

Mt. Baker Climbs

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Mt. Baker is the fourth highest peak in the Northwest at 10,781 feet (3286m). It is home to the second largest glacier system in the lower 48 States, second only to Mt. Rainier. Mt. Baker now holds the world record for annual snow fall, 95 total feet in 1998!

Mt. Baker offers the complete package for aspiring mountaineers of all levels of experience: A beautiful hike up into the alpine zone to camp at above 5500 feet. The rolling glacier terrain on both sides of the mountain above camp is perfect for training in glacier travel skills.



The north side of the mountain offers excellent terrain for ice climbing practice, and steeper more advanced routes for the intermediate to expert.

Regardless of your level of experience, your IMG guides will take you through the training process and up through glaciated terrain for a classic Northwest mountain ascent.

Easton Glacier 3-Day Ascent

- The easiest way up the mountain
- The best route for first time climbers
- One full day to train and prepare
- A great preparatory climb for Mt. Rainier and beyond

Coleman-Deming Glacier 3-Day Ascent

- A little steeper and a bit more objective hazard than the Easton Glacier
- A beautiful approach through pristine forest up to the base of the glacier
- Suitable for first time climbers, but good fitness and aptitude is required

North Ridge 3-Day Ascent

- The Classic technical route on North Ridge
- Best first time steep north ridge route
- Previous experience required including ice climbing up to WI 2-3
- Stunningly beautiful vistas throughout the climb
- Descent via the Coleman-Deming route

*IMG operates under special use permit with the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

Easton Glacier 3-Day Ascent

Our route of ascent is via the Easton Glacier, a direct and relatively moderate route up the south side of the mountain with the fewest technical difficulties. However, it should be noted that the summit day is long (a 10 hour round trip) and glaciated (roped glacier travel all the way). The broad expanse of the Easton Glacier provides a moderate ascent at an angle of up to 30 degrees. The summit crater provides a spectacular view of the surrounding Cascade Range. Mt. Baker is a perfect first introduction to roped glacier travel on snow and ice and one of the classic North Cascades summits. The second day of the program involves training with crampons, use of an ice axe, ice axe arrest, roped glacier travel and a brief review of the principals of crevasse rescue. This is a good introduction to glacier travel for first time climbers or a comprehensive refresher course for those with previous experience looking for a spectacular glacier ascent.

Skill Level

We backpack our full load of gear in to base camp. All participants must be in good physical condition. The need to train for this climb cannot be overstressed. For several months prior to the start of the climb, training should include lots of long, slow, distance runs, hikes or biking over hilly terrain, an hour or more in duration. Add additional weekend outings working up to carrying a heavy pack (35-50 lbs.) hiking up steep hills or stairs. Trail hikes should gain 2-3,000 feet over 3 or more miles.

Dates

June 7-9, 2019

June 21-23, 2019

July 8-10, 2019

July 29-31, 2019

August 16-18, 2019

August 23-25, 2019

August 30 - September 1, 2019

Landcost: \$900

Maximum group size: 9 climbers with 3 guides; IMG guides at a ratio of 3:1 on our regular Mt. Baker glacier climbs.

Private Easton Glacier Climbs are available on your own schedule mid-May through September. \$350 per day per person (2-8 people), and \$550 per day for one person private. Extended itineraries are available on request.

Included in your fee are: dinners and breakfasts for the climb, all group equipment including shared tents, stoves, climbing ropes, hardware and climbing permits.

Not included is: transportation to the trailhead, parking pass, lodging the evening prior to the start of the climb or the last night of the trip, or meals other than breakfasts and dinners on the program. **REQUIRED Insurance:** IMG requires that all* trip participants purchase Travel Insurance that includes coverage for medical evacuation, repatriation and medical expenses for the duration of their IMG program. Trip Cancellation Insurance is strongly recommended. Trekking and mountaineering programs are true "adventure travel." **The insurance requirement does not apply to IMG customers on programs within the continental USA, but is strongly encouraged.*

Easton Glacier Itinerary

Day 1: The group meets at the Sedro Woolley Ranger Station in the North Cascades at 8:00 a.m. Car pooling is encouraged by IMG from the SeaTac airport for all who are coming from out of town. A team roster and contact information is shared with the group several weeks in advance to facilitate this. After gathering at the Ranger Station the guides will conduct a final pack check and issue of team equipment. We drive together on to the trailhead. The trailhead at Schreiber's Meadow sits at 3,200 feet in elevation. We hike up into the alpine zone to camp at approximately 5,500 feet on the edge of the Easton Glacier. This is a good hike with up to 50 lb. packs, approximately 4 hours in duration.

