storm shell: Waterproof/breathable jacket and pants. Jacket should have a close-fitting, attached hood. Pants must have full-length zippers. Bib pants are warmer and help to keep out drafts.
- Down parka: Expedition weight parka with attached hood. Size large enough to wear over all other layers.
- Hat Wool or fleece hat with separate face mask or neck gaiter or balaclava.
- Sun hat: Baseball hat, large bandana is useful too.
- Gloves: Two pair, one fleece and one heavy weight Gore-Tex insulated climbing glove like the Outdoor Research Alti glove.
- Mitts: Heavy fleece or down mitts with a Gore-Tex over shell. Outdoor Research Alti mitt.
- Glacier glasses: Dark with good side protection.
- Ski goggles: Double lens to reduce fogging.
- Water bottles: Two wide mouth plastic bottles with insulating covers (like the Outdoor Research Water Bottle Parka). Bring a third bottle (well marked) as a pee bottle. Women consider bringing a "Freshette" or similar device.
- Suncream/Lipbalm: SPF 15 or higher.
- Sleeping bag: Rated to -20 F **or lower**. Best and lightest is a waterproof/breathable fabric covered down bag. A synthetic bag rated to -20 is going to be very bulky. A good compression stuff sack is highly recommended to reduce bulk.
- Pads: 1 closed cell foam pad (Ridgerest or Z-rest) and 1 Thermarest pad.
- Pack: Large (6,000 cu.in.) expedition size internal frame.
- Bowl, cup & spoon: Large (12 oz. or more) insulated plastic cup, large flexible plastic bowl and Lexan plastic spoon.
- Pocket knife and butane lighter
- Climbing harness: Adjustable leg loops are best
- Climbing helmet
- Carabiners: Two pear shaped locking, and 8 regular, minimum.
- Ascender: Bring one rigged to clip into your seat harness. Petzl ascenders are a good choice.

"In a nutshell, IMG was the class of the mountain. I can't imagine climbing with any other group...."

—Bruce D.

For more comments from IMG climbers, please see our website at:

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Denali Equipment List (continued)

- Prussik loops: Bring three pre tied loops of 6 mm cord. One 48" in diameter and two 12" in diameter tied with double fisherman's knots. 20 feet total of 6 mm Perlon accessory cord should do the trick.
- Crampons: 12 point hinged flat frame crampons. Make sure they stay on over your overboots. Grivel G-12's with the New-matic binding work well.
- Ice axe: 70 cm. with leash.
- Ski poles: Collapsible poles are recommended.
- Snowshoes: Lightweight with traction bindings. Atlas, Tubbs and Sherpa are recommended brands.
- Avalanche beacon
- First Aid kit: Each individual must carry a small personal first aid kit to avoid depletion of the group kit. You should have the following: aspirin (or Tylenol); ibuprofen; antacid (Pepto Bismol, Rolaids); anti- diarrhea medication (Imodium); Band-Aids; athletic tape; moleskin, Second Skin or Compede. Consult with your doctor and bring any recommended prescriptions necessary for your health. Consider bringing a prescription of acetazolamide (Diamox) 125 or 250 mg. tablets for. Earplugs are useful for sleeping.
- Lunch food: Bring your own lunch for each day to include items such as energy bars, gorp, candy, special cheeses, sausage, jerky, bagels, crackers, drink mix, etc. About 15 lbs. total for two weeks is normal. Variety is the key. This will be used as climbing snacks during the day and at night in the tent.
- Sled rigging: bring 20' of 1" webbing and 4-6 long bungee cords.
- Duffel bag: the largest, lightest duffel you can find to carry gear in on your sled. REI makes a good one.
- Lockable duffel: To store street clothes, towel, toiletries, and items to be left with bush pilot.
- Toiletries: Toothbrush and small tube of paste. One roll of t.p. in a Ziploc bag.
- Digital camera, extra batteries and memory card
- Optional items: Down or synthetic booties, collapsible shovel (aluminum is preferred over plastic), small journal and pen, thick paperback, 2-4 disposable hand warmer packs for the upper mountain. A headlamp is usually not necessary in Alaska by May, but might be useful for reading or emergencies in the middle of the night. The new LED headlamps are nice and light.

