

MT. RAINIER KAUTZ GLACIER CLIMB

WASHINGTON | 5.5 DAYS | 14,410'



A climber in the Kautz Ice Chute with Mt. Rainier's shadow in the background (Porter McMichael)

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. Once the "standard" route on Mt Rainier, this intermediate climb now offers climbers a fun technical challenge in a striking and less-frequently traveled setting. Beginning at Paradise, famous for its alpine wildflowers, Kautz climbers ascend Mt Rainier via the Nisqually, Wilson, and Kautz Glaciers, including the exhilarating Kautz Ice Chute.

This program gives climbers an opportunity to practice a wide variety of skills including technical ice climbing in an exciting high alpine environment, expedition camp craft, and more basic glacial climbing skills such as steep cramponing, ice axe arrest, rope team travel and running belays. Climbing Rainier's Kautz Glacier route is well suited to intermediate climbers, and has served as a training grounds for much bigger climbs, from Denali to Everest and everything in between.

PREREQUISITES

The Kautz Glacier Route is an intermediate climb and a step up from routes such as the Disappointment Cleaver and the Emmons Glacier. A prior attempt on Mt Rainier or similar glaciated peak (such as Mt Baker or Mt Shuksan) is required. Your guides will provide training in the additional technical skills necessary for a safe and successful climb of the Kautz Glacier route.

This climb is a step up in overall physical demand. Climbers attempting the Kautz should be in excellent 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 (45-50 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.

2023 PROGRAM DATES:

May 14-19, 2023
June 16-21, 2023
June 25-30, 2023
July 7-12, 2023
July 16-21, 2023
July 28-August 2, 2023

ADDITIONAL TRAINING CONSIDERATIONS:

[Camp Muir Guided Hike](#)
[Mt Baker 3-Day Climb](#)
[IMG Mountain School](#)

LAND COST

Mt. Rainier 5.5 Day \$2,995

QUICK LINKS

[Itinerary](#)
[Gear List](#)
[FAQ's](#)

CONTACT US

Let's talk!
(360) 569-2609
office@MountainGuides.com

REGISTER

Ready to sign up?
[Click here](#) to get started.

FEE SCHEDULE

Non-refundable \$500 registration fee is due at registration and applies to program fees. Final balance of all fees are due 120 days prior to trip departure.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPTIONS

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 Kautz Glacier Route 5.5 Day Itinerary
Day 1	At 2 pm 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 training on the lower Nisqually Glacier. 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 skills you'll need for a safe and successful climb of the Kautz Glacier route, tailored to current route conditions. Topics include ascending and descending steep snow and ice, following multi-pitch belayed ice climbs, anchor construction and management, rappelling and lowering, and use of technical ice tools. Expect to return to Ashford by 4 pm. Note that dinner and lodging are not provided for the night of Day 2.
Day 3	After splitting group gear and packing up, depart Ashford in the IMG van early on the morning of Day 3 to return to Paradise and the lower Nisqually Glacier. Traversing across the lower Nisqually, you'll arrive at the base of the Wilson Chute and climb to the Wilson Glacier and 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 Castle and enjoy dinner and a spectacular sunset.
Day 4	Day 4 begins with breakfast and packing up camp. Departing for the Turtle Snowfield, our aim is to establish ourselves at Camp Hazard. A shorter day is in order to prepare ourselves for our summit push. An early dinner and early to bed will set us up for success and an alpine start the following morning.
Day 5	Awakening in the dark, we'll eat breakfast and head towards the summit on Day 5 . Descending the Rock Step puts us in position to begin climbing the Kautz Ice Chute at sunrise, the centerpiece of this climb. Fun and challenging climbing leads us to the upper Kautz Glacier where we wind and weave up the crevassed terrain to top out on the summit. Snap some summit photos and enjoy the views before we descend back to Camp Hazard.
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, 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

