

Mt. Rainier: 2-Day Summit Climb, Disappointment Cleaver Route

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If a two-day climb with a separate climbing school best fits your schedule, we've got the trip for you!! As you check out the guide services with a two-day climb option, considering the following: with IMG, you get an unprecedented 2:1 customer-to-guide ratio, a total group size of twelve (including 4 guides) and you get IMG guides – the best in the business. These are huge IMG advantages when looking at any climb, but especially the two-day program. By definition, a two-day climb is quick, so stack the odds in your favor. IMG understands the constraints of the two-day ascent and will work with each set of two climbers to pace the trip to Camp Muir and the summit day as reasonably as we can, while maintaining the safety margins we all desire.

Why Choose This Program?

Flexibility

People who live in the Seattle/Tacoma area will appreciate the options the two-day Rainier climbs provide. Time can be a constraint for some folks and this program allows a climber to join us for Mountaineering Day School on one weekend and climb with us another. **NO NEED TO TAKE TIME OFF WORK!** Drive your own vehicle to Ashford, arrive the evening before or the morning of your climb, and have the flexibility that you need.

More Time with Friends and Family

Maybe you're from out of town but traveling with friends or family members who aren't joining you for the climb. You'll be back in Ashford after Mountaineering Day School and able to share dinner and the evening together.

Less Weight to Carry

We employ a light and efficient philosophy for climbing on this program. To minimize the weight on your backs, we provide shelter (use of the guide hut at Camp Muir or camping in tents), stoves, cook gear and group climbing equipment including ropes stored at Camp Muir. Climbing without all these items the first day (4,600 feet of elevation gain) can help immensely and allow you to arrive at camp more rested for the climb ahead. We help you go through your personal climbing gear carefully during the Mountaineering Day School to make sure you are not carrying anything unnecessary up the mountain. We carry what we need and eliminate things we don't.

Local Headquarters

Since we're based in Ashford, we can start early on the first day of the climb and make the best use of time for our ascent. We've been headquartered in Ashford for 20+ years, where our presence supports the local community. Drive to Ashford on the morning of the program or the evening before. Stay at one of the many lodges/hotels in the area, eat dinner, or enjoy a massage or a hot tub after your climb before heading home.

“Thanks again for the Emmons Glacier climb, it was unbelievable. I'm still walking around on cloud nine and planning my next climb...”

—Bob G.

Best Use of Time

We're as anxious to get started as you are! Meet us at 7 AM at the IMG Ashford Headquarters, then we'll shuttle everyone to Paradise in IMG's eco-friendly vans. (Arrive early to pick up rental gear or relax with some coffee and a muffin.) By starting early, we can pace ourselves efficiently during the walk up the Muir Snowfield and arrive at Camp Muir early, allowing us time to rest and prepare for our ascent the following morning.

Economical

The two-day climbs are our most economical program. IMG strives to meet the needs of all our customers with regard to time, cost, equipment and skill level.

Prerequisite:

Successful completion of the Mountaineering Day School (MDS). The MDS provides instruction in the skills required for safe travel as a team over glaciated terrain. We highly recommend taking the school the day prior to your climb. The guides and other participants on the climb will generally be on this school and it is a great opportunity to get to know each other and practice skills together. We conclude each school back at our base of operations outside the Park during which time the guides continue the day's activities with more teaching and informative presentations.

Dates: June – September

Landcost: \$795 (June, September); \$875 (July, August)

