



Acadia Mountain Guides Climbing School

Director Jon Tierney, internationally licensed IFMGA mountain guide
PCIA Accredited, AMGA Accredited since 1993

TRIP INFORMATION PACKET KATAHDIN 2 DAY WINTER ASCENT GROUP TRIP

Thank you for registering for a winter ascent of Maine's highest peak through Acadia Mountain Guides Climbing School. We are looking forward to climbing with you.

Trip Dates

Session 1: Saturday / Sunday, January 23 - 24, 2010

Session 2: Saturday / Sunday, February 6 - 7, 2010

Session 3: Saturday / Sunday, February 27 - 28, 2010

Other dates may be scheduled. Check schedule on Acadiamountainguides.com. Also available by private arrangement.

Trip Description

The remote location and arctic environment of Katahdin make this one of the most rewarding winter alpine ascents in New England. Reaching the summit of Katahdin at any time of year is an accomplishment but in the winter it holds just a little more magic and a lot less people. Our climb begins with a half-day ski into the base of the mountain to a winter camp where basic winter camping skills and relevant mountaineering skills are taught and reviewed. We start the climb early the next morning and return in time to ski back to trailhead. This trip is physically demanding but requires no previous winter climbing or camping experience. The trip will be lead by experienced winter mountaineering guides who are also trained in avalanche assessment and wilderness medicine.

Tuition: \$230.00. The fee includes guiding and instruction; park fees; technical gear such as crampons, ice axe, transceiver, and double boots; group food, camping and cooking gear. You are responsible for providing your own skis or snowshoes, clothing, sleeping bag, lunch snacks, etc.

Reservations, Refunds & Cancellations: Baxter State Park has several rules effecting party size, reservations and activities that directly influence our policies. A 50% deposit is required for registration. Balance is due three weeks (21 days) before the beginning of program. Fifty percent (50%) of deposit is refundable if cancellation is made more than 21 days in advance. Cancellations made within twenty-one (21) days of program forfeit entire tuition rate. A full refund will be given if Acadia Mountain Guides Climbing School must cancel the course. There is a \$20.00 charge for returned checks. All trips are limited to 8 participants.

NOTE: Extreme weather, avalanche conditions, inadequate personal fitness, difficult terrain, or park weather / travel closures may make it impossible to achieve our stated objective of the summit. No refunds will be made in anticipation of inclement weather or for not reaching the summit. We will make every reasonable effort to reach the summit.

General Itinerary

Day / evening prior. If possible, we suggest that you stop by our shop in Orono to check over your gear. Call ahead and one of our guides will be there to meet you.

DAY 1: Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Alpenglow Adventure Sports, 92 Main St., in downtown Orono. From I-95 northbound, take exit 191 (formerly exit 50) and go right. In about a mile, you will come to a T-intersection with Route 2 (Main St.). Turn left onto Main St. and go another mile into town. Alpenglow is adjacent to a large green house on the right side (east) of the street across from a stone church. We will do a final check of equipment, load group gear and be northbound hopefully by 10:00 a.m. Please arrive relatively packed. In the early afternoon, we will ski from Abol Bridge into Abol Campground (5 miles).

DAY 2: Rise early for breakfast and then start up toward the summit. This will be a long day as we will need to ski out late in the day.

Transport: We like to carpool from Orono to Abol Bridge in order to minimize fuel consumption. This drive is about one hour and forty minutes. Please let us know if you have a vehicle and can drive other participants.

Food: AMGCS will provide the main dinner meal on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday along with hot drinks such as cocoa, tea, and electrolytic replacements. Please let us know if you have any special dietary needs or are vegetarian. You should bring easy to eat trail lunch foods such as Clifbars, raisens, peanuts, chocolate, etc. for lunches each day.

All seasons
92 Main St., Box 121
Orono, ME 04473
207-866-7562

www.AcadiaMountainGuides.com
888-232-9559

Summer
198 Main St.
Bar Harbor, ME
207-288-8186

Pre/Post Trip Lodging: Contact us for referrals in the Orono or Millinocket area.

