

# MT. RAINIER

## CUSTOM DISAPPOINTMENT CLEAVER CLIMB

WASHINGTON | 3.5 DAYS | 14,410' | CUSTOM PROGRAM



IMG climbers ascending to Columbia Crest at sunrise (Tomah Whitney)

### CLIMB MT. RAINIER WITH IMG

For the first time ever, IMG is offering Custom Disappointment Cleaver programs on Mt Rainier. For you and up to 8 total participants, IMG will put together a program to suit your needs. The trip cost includes the fees for up to 8 climbers. This is a program well suited to those seeking a unique experience.

Standing at 14,410 feet tall, Mt. Rainier is the highest peak in Washington and is the most glaciated peak in the Lower 48. Climbers start at Paradise and ascend Rainier via the Disappointment Cleaver, a historic rocky feature on the Ingraham Glacier.

This program gives climbers an opportunity to practice glacial climbing skills such as cramponing, ice axe arrest, and rope team travel in a more flexible fashion. This program is also geared towards groups of climbers (up to 8) who want a custom climb for themselves and their group separate from our standard programs. With this flexibility, the team can follow our standard schedule but have a more personalized experience. Climbing Rainier's Disappointment Cleaver route is well suited to beginners and experts alike, and has served as a training grounds for much bigger climbs, from Denali to Everest and everything in between.

### PREREQUISITES & TRAINING

The Disappointment Cleaver Route is a novice route well suited to beginners with no previous mountaineering experience. The program will include training at

### 2023 PROGRAM DATES:

[Available Dates](#)

### ADDITIONAL TRAINING CONSIDERATIONS:

[Camp Muir Guided Hike](#)

[Mt Baker 3-Day Climb](#)

### LAND COST

Mt. Rainier Custom 3.5 Day  
\$23,160

### QUICK LINKS

[Itinerary](#)

[Gear List](#)

[FAQ's](#)

### CONTACT US

Let's talk!

(360) 569-2609

[office@MountainGuides.com](mailto:office@MountainGuides.com)

### REGISTER

Ready to sign up?

[Click here](#) to get started.

### FEE SCHEDULE

Non-refundable \$5000 registration fee is due at registration and applies to program fees. Final balance of all fees are due 120 days prior to trip departure.

Camp Muir that will cover ice axe arrest, cramponing, and rope travel, the skills you need to be successful on this program. Prior experience hiking and backpacking is a plus and will allow you to focus on practicing your mountaineering skills.

While this program is suited for novice climbers, Mt. Rainier is still a strenuous climb. All participants must be in very good physical condition. For several months prior to the start of the climb, training should include many long, slow runs or hikes over hilly terrain, an hour or more in duration. Add additional weekend outings carrying a heavy pack (30-45 lbs.) up steep hills or stairs, ideally gaining 3,000 feet over 3 or more miles. Aim to move consistently at a moderate pace, with breaks approximately every hour.

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING CONSIDERATIONS

Want to get more out of your time on Mt Rainier? Take your climb to the next level. We offer several options to enrich your experience and increase your preparedness to summit.

Build confidence and set yourself up for success with a guided [Camp Muir Day Hike](#). Spend the day with a guide to test out gear, ask questions and get familiar with the rigors of ascending the Muir Snowfield – all with a light pack and low pressure.

For those that want a more flexible climb with more learning opportunities, IMG also offers a [4.5-day Disappointment Cleaver Seminar](#). Ease into your climb with a day of snow skills training at Paradise before starting up the Muir Snowfield the following day. By frontloading snow school, we more gradually ramp up the climbing and open opportunities to cover more technical training topics at Camp Muir or explore the nearby Cowlitz and Ingraham glaciers.

For those looking to extend their stay in the mountains and gain some extra climbing experience, consider our [Baker Rainier Seminar](#) which combines 2 iconic Washington volcano climbs, Mt Baker and Mt Rainier. This program includes in-depth training, more time for acclimatization, and the opportunity to “warm-up” on the lower Mt Baker before tackling Mt Rainier.

## THE ITINERARY

The trip will start on Day 1 at 2 pm at IMG HQ in Ashford, WA. Please note that itineraries are approximate and subject to change.

Day	Mt Rainier Disappointment Cleaver 3.5 Day Itinerary
Day 1	At 2 pm on <b>Day 1</b> , 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	<b>Day 2</b> will start at 8 am at IMG HQ in Ashford. Each team member will receive a small amount of group food to be carried to Camp Muir. After meeting the guides, the team will travel to Paradise in an IMG van. You'll begin your ascent around 9:30 am and will break approximately every hour until reaching Camp Muir (10,080'), around 3 pm. Once at Camp Muir, you'll rest and enjoy a burrito dinner in IMG's semi-permanent dining tent. After dinner, it's off to bed for a full night of rest!
Day 3	Pancake breakfast with bacon and French press coffee will be served at 8 am sharp on <b>Day 3</b> . After enjoying breakfast, your snow skills training begins. Guides will lead the team through several hours of training covering the skills needed to summit Mt Rainier: cramponing, self-arrest, and rope travel. After training, you will put these skills into action, making the two hour climb up and over Cathedral Gap to Ingraham Flats (11,000') nestled in the Ingraham Glacier. At "The Flats", dinner and hot drinks are served early and we head to bed soon thereafter to rest and prepare for our summit push early in the night.

## Day 4

On **Day 4**, you will wake up early to make your summit push. After leaving the Flats, you will climb to the top of Disappointment Cleaver (12,300') before continuing onto the upper mountain and climbing the Ingraham Glacier to the summit. Snap some summit photos and enjoy the views before we descend. Upon reaching The Flats, the team will pack up camp and continue descending to Camp Muir and then to the waiting van at Paradise. From there we travel back to IMG HQ in Ashford together. Here you can return rentals, make retail purchases, and share in a closing ceremony with your guides.

