

MT. RAINIER KAUTZ GLACIER CLIMB

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



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.

The Kautz Glacier is an iconic intermediate level climb that is more physically demanding and technically challenging than our novice routes. This is excellent choice for people with a strong base of fitness who have done some previous climbing and are looking to hone their alpine skills while tackling a greater summit day challenge. The training curriculum for this trip is comprehensive, but previous cramponing practice on glacier ice is required. All Kautz programs will include an advanced training day at Paradise on Day 2 to help the team members fine-tune skills prior to venturing onto the upper mountain.

Climbers on this program have often previously climbed either the Emmons or the Disappointment Cleaver routes on Mt. Rainier or have other comparable technical experience. You must be confident cramponing in firm glacier conditions on steeper slopes and ready to learn more advanced techniques for climbing through steeper, icier terrain. This is an intermediate climb that ascends large and imposing glaciers significantly steeper than those found on our Disappointment Cleaver program. The crux of the Kautz route, just above high camp, involves ascending a steep face that increases in angle from 30-50° and likely includes a section of firm snow or glacier ice. Multiple pitches of belays by the guides from ice anchors are often employed to facilitate passage. The 5½ day program allows enough time for the team to learn the necessary skills to complete the climb comfortably and confidently. If you are looking for a climb that will challenge you physically and technically, then the Kautz Glacier route is an excellent choice.

DATES/PRICE

[View on our website](#)

GROUP SIZE

Max: 8 climbers, + 4 guides
Guide Ratio: 2:1

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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PREREQUISITES & TRAINING

This is an **intermediate level climb** requiring previous glacier climbing experience. A review of basic climbing skills and lessons on advanced climbing skills is incorporated into this program's curriculum through the skills day at Paradise on Day 2. For those looking for an extended learning experience on Mt. Rainier, we also offer our popular IMG Mountain School. This school in conjunction with your Kautz climb is highly recommended for those who are looking to capitalize on training opportunities.

All participants must have prior alpine climbing experience either on Rainier or on other 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 Kautz 5.5 Day Itinerary
Day 1	Your orientation begins at 2 pm at IMG Headquarters in Ashford, WA 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 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 evenings of Day 1 & Day 2
- 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 nights of Day 1 (following your ½ Day Team Orientation) and Day 2. 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

International Mountain Guides, LLC is an authorized Concessioner of the National Park Service. Address comments to



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