

DENALI EXPEDITION

ALASKA | 7 SUMMIT PEAK: NORTH AMERICA | 20,310', 6190M



CLIMB DENALI WITH IMG D

Denali is the tallest mountain in North America and one of the most coveted of the fabled Seven Summits. In 2025, IMG Denali will conduct five scheduled expeditions via the West Buttress Route. If a custom expedition would better suit the needs of you and your team, we offer Custom Programs for private teams of one or more climbers, please reach out to us directly for further details.

IMG Denali's owners were some of the first to guide on Denali back in the 1970's, and our current Denali guides share our thirty-five years of IMG company culture for safety, summits, and great customer service. Unlike many of our competitors, at IMG Denali, expeditions will be structured at a higher guide ratio of 1 guide per 2 climbers with a maximum 8 climbers led by 4 guides. This 2:1 ratio provides our teams with additional flexibility and a higher level of support.

We are available for personal consultation throughout the planning stages of your expedition. IMG Denali was created with the philosophy that a personal touch and attention to detail is integral in creating a successful expedition, especially one as serious as Denali.

THE CLIMB

Denali is one of the most physically difficult climbs of the "Seven Summits". Unlike many of the others, on Denali there are no porters to help you carry loads. You will be responsible for your personal equipment and your share of the group gear, food, and fuel. Climbers generally begin the expedition with approximately 120 pounds per person, split between your sled and backpack and as such, it is imperative that climbers be in excellent physical condition. There is no easy way "off" the expedition once it begins. The Park Service only allows helicopters for true emergencies, so you cannot call for a helicopter pickup because you do not wish to continue. Please plan on coming prepared for the conditions ahead. We recommend that climbers participate in an Expedition Prep Seminar to better anticipate the conditions ahead.

THE GUIDES

The IMG Denali guides are chosen for their past experience, but that is just one part of the equation. They are often the same guides leading our Himalayan, Vinson, South American, and Rainier programs. Joining these guides on Denali will allow

DATES & PRICES

Denali West Buttress Route 2025 Expedition \$12,450

Team 1: May 12-June 2
Team 2: May 16-June 6
Team 3: May 20-June 10
Team 4: May 24-June 14
Team 5: May 28-June 18

[Contact us](#) for custom program availability and pricing

PREREQUISITES

Previous mountaineering experience is required! See full list of requirements [here](#).

QUICK LINKS

[Program Itinerary](#)
[Gear List](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

REGISTER

- ☐ [IMG Denali Application](#)
- ☐ Application Fee \$2000

FEE SCHEDULE

Non-refundable application fee is due at registration and applies to program fees. **Next installment of additional \$2000 is due 180 days prior to departure; final balance of remaining fees are due 120 days prior to trip departure.** Program fees are quoted in US dollars. All fees and payments are non-refundable and non-transferable. Payments are collected by ACH only through our online registration system. Price shown applies to scheduled programs only.

CONTACT US

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you to continue a relationship that you have built with them on other programs, or to start building a rapport with guides prior to a Himalayan climb, Vinson expedition, or one of our many other expeditions.

THE ITINERARY

The expedition will start on Day 1 at our designated local hotel in Anchorage where your guides will meet you at 12PM to conduct your gear check. Climbers coming from abroad or the east coast of the USA may need to arrive in Anchorage a day before the start day, depending on your flights. In that case, you will be responsible for arranging overnight lodging in Anchorage and meeting the team at the group hotel the following day. You will be able to spend the afternoon of Day 1 picking up last-minute perishables and snack-items on your own in Anchorage. The first night in Alaska will be spent in the local group hotel. On Day 2, the team will catch an early morning shuttle to Talkeetna where the team will spend the day making final preparations and attending our mandatory NPS meeting. Our expedition begins with a thrilling flight onto the Kahiltna Glacier via ski plane. The rate of ascent will be dictated by the weather, the strength of the group, and our rate of acclimatization. All climbing decisions will be made by the guides, with the best interest of the group as a whole in mind. There will be a cache of food at Base Camp and we will carry 21 days of food with supplements to stretch it to 24 days if necessary. A good weather expedition might take 14 days on the mountain. Average time is 18 days, and 22-24 days is not unusual.