Acquire all of your equipment well in advance. Pack up your pack completely. Weigh it. If it weighs more than 50 lbs. complete, go back through all of your equipment with a fine-toothed comb. Start by eliminating unnecessary luxuries. Throw out the iPod, the booze, but keep the book. Bring a compact camera instead of a bulky SLR. Weigh your personal food and eliminate anything over 15 lbs. Check over your clothing for redundancy. Bring one warm fleece or soft shell jacket, one expedition weight top (100 wt. Polartec), and one pair of medium to heavyweight long johns. You **will** probably want to bring two lightweight tops, one to change halfway through the trip, but nothing extra. Eliminate gizmos that you threw in just because you thought they might be useful: we don't all need Leatherman tools, extensive repair kits and first aid kits. Just bring the items you are likely to need yourself: a pocket knife, a small F.A. kit with blister treatment, a roll of tape, non-prescription painkillers that you normally use and any prescriptions that your doctor recommends. There will be a group repair kit, tools, and first aid kit. Don't bring any extra toiletries other than t.p., toothbrush and a small tube of toothpaste, and perhaps a few baby wipes in a Ziploc bag.

Pack and repack your gear several times and have a place for everything. Keep your stuff sacks to a minimum and buy them in different colors so that you can easily identify the right bag in your pack. Hint, black is not easy to identify in the depths of your pack. I usually have one large

sack for all of my clothing, one smaller bag for gloves and hats, and one bag for food. Keep it simple. Go out on a number of training hikes with your full pack so that you become familiar with the heavy load and retrieving articles from it efficiently. Go out camping in the wintertime.

Keep in mind that in addition to your personal gear you will be issued about 50 lbs. of group gear at the start. We will usually make one extra carry per camp, but at times you will need to carry up to 20 lbs. of group gear in your pack in addition to your personal gear. It will come in all shapes and sizes, so you must be prepared to fit it in your pack, strap it on top, or on the sides.

There are three items that you must not skimp on: your climbing boots, your sleeping bag and your down parka. These will get you up and down the mountain safely.

The best boots are the ones that fit your feet the best. Try on as many different brands as possible. Often you can upgrade your old boot by purchasing a new liner. I feel that the best liners on the market right now are the Intuition or Raichle Thermoflex liners, which were originally designed for ski boots and now adapted to climbing boots. The liner is heated in a convection oven before it is fit to your foot, and requires some skill to fit accurately. Buy them from REI or a ski store that has fit them in climbing boots before.

Only you can judge how warmly you sleep at night. Bring a sleeping bag that will guarantee you a warm night's sleep. I like to use a wide cut bag so I have room to fit my inner boots, water bottles, etc. in with me as well as my down parka if it really gets cold. Others prefer a tighter cut bag to eliminate cold spots and reduce the amount of space your body has to heat. A waterproof/breathable fabric covered down bag is the standard for expeditions and is the warmest and lightest way to go. Be wary of temperature ratings on bags. There is no industry standard at this time. The only true test is your own past experience. Many people do nicely in a -20 F. bag, but if you are in doubt, go for the warmest bag available.

Your down parka will be your best friend in camp. We don't usually climb in them, but when the temperature cools in the evening, it is the first thing to go on. At cold rest breaks during the climb you will want to pull in on to trap body heat and avoid chilling. For that reason, size your parka large enough to fit over all other layers that you might be wearing, including your outer shell. Since the parka is only worn in cold weather, it really doesn't have to be Gore-Tex covered. Gore-Tex does offer additional windproofness and it sure helps to shed the unavoidable spills and drips that occur in camp at meal times. Finally, the best parkas come with attached hoods, not snap-on or zippered.

Acquire your equipment well in advance. Practice with it and use it out in the mountains. Train seriously for the expedition so that when you arrive at the start of the climb, you will be confident that you have done everything possible to prepare yourself mentally and physically. All that will remain is for you to enjoy yourself fully on one of the world's great climbs!

“We had climbed roped, simultaneously, front-pointing forever into a revived storm and relentless wind. Everything was cold, even our souls. Frostbite was waiting to jump at the slightest sign of weakness, but both of us played our own winning game with it. McKinley's climate is tough. We were drawing heavily on all our Himalayan experience just to survive, and it was a respectful pair that finally stood on the summit ridge...”

— Douglass Haston on his 1976 climb with Doug Scott
"American Alpine Journal", 1977
