

Mt. Rainier: Backcountry Touring Seminar / AIARE Level 1 Combo 5 Day Seminar

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Have you ever wanted to take your skiing or snowboarding beyond the boundaries of the ski area? To explore the pristine untraveled snow and mountains that blanket the Northwest during the winter? Let IMG's team of guides and avalanche expertise help you develop the skills needed to plan your winter adventures to find the best snow with our backcountry touring seminar/ AIARE Level 1 Combo. Taking your skiing/riding skills from the resort to the backcountry is our goal. This is the ideal way to learn and practice tour planning, avalanche safety, and route finding with the watchful eye and targeted instruction of our educational staff.

Course Content: IMG's Combined Backcountry Travel/AIARE Level 1 course is the complete package to set you off into the mountains with the right set of skills to enjoy the winter mountains on your skis or snowboard. During the course you'll cover the entire AIARE Level 1 avalanche class with ample opportunities to practice your new skills.

The course will also focus on:

- Tour Planning
- Route Finding
- Efficient Uphill Travel and Track Setting
- Travel Techniques for Uphill and Downhill Travel
- Group Management
- Packing for the Objective
- Special Considerations for Winter Travel
- Navigation

Course Venue: With IMG's headquarters in Ashford, WA, we are nestled right at the foot of iconic Mt Rainier and Washington's highest year round trail head Paradise Park 5440'. We will capitalize on the excellent access to world class ski terrain in a variety of topographic and snowpack settings. Learning how to identify and travel in avalanche terrain below, at, and above treeline, will give us the skills we need to plan and carryout exciting safe backcountry tours. IMG's headquarters will serve as our base of operations with access to local weather and avalanche information. We can take full advantage of our base facilities to focus on tour planning and efficient learning. You can't ask for a better place to learn the skills needed to be explore the mountains during the winter.

Lodging and Transportation INCLUDED: Lodging is provided at IMG's headquarters in Ashford, WA for each night during the program. Group transportation to the trailhead will be provided each day. Meals are on your own, but a fully equipped kitchen is available at IMG.

Lowest Instructor to Student Ratio: IMG has always focused on the highest quality experience for its students. With an instructor to student ratio of 1:5 you'll receive the best possible educational opportunity.

Dates: December (Please see the IMG website for [specific, available dates.](#))

Landcost: \$1435

Student to Guide Ratio: 5 to 1

Trip Length: 5 days

Backcountry Touring Seminar/AIARE Level 1 Combo –Itinerary

Days 1-5: 8am-6pm, Meet at IMG and head to Paradise Park

Day 1: Intro to Touring and Avalanche Rescue

Day 2: Identifying Avalanche Terrain and Formal Snow Observations

Day 3: Traveling in Avalanche Terrain, Moving Snow Observations, Group Decisions

Day 4: Trip Planning: Prepare and Carry-out a Day Tour, Navigation

Day 5: Into the Alpine: Special Touring Skills for Above Treeline Skiing

“From our first day of training to our final night on the summit, it was always safety first. As a client, I never felt as if I was in jeopardy. These guides are just a small slice of the IMG team, and it is because of this type of dedication to staffing only the best, I will never use anybody but IMG.”

—John C

“I chose IMG over any other company to teach me the skills necessary to climb bigger and harder mountains. I was very happy with my choice from the moment I submitted my application... I was blown away with the professionalism and knowledge that every staff member held.

Every one of the guides took the time to share their knowledge, tips/tricks, share stories and made me feel like I belonged on Mt. Rainier with them. I can't thank them enough for that! Thanks again for a great Mt. Rainier climb, and I look forward to my next adventure with IMG!”

—Kevin T.

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

Backcountry Touring Seminar Required Personal Equipment List

This Personal Equipment List is for your guidance. Please consider each item carefully and be sure you understand its function; consult with us before you make any substitutions. Several of the more specialized items (i.e. crampons, ice axe) along with shell layers, insulating layers, hand and eyewear can be rented from us at the IMG base in Ashford. Please consult our [Rental Information](#).

Avalanche Rescue Gear:

- Avalanche Beacon*
- Collapsible Avalanche Shovel*
- Collapsible Avalanche Probe*

Backcountry Ski or Snowboard Travel Gear

- Skis with Alpine Touring Bindings, AT Boots, and Skins or
- Skis with Telemark Bindings, Telemark Boots, and Skins or
- Splitboard, Snowboard Boots, and Skins

Clothing

- Warm Hat or Beanie
- Sun Hat
- Synthetic Base Layer Top and Bottoms
- Soft Shell Jacket*
- Hard Shell Jacket*
- Soft Shell Pants
- Hard Shell Pants*
- Light Gloves
- Warm Snow Gloves*
- Warm Socks

Additional Gear

- Goggles and/or Sunglasses*
- Two Trekking/Ski Poles with large baskets*
- 25-35L Backpack
- 2 Liters of Water (Two 1 L wide mouth water bottles recommended)
- Lunch and Snack Food
- Sunscreen (at least SPF 30)
- Lip Balm
- Headlamp*

Optional Gear

- Snow Saw
- Snow Study Kit
- Camera
- Map and Compass
- Ski Helmet

*Available for Rent, <http://www.mountainguides.com/rainier-rentals.shtml>