Client to Guide Ratio: 2:1

Trip Length: 2 days

Itinerary

The Ingraham Glacier/Disappointment Cleaver on Rainier is a classic ascent route on one of the most well known and recognizable mountains in the world. Our climb begins with a Continental style breakfast/meeting in Ashford followed by a group shuttle up to Paradise, the start of our climb. The first day we ascend to Camp Muir at 10,000ft through picturesque alpine meadows and snowfields. The last half of the journey is on the Muir snowfield, which overlooks the Nisqually and Paradise glaciers and affords an impressive view of the rugged Tatoosh range to the south. We overnight in either the guide hut or tents already up at Muir. At camp we have a team meeting regarding the following day's climb and get to bed early to prepare for our alpine start that night. We generally leave for the summit in the middle of the night to manage objective hazards, keep our group safe, and allow us enough time to descend back to Paradise. Our route takes us across the Cowlitz Glacier, then up on to the Ingraham Glacier where we are afforded a stunning view of the precipitous north face of Little Tahoma, the third tallest peak in Washington. From here we ascend the Ingraham Glacier (in early season) or traverse east to the crest of Disappointment Cleaver, eventually gaining the upper slopes of the mountain leading to the summit crater. We'll spend an hour on top, weather permitting and walk over to the true summit, Columbia Crest. In descent we navigate the glaciers back to Camp Muir where we can rid ourselves of the glacier travel set-up, and continue on a gentler hike back to Paradise. Our shuttle returns us to Ashford where we celebrate our climb.

“Climbing with IMG was a night and day difference from other guides I've climbed with...”

—Ben G.

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

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Mt. Rainier Required Personal Equipment List

International Mountain Guides will supply the necessary group climbing equipment including tents, stoves, ropes and meals excepting lunches for the ascent. You will need to supply your own personal climbing equipment such as clothing, double-plastic boots, ice axe, crampons and lunch food. 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. plastic double-boots, crampons, ice axe) can be rented from us at the IMG base in Ashford. Please consult our Rental Information.

- LARGE Internal frame pack (in the 5000 cu. in. or 80 liter range) with good hip belt - be ready to carry at least 35 pounds.
- Sleeping bag - warm to 20 degrees F. or colder
- Sleeping pad suitable for snow camping (Thermarest, full length closed cell, etc)
- Ice axe 65 - 70 cm.
- 10 or 12-point crampons with crampon adjustment tools, ADJUSTED TO YOUR BOOTS
- 1 wool or fleece hat and 1 neck gaiter; or 1 thick balaclava
- 1 sun hat (ball cap and/or bandanna)
- 1 pr. light gloves (not fingerless) and 1 pr. thick insulated gloves (like ski gloves)
- 1 pr. mittens or overmitts
- 1 light or mid-weight synthetic underwear top and bottoms
- 1 synthetic t-shirt (preferably white – for the sun and hot weather)
- 1 expedition-weight or light fleece top
- 1 thick fleece or wool sweater
- Gore-Tex (or equivalent) shell jacket with hood
- Down or synthetic insulated parka with attached hood
- 1 pr. insulating pants (fleece or Schoeller type fabric) fleece pants should have side zips
- Gore-Tex (or equivalent) shell pants WITH SIDE ZIPS
- Plastic double-boots for climbing (fit your crampons to these boots)
- Gaiters (make sure they are large enough to cover the plastic double-boots)
- 2 complete sets of wool or synthetic blend socks
- Personal medical kit: keep it light but include at least: Band-Aids, moleskin, corn pads, aspirin/ibuprofen, small roll of adhesive tape, antacids, and personal medications.
- 1 pr. glacier glasses with side shields
- 1 pr. double lens ski goggles (optional)
- Sunscreen and lip screen, high spf rated
- Iodine tablets (Potable Aqua) for water purification
- foam ear plugs, small roll of toilet paper in Ziploc bag, personal toilet articles
- Large insulated drinking cup, large plastic bowl, large eating spoon, and pocket knife
- 2 wide-mouth water bottles with name or initials written in indelible ink
- 4 large garbage bags to protect gear from rain
- Headlamp with EXTRA BATTERIES & bulb. If your headlamp takes 2 AA batteries, bring 6
- Trail lunches and personal snacks for 2 days; bring plenty of snack food, various types of energy bars, dried fruit, nuts, GORP, crackers, cheese, candy, jerky, drink mixes (if desired).
- Ski poles

IMPORTANT EQUIPMENT NOTES

- You must have proper equipment and sufficient warm clothes for the climb.
- You will be provided with a climbing harness with locking carabiner and a climbing helmet. If you have your own, you can substitute if you wish, but this will increase your load on the approach.
- Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require assistance with your gear selection.