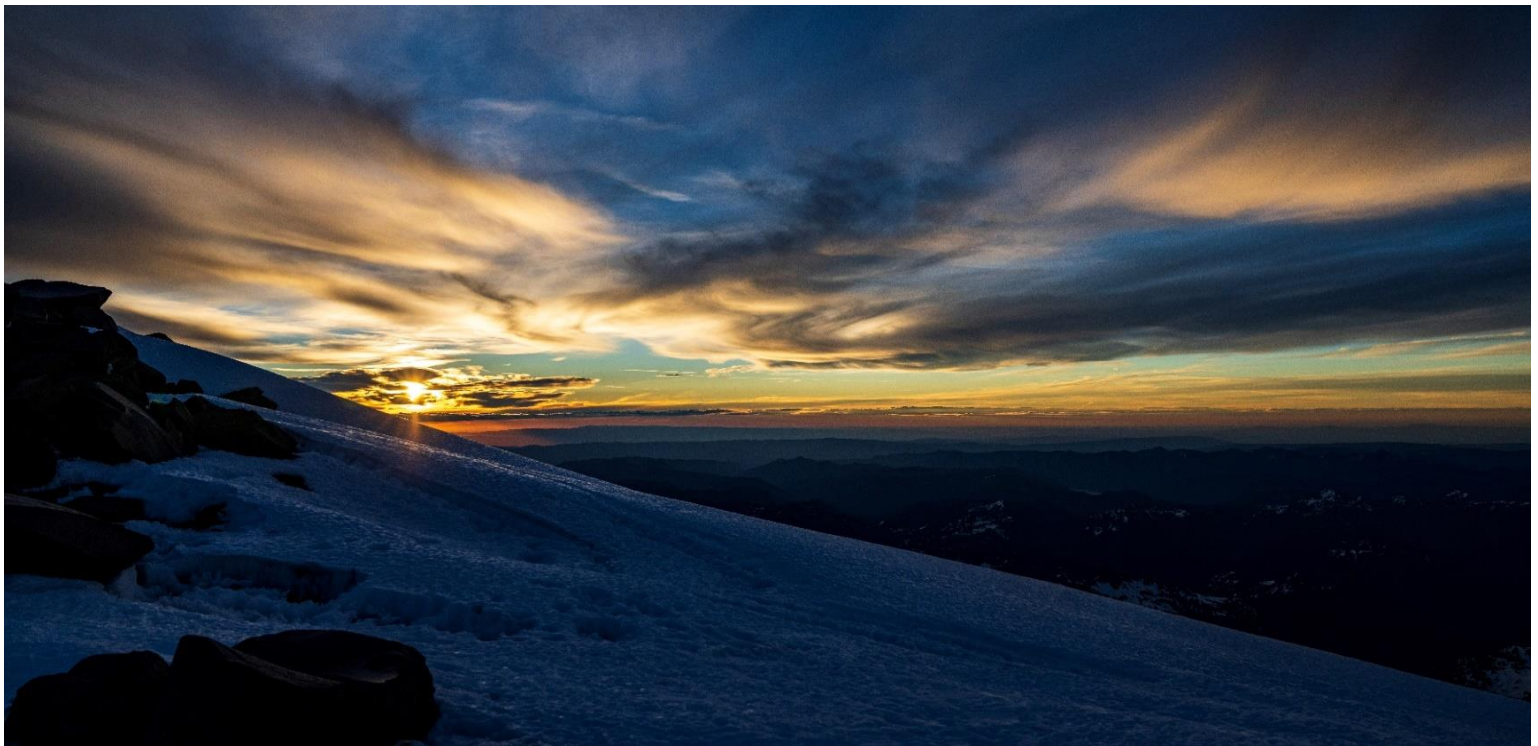
- IMG guides
- All training curriculum and instruction
- Dinners, breakfasts, and hot drinks during the climb
- Group equipment including tents, stoves, climbing ropes and hardware
- Climbing permits
- Transportation to and from Paradise

Not Included

- Lodging and food the evenings of Day 1 & Day 2
- 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](#).



Sunrise at Guide Rocks on the summit of Mt. Rainier (Justin Sackett)

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 Days 1 and 2.

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 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 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.



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Concessioner**