

MT. RAINIER

EMMONS GLACIER CLIMB

WASHINGTON STATE | 5.5 DAYS | 14,410' | BEGINNER LEVEL



IMG Emmons climbers traversing on the upper mountain (Nicole Sims)

CLIMB MT. RAINIER WITH IMG

Standing at 14,410 feet tall, Mt. Rainier is the highest peak in Washington and the Emmons Glacier is the largest in the Lower 48; this is a climb of superlatives and variety.

The 5½ Day Emmons Glacier Summit Climb is an excellent basic mountaineering training program. It's perfect for anyone desiring a less-rushed summit experience in a more remote alpine environment, away from the bigger crowds found on the South side of the mountain. The focus of this group climb is on glacier skills training, self-sufficiency, and teamwork. This climb is more physically demanding than the standard 3½ Day Disappointment Cleaver Summit Program due to the heavier loads, the longer distance traveled, and lower-elevation start. All group equipment is carried by the team, resulting in an average pack weight of about 45-55 pounds.

The Emmons Route incorporates significant roped glacier travel, which the team prepares and trains for each day during the approach to Camp Schurman. Despite being longer than our other novice-level climb on Mt. Rainier, this route is popular due to its consistently moderate snow and relatively few objective hazards. The Emmons Route is a great choice if you are looking for a more complete mountain experience, training as a team on a less frequented route on the largest glacier in the lower 48 States.

DATES/PRICE

[View on our website](#)

GROUP SIZE

Max: 8 climbers + 4 guides
Guide Ratio: 2:1

QUICK LINKS

[Itinerary](#)

[Gear List](#)

[FAQ](#)

REGISTER

[Click here](#) to get started.

\$500 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.

GENERAL INFO

[Directions/Travel](#)

[Travel Insurance](#)

[Local Lodging](#)

[Tent Rentals at IMG HQ](#)

[Training](#)

[Food Suggestions](#)

[Mt. Rainier Weather](#)

[Suggested Reading](#)

[Tipping your guides](#)

CONTACT US

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PREREQUISITES & TRAINING

There are no specific climbing prerequisites for this program. All that is required is an eagerness to learn, a significant base of cardiovascular physical fitness, and previous experience carrying an overnight pack. You will be expected to carry this weight over the course of many hours each day. For training suggestions please review the information provided on our Training for Rainier page. This is a novice climb for those interested in learning elements of travel on big, glaciated mountains. Technical training is conducted during the pre-climb orientation, on Day 2, and continually throughout the climb.

THE ITINERARY

Day	Mt Rainier Emmons 5.5 Day Itinerary
Day 1	Your orientation begins at 2 pm at IMG Headquarters in Ashford, WA on Day 1. Your lead guide will take you through a gear check and training session. If you need to rent any gear it can be taken care of during this portion of the program, no need to reserve in advance. Your lead guide can help make decisions about your gear and will ensure each team member has everything needed for the climb without carrying unnecessary weight. During the training session, you will cover Leave No Trace Principles, the Mission of the National Park Service, crampon adjustment, and packing up together. Day 1 will wrap up by 6 pm and the team will be free for the evening. Note that lodging is not provided for the night of Day 1.
Day 2	Day 2 will start at 8 am at IMG HQ in Ashford for a day of snow skills training. Please arrive having eaten breakfast and mountain ready- packed up and dressed for a full day of learning and practice. Load up in the IMG van for a 45-minute drive to the beautiful and historic Paradise area on the south side of Mt Rainier. Spend the day learning and practicing the snow travel skills you'll need for a safe and successful climb of the Emmons Glacier route - cramponing, ice axe arrest, and rope team travel. Additional topics can be covered as time allows. Expect to return to Ashford by 4 pm. Note that dinner and lodging are not provided for the night of Day 2.
Day 3	Depart Ashford in the IMG van early on the morning of Day 3 for the White River Trailhead, a 90 minute drive. After splitting up the group food and gear, we'll pack up together and start our ascent. Hike through old growth timber with occasional striking views of Mt Rainier and the Emmons Glacier. Soon, the landscape opens into the lush meadows of Glacier Basin at the base of the Inter Glacier. We begin our snow ascent here, climbing to build our camp above 7,800'. Rest and relax in the evening light with dinner and hot drinks to prepare for our ascent to our high camp - Camp Schurman - the following day.
Day 4	Day 4 begins with a hearty breakfast before breaking down camp and continuing up the Inter Glacier. Roping up before a short descent off Steamboat Prow, we arrive on the Emmons Glacier where we weave through a few large crevasses to reach Camp Schurman. We'll establish our high camp here and continue training or explore the nearby Emmons and Winthrop glaciers as time allows. Enjoy an early dinner with views of Puget Sound. Soon thereafter we head to bed, setting ourselves up for an alpine start and success on our summit day.
Day 5	Awakening in the dark, we'll eat breakfast and pack up with purpose for Day 5, our summit day. We'll climb through the early morning, first reaching The Corridor, an area of smooth glacier with good, direct travel. Angling climber's right and ever upward, we gain the upper reaches of the Emmons Glacier where we continue to climb, crossing the bergschrund near 13,000'. Our final push tops out directly on Columbia Crest. Snap some sunrise summit photos and enjoy the views before descending back to Camp Schurman. Well- earned snacks, naps, and celebration fill the afternoon, until we end the day with a filling dinner and another beautiful Puget Sound sunset.
Day 6	After a restful night's sleep breakfast is served and we begin to pack up camp on the morning of Day 6. Descending our ascent route, we leave the Emmons Glacier and return to the Inter Glacier. Conditions-dependent, a long and exciting glissade brings us quickly back to Glacier Basin. Retracing our steps through meadows, wildflowers, and the deep forest we arrive at our waiting van for the drive back to Ashford. Here you can return rentals, make retail purchases, and share in a closing ceremony with your guides.

TRIP INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

Here is what is included and not included in the cost of your program.

Included

- IMG Guides
- All training curriculum and instruction
- Dinners, breakfasts, and hot drinks during the climb
- Group equipment including tents, stoves, fuel, cookware and group climbing gear (ropes and hardware)
- Climbing permit for Mt. Rainier National Park
- Entrance fee to Mt. Rainier National Park
- Round trip transportation to and from Paradise and White River trailhead

Not Included

- Lodging and food the evenings of Day 1 & Day 2
- Lunches and snack food, meals before and after the program
- Transportation to and from Ashford
- Personal clothing and climbing equipment found on the Gear List
- 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 & TRAVEL

You are responsible for your own for lodging the nights of Day 1 (following your ½ Day Team Orientation) and Day 2. Plan to return to IMG HQ by 5pm on Day 6. Due to the variable nature of mountaineering, return time can vary significantly. If you are spending the night in Ashford, don't forget to make arrangements for the last night of the program. We do not recommend attempting to fly out of Seattle the same day you get down from the climb.

Local area lodging suggestions can be found on our [website](#), and a limited number of [IMG platform tent rentals](#) may be available as an inexpensive alternative.

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 climb 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

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