



SWS Mountain Guides

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MATTERHORN – 12,262 ft. SIERRIAN ALPINE ASCENT



General Description: Our 3-day mountaineering course is a demanding program. It's complete with a scenic cross-country approach, glacier crossing, steep snow & ice climbing, and rock scrambling as we attempt our summit via the East Couloir of Matterhorn Peak. Perhaps the best classroom in the country for such a course, we head into the stunning and isolated Hoover Wilderness for 3 days of education, mountaineering, and fun. Our curriculum is designed to allow participants to expand their climbing skills and learn new alpine mountaineering techniques on the highest peak in the Sawtooth Range of the Northeast Sierra Nevada. Our course enables you to build the skills needed for more advanced mountaineering adventures, such as technical climbing in the Sierra Nevada or using your new found skills on an international expedition. Our course itinerary focuses on the fundamentals to take on the unique challenges of snow-covered alpine terrain utilizing both snow, ice and rock skills to ascend Matterhorn Peak. These include the capabilities of establishing a snow camp, review of ice axe and crampon techniques, belays & anchors on steep snow, rock climbing techniques on 4th class terrain, and mountain safety. Join us for a great climb and an excellent course in alpine mountaineering.

Sample Itinerary

Day 1: After meeting at 8:00 am on the first day in Bridgeport, California, we will conduct a complete pack check and divide up the group gear. We will then carpool to the trail head at Twin Lakes at 7,000 feet, parking at the Mono Lake Village. From the trail head, we will ascend to our high camp at approximately 9,000 feet, with mini-clinics along the way with an ice ax and crampon use review if needed to get to the high camp. As time allows, we will review ice ax and crampon techniques after setting up camp to get you ready for the next day's climb.



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Day 2: On the second day, we will rise early for an alpine start (3-4:00 am) and climb via the East Couloir, which is visible as the higher of the two possible ways to the East Ridge from the edge of the glacier. We will ascend the couloir to the East Ridge and head up and over 3rd class ledges to the summit, or continue around to the Southern aspect for more easier terrain, all depending on conditions & group skill. After summiting we will descend back to camp.

Day 3: Will be up early and breakdown camp and head back to the trail head. We should be back to the trail head around mid-day.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a best-case scenario. This itinerary is subject to change at the guide's discretion and depends on mountain conditions/weather, group fitness/experience/expectations, and other factors we cannot anticipate.

Location: Bridgeport, CA. Hoover Wilderness Area / Your guide will call you for the meet location in Bridgeport.

Experience Level Requirements: Basic to Intermediate climbers with basic skills in backpacking, rock climbing, or snow climbing. More advanced climbers can request the a more technical route from 5.4 – 5.7 – Give us a call if you have questions.

Physical Conditioning Requirements: Participants should be in very good to excellent physical condition. Our backpacks will weigh anywhere from 40 to 50 pounds.

Food: Breakfasts, dinners, and hot beverages are provided while on the mountain. We will have a variety of options available, however we cannot guarantee specific choices of flavors or meals. If you have a favorite breakfast or dinner that only requires hot water to be added we encourage you to bring it. Make sure to bring your own favorite, high-calorie, high- carbohydrate lunches and snacks. Examples: bagels, cheese, dried fruit, trail mix, Clif bars, chocolate, etc. Note: you will need approximately 200-300 calories per hour (7-9 hours on summit day alone).

Group Size: Limited to 6 guests (Guide to Guests ratio is 1:3)

Includes Professional instruction/guide, breakfast(s), dinner(s), ice axes, helmets, harness, group-climbing equipment including ropes and safety equipment, group camping equipment including tents and stoves, permits, and permit fees.

Not Included: Mountaineering Boots, Snowshoes (early season), and Crampons are **NOT** included but are available for rent from SWS Mountain Guides. For more details about equipment, please see our equipment list for this course.