Day 2: Training day. After a leisurely breakfast, we will head out to the nearby slopes for a day of training in crampon skills, ice axe arrest, roped glacier travel, snow anchors and the elements of safe team crevasse rescue. A full and informative day.

Day 3: Summit day. Up before first light, crampons on, harnessed and roped up and then off we go up the rolling slopes of the Easton Glacier. The glacier is generally moderate with some navigation around crevasses required. We'll reach the crater rim and then continue on to the true summit for a breathtaking view of the North Cascades. A full day getting to the summit and back, perhaps 6 hours up and half that time in descent. After a brief rest, the group will pack up camp and head down to the trail head, arriving by late afternoon.

Note: on some climbs, the guides may determine it is more favorable to climb on day two due to weather, route conditions or team ability. In this case, the guides will conduct essential training the first afternoon, with additional training during the course of the ascent. On the final day, there will be time for additional skills training prior to descent for those who are interested.



“Every time I go on one of George Dunn's expeditions, I come back saying, 'that was the best adventure I've ever been on'!!!... I had the time of my life on each trip...” —Bruce G.

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

Coleman-Deming Glacier 3-Day Ascent

The Colman-Deming route on Mt. Baker is the most popular route on the mountain and a great way to summit Mt. Baker for the first time. The views from the upper mountain stretch north up to Canada and west over to the San Juan Islands. Mt Baker is as big a landmark in the North Cascades as Mt Rainier is to the greater Seattle area.

This route is suitable for first time climbers, but is slightly more demanding than the Easton Glacier route. There are more crevasses to skirt on the upper mountain and a bit steeper terrain in general up, to 35 degrees or more. If you are unsure of your readiness for a first time climb of Mt. Baker, the Easton Glacier might be a better choice. If you have trained for the climb and are comfortable carrying a multi-day pack, then the Coleman Deming is a good choice. As with the Easton Glacier route, instruction will be provided in use of the ice axe, cramponing skills and roped glacier travel on the second day. In addition, as time permits the guides will offer training in steeper cramponing skills and perhaps ice climbing, taking advantage of the terrain at hand.

Skill Level

We backpack our full load of gear in to base camp. All participants must be in very good physical condition. The need to train for this climb cannot be overstressed. For several months prior to the start of the climb, training should include lots of long, slow, distance runs, hikes or bike rides over hilly terrain, an hour or more in duration. Add additional weekend outings working up to carrying a heavy pack (35-50 lbs.) hiking up steep hills or stairs. Trail hikes should gain 2-3,000 feet over 3 or more miles. Prior training in roped glacier travel will help with this ascent, but if you are fit and have good aerobic endurance, the training on Day 2 will be sufficient to prepare you for the climb.

Dates

June 14-16, 2019
 June 28-30, 2019
 July 19-21, 2019
 August 9-11, 2019

Landcost: \$900

Maximum group size: 9 climbers with 3 guides; IMG guides at a ratio of 3:1 on our regular Mt. Baker glacier climbs.

Private Coleman-Deming Glacier Climbs are available on your own schedule mid-May through September. \$350 per day per person (2-8 people), and \$550 per day for one person private. Extended itineraries are available on request.

Included in your fee are: dinners and breakfasts for the climb, all group equipment including shared tents, stoves, climbing ropes, hardware and climbing permits. Group programs are guided at a 3:1 ratio.

Not included is: transportation to the trailhead, parking pass, lodging the evening prior to the start of the climb or the last night of the trip, or meals other than breakfasts and dinners on the program. **REQUIRED Insurance:** IMG requires that all* trip participants purchase Travel Insurance that includes coverage for medical evacuation, repatriation and medical expenses for the duration of their IMG program. Trip Cancellation Insurance is strongly recommended. Trekking and mountaineering programs are true "adventure travel." **The insurance requirement does not apply to IMG customers on programs within the continental USA, but is strongly encouraged.*

Coleman-Deming Glacier Itinerary

Day 1: The group meets at the ranger station in Glacier, WA in the North Cascades at 8:00 a.m. Carpooling is encouraged by IMG from the SeaTac airport for all who are coming from out of town. The drive from Seattle takes a little under 3 hours. . A team roster and contact information is shared with the group several weeks in advance to facilitate carpooling. At the ranger station the guides conduct a final pack check and issue of team equipment. The group then drives on together to the trailhead. The Heliotrope Ridge Trailhead is approximately 3,700 feet in elevation. We hike up the well maintained trail up into the alpine zone where the path turns into a climber's trail that leads to the base of the Coleman glacier and camp at approximately 5,900 feet. A good hike with up to 50 lb. packs, approximately 3-4 hours in duration.

