

# MT. RAINIER FUHRER FINGER CLIMB

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



Climbers ascend the finger as a team of three (Justin Sackett)

## CLIMB MT. RAINIER WITH IMG

Standing at 14,410 feet tall, Mt. Rainier is the highest peak in Washington and is the most glaciated peak in the Lower 48.

The Fuhrer Finger climb is a good choice for the climber with previous, successful mountaineering experience looking to break into more advanced climbing. This technical and strenuous climb will help any climber develop their skills through an advanced mountaineering training curriculum. This is a small group climb, limited to 4 climbers and 2 IMG guides. You can be assured that you'll receive the focus and attention from our premier guide staff throughout this program.

Climbers on this program have often previously climbed the Kautz route on Mt. Rainier (or similar) and have a working familiarity with the skills required for that program. The Fuhrer Finger route is more technical and significantly more unrelenting than the Emmons or Kautz routes. Participants must be confident cramponing in firm and icy conditions on moderate to steep slopes and be familiar with using two ice tools for the steeper sections of the route. This is a challenging climb that ascends the steep Fuhrer Finger Route, a direct line up the South side of the mountain. This program is far more remote than our other

## DATES/PRICE

[View on our website](#)

## GROUP SIZE

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

## 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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programs; it is normal to not see another party on the route. The Fuhrer Finger itself is a chute that narrows down to a few hundred feet across, typically 40-50° in angle. Once above the "Finger," the upper mountain climbs steeply up along the Wilson Cleaver (often including a short section of 60° snow and ice) to 13,500 feet before the glacier angles back to a more typical 20° slope. Hazards on this route include the potential for rock or ice fall and we climb the exposed part of the chute rapidly to avoid prolonged exposure. The flexible 5-day program curriculum allows enough time to train and complete the climb comfortably.

## PREREQUISITES & TRAINING

This is an **advanced level climb** requiring previous glacier climbing experience. All participants must have prior alpine climbing experience on Rainier or other similar glaciated peaks and be familiar with basic mountaineering skills including cramponing in firm ice and snow conditions. As with all IMG programs, a review of basic climbing skills is incorporated into this program's itinerary. Additional skills will be taught including multi pitch belayed climbing, lowering, and rappelling. Previous experience on multi day backpacking trips is highly recommended. This is a strenuous and more technically demanding summit climb, and is not for first time climbers.

## THE ITINERARY

Day	Mt Rainier Fuhrer Finger 5.5 Day Itinerary
Day 1	Your orientation begins at 2 pm at <a href="#">IMG Headquarters in Ashford, WA</a> 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. After splitting group gear and packing up, the team will depart Ashford in the IMG van and drive to Paradise. The team will hike up from Paradise and towards the Nisqually Glacier. After crossing the lower Nisqually Glacier, you'll arrive at the base of the Wilson Chute and climb to the Wilson Bench. Continuing along the Wilson Glacier, the remote feel of this climb comes into focus as you look back across the Nisqually to the crowds you left behind at Paradise. After a long day, you'll make camp at The Lower Castle and enjoy dinner and a spectacular sunset.
Day 3	On Day 3 we will pack up camp and cross the Wilson Glacier to the base of the route at approximately 8,500 feet. We will take time to scout the Finger and plan our strategy for the climb to come.
Day 4	On Day 4 we may choose, depending on conditions, to move camp up the Finger at first light and establish a new campsite at the top of the Finger, approximately 11,500 feet. Otherwise, the team will train, climb, and acclimatize in the vicinity of camp. We'll have an early dinner and hold a team informational meeting to discuss our summit climb strategy.
Day 5	Day 5 is the primary summit day. If a high camp is established, we will depart at first light for the summit. The round trip will take approximately 8 hours. If we climb from low camp, the team will depart well prior to first light and will take approximately 10-12 hours round trip. Throughout the day, the guides will be directing their rope teams, providing safety feedback and hands on training of safe climbing skills. We'll ascend glacier terrain to the summit and spend an hour on top, weather permitting. The descent normally takes half the time of the ascent.
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 retrace our steps down the Wilson Glacier and Chute, across the Nisqually, and back to the lush meadows of Paradise until we arrive at our waiting van for the drive back to Ashford. Here you can return rentals 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 from IMG HQ to Paradise (Mt. Rainier National Park)

## Not Included

- Lodging and food the evening of Day 1
- 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 lodging the night of Day 1 (following your ½ Day Team Orientation). 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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