

MT. WHITNEY

CALIFORNIA | HIGHEST PEAK IN THE CONTIGUOUS US | 14,505'



CLIMB WHITNEY WITH IMG

Standing at 14,505 ft, Mt. Whitney, is the highest peak in the lower 48 and one of the most sought after peaks in North America. This climb, organized by International Mountain Guides and operated under contract with Sierra Mountaineering International, ascends the Mountaineer's Route on the east side of the mountain. The Mountaineer's Route is typically a third-class loose rock gully in the summer but come spring, it becomes a snow climb ascending terrain up to 45 degrees.

This program gives climbers an opportunity to practice technical climbing skills such as running belays, fixed line work and expedition camping skills which makes it an excellent primer for any bigger expedition.

PREREQUISITES

Previous ice axe arrest practice, use of crampons, and rope travel experience is required. A one-day training course will be offered prior to several of the programs and will cover ice axe arrest, cramponing, rope travel and ascending fixed ropes.

Mt. Whitney in the spring is every bit as strenuous as Mt. Rainier and as such, all participants must be in very good physical condition. For several months prior to the start of the climb, training should include lots of long, slow distance runs or hikes over hilly terrain, an hour or more in duration. Add additional weekend outings carrying a heavy pack (50-60 lbs.) up steep hills or stairs. These sessions should gain 2-3,000 feet over 3 or more miles.

It would also be helpful to get out during the winter and practice snowshoeing with a pack on steeper slopes. While this is not required, experience with snowshoes will make the approach hike the first two days easier.

TRAINING ADD ON

We will offer training days for anyone lacking prior crampon and ice axe experience or in need of a refresher. Training will be conducted near Mammoth, just north of Bishop.

DATES/PRICE

[View on our website](#)

GROUP SIZE

Max: 6 climbers + guides
Guide Ratio 3:1

QUICK LINKS

[Program Itinerary](#)

[Gear List](#)

[FAQ](#)

REGISTER

[Click here](#) to get started.
\$500 non-refundable 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.

CONTACT US

(360) 569-2609 Ext. 1
Office@MountainGuides.com

THE ITINERARY

The expedition will start on Day 1 at the Alabama Hills Café for breakfast at 7:00AM.

Day	Mt Whitney Itinerary
Day 01	Day 1- Meet at the Alabama Hills Cafe in Lone Pine for breakfast at 7:00AM. Drive to the end of the Whitney Portal road around 9:00AM as a team after issue of group gear and individual gear checks. The road is not plowed to Whitney Portal in the spring and there is usually a mile or more to hike to the road's end. In normal conditions, the team will leave cars at a parking area near the road closure sign and then shuttle the group in a few vehicles as far as possible up the road. The way from Whitney Portal (8,400') is often bare trail at the start, with some steep snowshoeing terrain through pines and around exposed granite slabs a few miles up the trail. IMG will notify the group in advance if snowshoes are not needed. The day will be a long one, 6 or more hours, with a heavy pack. Evening camp will be in the vicinity of Lower Boy Scout Lake, at about 10,300' in elevation
Day 02	The team will move up to a high camp somewhere below Iceberg Lake (12,240'), a moderate day of climbing.
Day 03	Summit Day. The Mountaineer's route ascends a large, snow filled gully up to a notch just north of the summit. The gully may be firm snow or knee deep step kicking, depending on conditions. It is 30 to 40 degrees in angle. From the notch, a short, steeper gully will be belayed or anchored with several fixed ropes to facilitate the ascent to the summit. The guides will lower the group down to the notch and the team will descend the route to high camp.
Day 04	Pack up and return to the trail head. End of trip. Expect to be back at the vehicles by approximately mid-afternoon, depending on conditions.

TRIP INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

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

Included

- Sierra Mountaineering guides
- All training curriculum and instruction
- Dinners and breakfasts during the climb
- Group equipment including tents, stoves, climbing ropes and hardware
- Climbing permits

Not Included

- Transportation to the trailhead
- Lodging the evening prior to the start of the climb
- Lodging on the last night of the trip
- Lunches and snack food, meals before and after the program
- 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

You are responsible for your own lodging the night prior to the start of the trip. There are several small motels in the town of Lone Pine, and many more an hour north in Bishop. One good option is the Whitney Hostel. Rooms sleep up to 4 in two sets of bunks and runs around \$25 a person plus tax. There are showers in each room and the place is nice. The address is 238 S Main in Lone Pine. Phone is (760) 876-0030 for reservations. Tell them you are climbing with SMI/IMG. We'll do our gear check and briefing after breakfast in the main downstairs room at the hostel.

If the idea of the hostel doesn't appeal to you, try the Dow Villa Motel. The Dow is a nice comfortable place.

The group will hope to be down by noon (earliest) on the last day. It is a long drive back to Las Vegas if you are flying out that way. The team usually enjoys getting together for lunch and final good-byes in Lone Pine at the end of the climb. If you are spending the night in Lone Pine, don't forget to make a reservation for the last night of the program as well.

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

International Mountain Guides, LLC provides booking services for Sierra Mountaineering International. Sierra Mountaineering is an authorized mountaineering guide service operating in partnership under a special use permit with the Inyo National Forest