Risk and Rescue: Enjoying the outdoors necessitates a certain degree of risk-taking. You are participating in this trip and entering the winter backcountry environment of Baxter State Park at your own risk. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to minimize various hazards through the application of good judgment gained from a foundation of education and experience. Some of the hazards that can lead to injury associated with this trip include but are not limited to extreme cold, demanding physical travel, avalanche, vehicle transportation, skiing and camping. Please be sure that you are fully aware of such risks. Self-reliance in the face of adversity is expected on the part of the wilderness traveler entering the wilderness areas of Baxter State Park. Cellular phones and radios should not be relied upon in an emergency. Non-emergency use of radios or cellular phones is prohibited within Baxter State Park. While risks cannot be completely eliminated, it is our goal to interpret the environmental, situational and group variables and to make educated decisions to minimize dangers to you while at the same time providing an enjoyable and memorable experience.

“Although it is the policy of Baxter State Park to attempt to assist those in need, a rescue effort on the mountain or in the park backcountry should not be expected. Search and rescue operations are conducted on a discretionary basis. The level and urgency of the response is determined by field personnel based on their evaluation of the situation. A rescue will be initiated only when necessary and when within the reasonable technical ability of available personnel and provides rescuers with a reasonable margin of safety. A helicopter rescue is risky and will only be used when medical or technical demands warrant it. Rescue is not automatic. For all practical purposes, a party is alone and must depend upon its own resources for self-rescue and be equipped for an extended emergency.”

This is a group trip and good expedition behavior is critical. Participants are asked to stay with the group until everyone has safely reached the road.

Release and Assumption of Risk, Health Statement and Registration Forms: Please complete these forms and return it to us at least three weeks in advance of the trip. Please provide us with emergency contact information at the time of registration. Forms are on-line at acadiamountainguides.com/info/info.html.

Travel In: We will use snowshoes to reach Abol Campground. Participants who have backcountry / off trail ski touring experience may use skis if approved by the course leader.

Personal Equipment Checklist ** = provided

- Large, sturdy internal or external frame pack (<5000 c.i. or 80L) (rentals available)
 please leave enough empty space in your pack to accommodate a stuff sack of group gear about 12” x 18” in size.
- Day pack approximately 30 – 35L capacity
- Double mountaineering boot or pack boot capable of attaching crampons (rentals available)
- 20 degree sleeping bag (rentals available)
- EVA 1/2” foam full length ground pad (rentals available)
- Snowshoes in good condition (rentals available)
- Adjustable Ski poles (rentals available)
- High gaiters or supergaiters
- Insulating mittens and gloves
- Thin wicking sock liners and / or vapor barrier sock
- balaclava that covers entire head
- Mid - heavy weight insulating jacket or sweater
- Wicking innerwear (long underwear) top and bottom
- Waterproof / breathable jacket and pants with side zips
- Unbreakable bowl, insulated cup & spoon, personal toiletries
- Headlamp with fresh batteries (rentals available)
- Avalanche transceiver **
- EVA 1/4” foam pad 3/4 length or ThermoRest ground pad
- Ski skins if needed (rentals available)
- Sunscreen and lip balm
- Sunglasses with side protection or goggles
- Waterproof mitten shells
- insulating wool blend socks
- warm hat
- Expedition weight down or synthetic jacket
- Insulating pants with side zips
- Crampons / Ice axe **
- Insulated, wide-mouthed, water bottle or thermos
- Climbing Helmet **

Gear Discount

You are entitled to a 10% discount coupon on all future outdoor equipment purchases at Alpenglow Adventure Sports, our outdoor equipment retail store located at 92 Main St., Orono, ME and on the web at AlpenglowGear.com.

Additional Information

If possible, please familiarize yourself with the booklet on [Winter Use of Baxter State Park](#). It contains several nuggets of useful information for winter camping, skiing, and mountaineering. This booklet was prepared for Baxter State Park by Jon Tierney, owner of Acadia Mountain Guides Climbing School. It is available on the AcadiaMountainGuides.com website.