

OURAY ICE CLIMBING

COLORADO | SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS



Photo: Ice climbing instruction in the Ouray Ice Park (Justin Merle)

ICE CLIMB IN OURAY WITH IMG

Due to the easy access, consistent ice and 285 days of sun, Ouray, CO is often touted as the “Ice Climbing Capital of North America.” The southwest Colorado town has a vibrant restaurant scene as well as many natural hot springs making it the ideal spot to explore a Colorado winter.

INTRO TO ICE CLIMBING

For beginner climbers, our **2 Day Intro to Ice Climbing** course is a perfect way to dip your toes into ice climbing. You will spend 2 days in the Ouray Ice Park with world class IMG guides covering the fundamental basics of ice climbing on lower angle ice. After this, the group will progress to steeper climbs to work on more advanced skills.

INTERMEDIATE ICE CLIMBING

For those looking to gain more climbing experience for upcoming expeditions or personal trips, our **3 Day Intermediate Ice Climbing** program offers a range of learning and climbing opportunities in the Ice Park. The group will start in the Ouray Ice Park to review the principles of ice climbing. After this the group will spend the remaining days either climbing remote backcountry ice or diving deeper into more advanced skills in the ice park.

5 DAY ICE CLIMBING SEMINAR

The **5 Day Ice Climbing Seminar** is open to all levels of experience, suitable for first time ice climbers AND repeat climbers. Participants are teamed up based on ability and learning styles. An in-depth learning experience with lots of climbing and time to really improve skills. 2:1 guide ratio gives the flexibility to climb in the backcountry.

DATES/PRICE

[View on our website](#)

QUICK LINKS

[Itinerary](#)

[Gear List](#)

[FAQ's](#)

REGISTER

[Click here](#) to get started.

\$500 non-refundable registration fee is due upon registration and applies to total Selected Program price. Remaining balance is due 120 days prior to Scheduled Arrival Date. All fees and payments are non-refundable and non-transferable.

PREREQUISITES

No prerequisites for introductory programs, however due to rigorous activities we expect team members to be in good physical condition. Previous ice climbing/glacier climbing recommended for Intermediate level programs.

CONTACT US

(360) 569-2609

Office@MountainGuides.com

VETERAN'S REUNION

The 5-day Veteran's Reunion seminar is designed for those who have already completed a previous Ouray program with us. We maintain a 2:1 climber-to-guide ratio. We will not necessarily be climbing at a more technical level. Rather, drawing on our past experience, the group will move past some of the basic training quickly so that we can visit different and more varied terrain. We will attempt to climb in a new area each day, as conditions permit.

CUSTOM PROGRAM OPTION

For those that want to extend their Ouray stay or need more personalized training, we offer customized ice climbing programs that can be specifically catered to climbing ability. Fit your dates, skill level and group size to our guide ratio for the perfect program to suit your needs. Contact us for details and scheduling.

SAMPLE ITINERARY

(Every program is different and may be catered to the participants and current conditions)

Day	Ouray Ice Climbing Sample Itinerary
Day 1	Group meets at 8:00 a.m. at your hotel or at a local coffee shop. After a general introduction of the guides and the team and a brief check of your gear, the group will walk to a nearby training area located in the Ouray Ice Park. We'll review or introduce proper crampon technique (flat footing, front pointing), and ice tool placement. Everybody will learn or review top-rope belay technique and rope management, then start the climbing with no-tool and one-tool climbs to build good footwork. The latter part of the day will be spent top-roping easy-moderate ice to develop technique.
Day 2	Continued top-roping in the Ouray Ice Park, gradually increasing the difficulty of pitches with the introduction of additional techniques as appropriate. Other topics of discussion and applied practice will include anchors (screws, bollards and threaded runners), anchor systems and rappelling. Climbing will cater to the group's ability level and goals, and could include visiting backcountry ice.
Day 3	For programs with a 2:1 climber:guide ratio there's an option to visit the backcountry for some natural, multipitch climbing. This will involve belaying the guide as they lead each pitch, then rappelling or lowering for descent.

3-5 day programs and private programs have time to introduce and work on more skills as time and motivation allows:

- Lead climbing skills. Practice placing screws on the lead, setting up belays, and swapping leads. Students will simulate leads with a top-rope backup, and if skills allow, may be allowed to lead climbs without a backup.
- Further multipitch climbs in the beautiful Ouray backcountry.
- Advanced climbing skills: We can spend time working on climbing steeper and more delicate ice in the Ouray Ice Park, as well as mixed climbing and dry-tooling techniques.
- We have the flexibility to work with you on whatever climbing skills fit with the group's goals, whether it's climbing in the ice park then having an afternoon coffee, spending all day climbing a long backcountry route, working on technical skills, or talking through gear for an upcoming expedition.

TRIP INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

Here is what is and is not included in your land cost fee:

Included

- IMG guides
- All training curriculum and instruction
- Group equipment including climbing ropes and hardware
- Climbing permits

Not Included

- Lodging, meals & snacks during the program
- Personal clothing and climbing equipment found on the [gear list](#)
- Transportation
- Guide tips

INSURANCE

Due to our strict no refund policy, IMG strongly advises that you protect potential losses with appropriate insurance coverage. Travel Insurance is strongly suggested and should include coverage for trip cancellation, trip interruption, trip delay, baggage loss, emergency medical expenses, emergency evacuation expense, etc. IMG provides no such insurance coverage. Visit the [Travel Insurance page](#) on our website for more information.

LODGING

There are several options for Ouray lodging! Please note, your fees do not cover lodging before, during, or after the program. Due to the volume of travel to Ouray in the winter months, it's recommended to make hotel reservations early. The [Ouray Quality Inn](#) has clean rooms, a nice breakfast, and is situated in downtown Ouray. Both [Box Canyon Lodge](#) and [Twin Peaks Lodge](#) are close to the Ice Park and have natural hot springs on site. Other options in downtown include the [Beaumont Hotel](#) and [Hotel Ouray](#), two historic lodges on Main Street.

GUIDE TIPS

A show of appreciation for a job well done is always appropriate. We think you'll agree that the guides go above and beyond the call of duty to make your program as safe, successful and enjoyable as possible. Our guides typically pool the tips and share them equally. Your contribution to the guides' tip pool can go directly to the lead guide on your program and will be appreciated by all of them! Cash or Venmo is preferred, please contact your guide directly for Venmo information. The amount of tip is at your discretion, but tips for excellent service normally average 10-15% of the cost of the program.

QUESTIONS?

[Email](#) or call at (360) 569-2609 Ext. 1

International Mountain Guides, LLC is an authorized mountaineering guide service operating in partnership under special use permit with the National Forest Service.