## TRIP INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

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

### Included

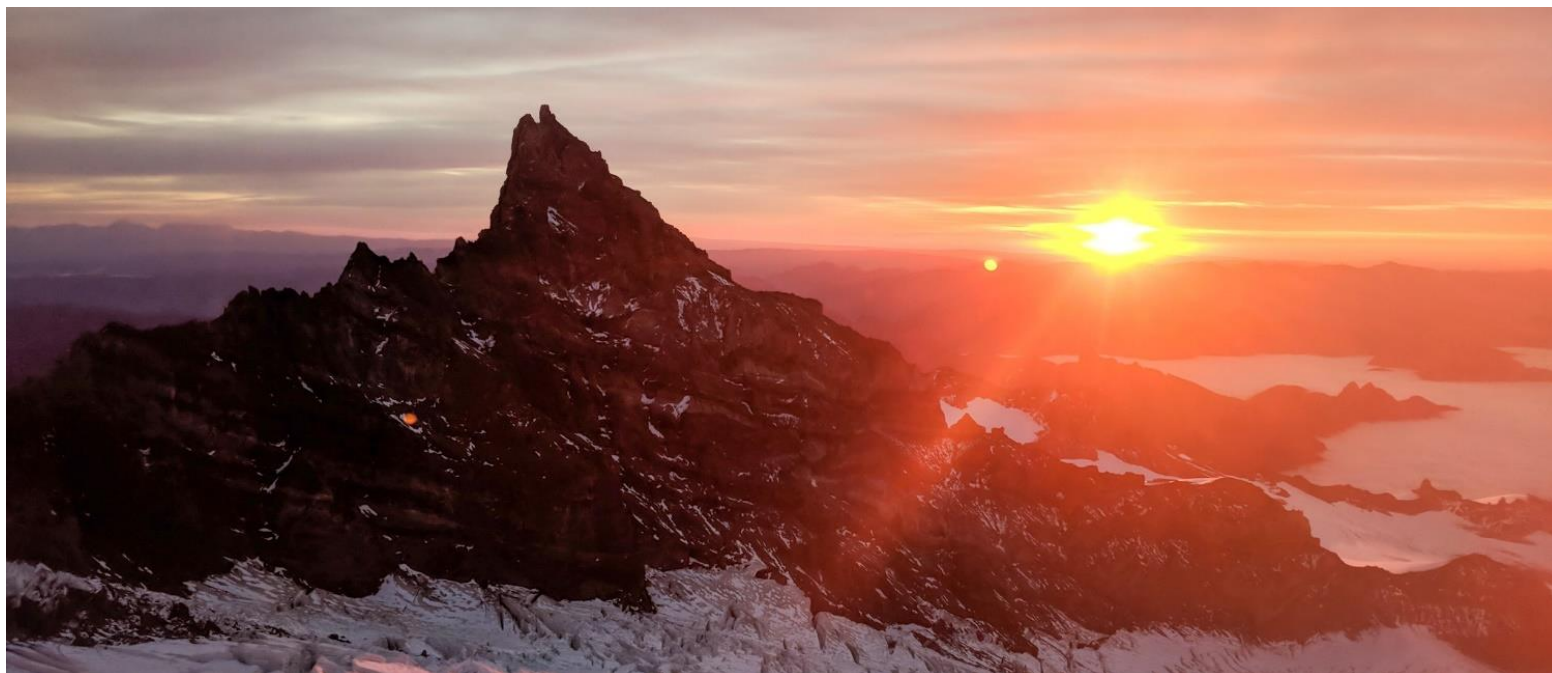
- IMG guides
- All training curriculum and instruction
- Dinners, breakfasts, and hot drinks during the climb
- Group equipment including tents, stoves, climbing ropes and hardware
- Climbing permits
- Transportation to and from Paradise

### Not Included

- Lodging and food the evening after the gear check
- Lodging after the trip
- Lunches and snack foods
- Meals before and after the program
- Personal clothing and climbing equipment found on the [gear list](#)

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

Trip cancellation and interruption coverages are strongly recommended as all fees are non-refundable and non-transferrable. Be sure the policy you select covers mountaineering activities. You can find more information on travel insurance [here](#).



Little Tahoma at sunrise (Harry Hamlin)

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## LODGING & TRAVEL

You are responsible for your own for lodging the night prior to the start of the trip as well as the night of Day 1.

IMG has raised-platform wall tents [available to rent at IMG Headquarters](#). Furnished with cots and thick sleeping mats, this is a great option for those who want the simplicity of staying at IMG HQ. We have showers, Wi-Fi, and power outlets for guests to use. Single tent price: \$40, 2-person tent price: \$25 each

There are several small motels in the town of Ashford, and more in the town of Eatonville just thirty minutes west of Ashford. Hotel options in Ashford include the [Nisqually Lodge](#), [Copper Creek Inn](#), [Alexander's Lodge](#), and the [Gateway Inn](#). There are many Airbnb's and VRBO's in Ashford as well. If you are making a special trip out of your climb, the [Paradise Inn](#) is a nice and historical option for lodging.

Plan to return to IMG HQ by 5pm on Day 4. 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 a reservation 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.

## LET'S TALK!

Questions about the trip? Ready to sign up? **We'd love to talk to you – please [email](#) or call at (360) 569-2609**

*International Mountain Guides, LLC is an authorized mountaineering guide service operating in partnership under a concession with Mt Rainier National Park.*



**Authorized  
Concessioner**