Day 2: Training day. After a leisurely breakfast, we will head out to the nearby slopes for a day of training in crampon skills, ice axe arrest, roped glacier travel, snow anchors and the elements of safe team crevasse rescue. A full and informative day.

Day 3: Summit day. Up well before dawn, a quick instant breakfast of hot cereal and drinks, harnesses, helmets and crampons on, roped up into teams and up onto the Coleman Glacier. The route heads up to a saddle between the summit and Colfax Peak. Continuing generally eastward, the group heads up and onto the upper Deming Glacier. This climbs more steeply up towards the summit plateau. After crossing the plateau to its northeast edge, the team reaches the true summit. Summit day takes a total of 6-8 hours up, with half that time heading back down again. After a brief rest, the team will head down to the trailhead, reaching the cars by mid to late afternoon. All that is left is the 3 hour drive back to Seattle.



North Ridge 3-Day Ascent

No doubt about it, the North Ridge of Mt Baker is one of the finest alpine routes in the Northwest. The perfect start to putting together your string of Northwest Classics. If you want to climb Liberty Ridge on Mt. Rainier someday, this is a key step in getting there. The ridge is not continuously difficult, but it does climb steeply throughout and offers several crux pitches of ice climbing, generally up to 70 degrees. Often, getting over to the base of the ridge can be one of the more demanding sections of the route, crossing the broken Coleman Glacier and then gaining the ridge itself. Once up on the ridge proper, the scenery is breath taking from this vantage point, the view is endless and the climbing exhilarating.

Skill Level

We backpack our full load of gear in to base camp. All participants must be in very good physical condition. The need to physically train for this climb cannot be overstressed. For several months prior to the start of the climb, training should include lots of long, slow, distance runs over hilly terrain, an hour or more in duration. Add additional weekend outings working up to carrying a heavy pack (35-50 lbs.) hiking up steep hills or stairs. Trail hikes should gain 2-3,000 feet over 3 or more miles. Prior training in roped glacier travel is mandatory for this ascent, and all participants must be competent with rope handling, belaying, cleaning ice screws and efficient transitioning at belay stations. Past participation in an ice climbing program such as our [Ouray Ice Seminars](#) or [New England Ice Programs](#) is required, as is an intermediate route on Mt. Rainier (Kautz or Fuhrer Finger routes) or other steep north face climb in the North Cascades such as the North Faces of Mt. Shuksan, Forbidden Peak and others.

Dates

July 2-4, 2019
 July 12-14, 2019
 July 26-28, 2019

Landcost: \$1,200

Maximum group size: 4, minimum 2 (1 guide per 2 climbers); IMG guides at a maximum ratio of 2:1 on the North Ridge.

Private North Ridge Climbs are available on your own schedule mid-May through September. \$450 per day per person (mimumum 2, maximum 4 people), and \$600 per day for one person private. Extended itineraries are available on request.

Included in your fee are: dinners and breakfasts for the climb, all group equipment including shared tents, stoves, climbing ropes, hardware and climbing permits. Guides at a 2:1 ratio.

Not included is: transportation to the trailhead, parking pass, lodging the evening prior to the start of the climb or the last night of the trip, or meals other than breakfasts and dinners on the program. **REQUIRED Insurance:** IMG requires that all* trip participants purchase [Travel Insurance](#) that includes coverage for medical evacuation, repatriation and medical expenses for the duration of their IMG program. Trip Cancellation Insurance is strongly recommended. Trekking and mountaineering programs are true "adventure travel." **The insurance requirement does not apply to IMG customers on programs within the continental USA, but is strongly encouraged.*

North Ridge Itinerary

Day 1: The group meets at the ranger station in Glacier, WA in the North Cascades at 8:00 a.m. Carpooling is encouraged by IMG from the SeaTac airport for all who are coming from out of town. The drive from Seattle takes a little under 3 hours. A team roster and contact information is shared with the group several weeks in advance to facilitate carpooling. At the ranger station the guides will conduct a final pack check and issue of team equipment. The goal for this program is to go as light as possible, personal gear must be less than 30 pounds total. The team then drives on together to the trailhead. The Heliotrope Ridge Trailhead is approximately 3,700 feet in elevation. We hike up the well maintained trail into the alpine zone where the path turns into a climber's trail that leads to the base of the Coleman glacier. We will climb onto the Coleman Glacier and make camp at around 6,000 feet. A good hike, approximately 3-4 hours in duration. The team will rehearse skills in the afternoon or possibly scout a route across to the base of the ridge.