Day	Denali West Buttress Expedition Itinerary
Day 01	Meet your guides and team at our designated local hotel in Anchorage. Upon your arrival, please call the hotel to arrange for airport shuttle to pick you up. Group lodging arranged by IMGD.
Day 02	Depart Anchorage early and a shuttle to Talkeetna. Attend our NPS briefing in Talkeetna, go over personal equipment, familiarize ourselves with the group equipment, divide it and get packed for the trip. Group lodging arranged by IMGD.
Day 03	A 45-minute ski plane flight will land us at Base Camp on the SE Fork of the Kahiltna Glacier at 7,200 feet.
Day 04	Drag sleds ~5.5 miles on the low-angle Kahiltna Glacier to Ski Hill Camp at 7,600'. Don't let the distance fool you, with sleds at their heaviest this can be a challenging day on the mountain!
Day 05	Continue dragging sleds up to Camp 2 at 9,600'. This can also be accomplished as a double carry, caching at 10,000' and spending another night at Ski Hill Camp.
Day 06	Weather and energy permitting, we will move up to Camp 3 at 11,000'.
Day 07	Time for an active rest day, possibly "back carrying" to retrieve our cache at 10,000'.
Day 08	Carry gear and cache at 13,500' past Windy Corner. As the terrain becomes more complex above 11,000' we shift towards less weight in sleds and more weight in our packs.
Day 09	Move to 14 Camp, just above 14,000'. This is the location of the NPS climbing ranger post and can be like a small city during the height of the season.
Day 10	Another active rest day, back carrying to retrieve our cache at 13,500'. Second night at 14,000'.
Day 11	Rest and continue to acclimatize at 14 Camp.
Day 12	Carry food, fuel, and other supplies for our summit bid to cache at 16,700' or High Camp at 17,200'. Return to 14,000' for a fourth night.
Day 13	Fifth and final acclimatization day if needed at 14,000'.
Day 14	Move to High Camp at 17,200', potentially picking up our cache along the way.
Day 15	Possible rest day at High Camp or first chance for summit day!
Day 16	Second possible summit day!
Day 17	Descend to 11,000', Camp 3 for a quick bivy.
Day 18	Descend to Base Camp. If the timing is right and the weather holds, "fly off" with our bush pilot.
Day 19	Likely pickup by bush pilot and return to Talkeetna.

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

Included

- IMG guides at a 2:1 ratio or better
- Bush Pilot to/from Kahiltna Glacier Base Camp
- On-mountain breakfasts and dinners as well as hot drinks
- Group Equipment (tents, stoves, shovels, ropes, sleds, etc.)
- Hotel lodging (shared) for the first 2 nights of the published itinerary

- Group Shuttle from Anchorage to Talkeetna

Not Included

- Airfare to/from Anchorage
- Additional lodging nights outside IMGD stated itinerary
- Any lodging for unplanned delays and/or after climbers return to Talkeetna from the mountain.
- Transfers to Anchorage after returning to Talkeetna from the mountain
- **NPS Climbing Permit Fee and Entrance Fee**
- Personal lunch food on the mountain
- Meals in Talkeetna
- Required Travel Insurance (medical, evacuation, repatriation).
- Any costs incurred for early departure from an expedition
- Guide Gratuity

THE ODDS & ENDS:

Private/Custom Denali Expeditions

For private teams of one or more climbers, IMG Denali can also design custom expeditions. Please contact IMG Denali for information on dates and prices.

Travel Insurance

If you are sick or injured and require evacuation from Denali, the National Park Service has the sole authority to organize a helicopter rescue. The cost of this emergency service is covered by the NPS and your climbing fees. However, the NPS will only fly if it is a true emergency. Anything less and the NPS will tell you to walk out to Kahiltna Base Camp. To be clear, you (or IMG Denali) can NOT call for a helicopter, only the NPS can do this. If an emergency evacuation takes place, the NPS will only fly you to Talkeetna, and any costs incurred after landing in Talkeetna will be your responsibility. If you are sick or injured and require further medical care, the NPS will call an ambulance to meet you at the Talkeetna Airport. IMG Denali climbers should have an insurance policy that will cover the cost of an ambulance (or air ambulance if you are critical) from the Talkeetna Airport to the hospital in Wasilla or Anchorage, and coverage for any further medical treatment. Please understand that IMG Denali provides you with no such insurance coverage. You should be covered from the time you leave home to the time you return; plan on covering 25 days from your start date. You will most likely be home before the 25-day mark, but you do not want your policy to expire while you're on the mountain. Our fees are 100% non-refundable and non-transferable, so we also recommend Trip Cancellation / Interruption insurance which may provide financial relief should you be forced to withdraw from the program. Some suggested providers are listed on the [travel insurance page](#).

Flights

It is impossible to guess when an expedition will conclude. For the IMG Denali guides, we book them a one-way ticket to Anchorage (ANC). Then, at the end of the trip when we finally know they are heading for Talkeetna, we will book them a flight back home. There are many flights each day to Seattle (Delta and Alaska predominate). Working with a travel agent will enable you to make one phone call and have them working on arranging your return flights.

Covid-19

For 2025, IMG recommends that all participants are vaccinated for Covid-19 prior to joining us on our Denali programs. If you have any covid symptoms at the start of or during your program, including fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, or a new loss of taste or smell, please notify IMG staff immediately. Please note that due to the unpredictable nature of Covid-19, the policy may change. There may be other measures that we will need to take (such as masking up in vehicles or in Government buildings) that are dictated by the National Park or other land managers. For the most up to date information on Covid-19, visit the [CDC](#) website.

QUESTIONS? Contact us by [email](#) or call at (360) 569-2609

International Mountain Guides, LLC provides booking services for IMG Denali, LLC, an authorized concessioner of Denali National Park and Preserve.



**Authorized
Concessioner**