Day 2: Summit day. Up well before dawn, a quick instant breakfast of hot cereal and drinks, harness, helmet and crampons on, roped up and off across the Coleman Glacier. After possible shenanigans gaining the ridge, moderately steep climbing leads to the crux of the route at around 9,000 feet. Here, a couple of steep ice climbing pitches often bar the way before gaining the final slopes up to the summit and Success. Descent is via the Coleman-Deming route with a hike down to camp and a well-deserved rest.

Day 3: leisurely wake up, breakfast and then descent to the trailhead. This day can also be used as a backup summit day if weather turns the team back on day 2. It makes for a long summit day and descent that same day down to the trailhead, but it is possible and makes for a second chance at the summit.



Mt. Baker Equipment List for all Routes

Clothing

- Long underwear top and bottom (light to medium weight)
- heavier weight long sleeve top
- Fleece or soft shell jacket ***
- Stretchy nylon (Schoeller type fabric) climbing pants
- Waterproof/ breathable shell with hood ***
- Waterproof/ breathable pants (full to ¾ length side zips preferred) ***
- Warm, roomy down or synthetic jacket with hood (not an 8,000 meter jacket) ***
- Wool or fleece hat
- Waterproof Insulated climbing gloves (ski gloves will do) ***
- Fleece or medium weight climbing gloves
- Wool or wool/synthetic climbing socks (one extra change)
- Baseball or sun cap
- Synthetic T-shirt (white works best for sun reflection)
- Nylon Hiking shorts optional for mid-summer warm hikes in to basecamp

Gear

- Full size internal frame pack, 60-75 liters ***
- Sleeping bag with stuff sack, rated to at least 20 degrees F depending on season.
- Sleeping pad
- Plastic double mountaineering boots *** or single leather climbing boots- must be rigid soled and insulated
- Gaiters to fit over your boots
- Crampons, fitted to your boots ***
- Complete block sunscreen and lip balm
- Ice Axe, 60 or 70 cm. in length ***
- Climbing harness, preferably with gear loops and adjustable leg loops. ***
- Climbing helmet ***
- 2 carabiners (to include at least one locking pear shaped or HMS carabiner)
- Adjustable ski or trekking poles ***
- LED headlamp, bring an extra set of batteries
- Dark glasses, UV rated with side protection (wrap around or side shields)
- Double lens ski goggles
- Two wide-mouth plastic water bottles, 1 liter capacity
- Pocket knife

- [] Plastic bowl, plastic insulated mug, spoon
- [] Camera or cellphone
- [] Personal lunch food for three days. Bring a variety of your favorite foods. Include easy to eat non-perishable snacks for the trail.
- [] Light toiletries: toothbrush and paste, small roll of t.p., ear plugs for sleeping
- [] Personal FA kit to include moleskin or blister pads, a few Band-Aids, tape, aspirin, Advil, any required personal prescriptions.
- [] 1 or 2 Large heavy duty plastic garbage bags for waterproofing inside of pack.

North Ridge Route climbers, add the following items:

- [] in place of ice axe, bring two 50-60 cm ice tools, one with adze, one with hammer head ***
- [] one double length sewn nylon runner (ie, Black Diamond 18mm Nylon Runner, 60cm length)
- [] Bring a total of four carabiners, 2 locking and 2 non-locking.

*** Indicates available for rent from IMG: [see our rental form](#). Your guide will bring your rental gear to you at the meeting location. Because of the lack of ability to try them on in advance, we recommend renting boots at REI in Seattle or other commercial outfits.



“You have the best guides in the world, and Aaron and Josh proved that on Baker. Thanks also to your office team for all their help preparing for the trip. Thanks again, and I look forward to my next trip with IMG...”

—Sam G.

“Thank you for a professional, safe and successful climb. We had the experience of a lifetime. I learned a lot and appreciated the way you strategically and tactically approached the mountain...”

—John H.

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