



Denali -Mt McKinley Expedition Notes

1. April 29 – May 19, 2012
2. May 6 - May 26, 2012
3. May 13 - June 2, 2012
4. May 20 - June 9, 2012
5. May 27 - June 16, 2012
6. June 3 - June 23, 2012
7. June 10 - June 30, 2012

Denali, “The High One”, is the highest mountain in North America. Located in Alaska at latitude 63 degrees north, 390 miles from the Arctic Circle, the summit is at 20,320 feet / 6,194 metres. Denali is one of the much sought after “Seven Summits”.

Adventure Consultants offer guided expeditions to Denali ascending the West Buttress route. Denali trips are run in conjunction with American Alpine Institute - a National Park Service approved Denali concessionaire.



An ascent of Denali is ideal for those wishing to experience high altitude expedition mountaineering.

Climbers must have intermediate technical snow and ice climbing experience, glacier travel and winter camping skills, and be in great shape and able to carry 50 pound / 20 kg + packs.

History

The Athabascans, Alaska's native people, named the mountain Denali - 'the high one'. Denali was first climbed to the true summit in 1913 from the north via Karstens ridge, by Karstens, Stuck, Harper and Tatum. No other routes were pioneered and very few reached the summit until 1951, when Bradford Washburn and team pushed through the West Buttress route. Washburn's extensive cartography and photography was key in determining this route. This landmark ascent used a ski plane to establish a base camp (BC) on the Kahiltna glacier at 10,000 ft/3,048m paving the way for their ascent and the most successful route today.

The Climb

Our team will fly from Talkeetna to our BC on the SE Fork of the Kahiltna glacier at 7,300 ft /2,225m, at the foot of Denali. We start the climb of the West Buttress from this camp, in traditional expedition style. During the next few weeks we establish five or six camps on the mountain. Some double carries will be necessary between most camps below high camp. This will allow the team more time to acclimatize and manage loads up the mountain. Our team will then be in great position for the final summit push when the most favourable weather conditions are present. The summit is never a guarantee, as Denali can experience very extreme weather conditions with very cold temperatures and high winds. Storms can last a week or more, but the days can also be quite hot and clear with the long Alaskan daylight hours in the summer.



Itinerary - 21 Days

Weather and climbing conditions will dictate our progress during the climb. The itinerary is a guideline of our schedule.

Day 0 2pm gear check and orientation at the hotel in Anchorage. After the gear check we will run any needed errands and guides will shop for fresh food items. There will be an optional dinner at a local eatery in the evening.

Day 1 Depart for Talkeetna via a ground shuttle. The ride is about 2.5 hours with a brief stop along the way. Once in Talkeetna (set altimeters for 358 feet) we will check in at the ranger station and have an orientation and slide show from one of the Park Rangers. After the orientation we will have lunch in town and pack for the glacier flight. We should be able to fly onto the glacier and establish base camp in the afternoon. Once on the glacier we will settle into Base Camp at 7200'/2194m on the Southeast Fork of the Kahiltna Glacier, and discuss camp building, camp etiquette, cook tent procedures and the roles of each team member on the expedition.

Day 2 After breakfast we will rig our sleds, dig our Base Camp cache, and head to Camp 1 at 7800'/2378m below Ski Hill. Quick Stats: 5.5 miles, 1000' of elevation gain (we lose 400' down Heart Break Hill below BC).

Day 3 Carry loads to cache at 10,000'/3048m feet near Kahiltna Pass below Camp 2 (C2) and return to C1. Quick Stats: 7 miles round-trip, 2200' of elevation gain and loss.

Day 4 Move to C2 at 11,200'/3413m below Motorcycle Hill. Quick Stats: 4 miles, 3400' of elevation gain.

Day 5 Retrieve our cache (back-carry) at 10,000' and return to Camp 2. Quick Stats: 1 mile round-trip, 1200' elevation loss and gain.

Day 6 Carry loads to cache around Windy Corner at 13,600'/4145m and return to Camp 2. Quick Stats: 4.5 miles round-trip, 2400' of elevation gain and loss.

Day 7 Move to Camp 3 (14 Camp) at 14,200'/4328m. The views of Mount Hunter, Mount Foraker, and the sunset over the Alaska Range are incredible from this camp. Quick Stats: 2.75 miles, 3000' of elevation gain.

Day 8 Back carry the cache at 13,600'. Quick Stats: 1 mile round-trip and 600' of elevation loss and gain.

Day 9 Rest day. On this rest day at camp we practice using fixed lines and passing running protection as a rope team in preparation for ascents of the fixed lines in the days to come.

Day 10 Carry to 16,200'/4937m and cache above the top of the fixed lines. The fixed lines protect about 800 vertical feet of 50 to 55 degree snow and ice on a feature call "The Headwall." Above the headwall we gain the crest of the West uttress that eventually leads to High Camp at 17,200'/5242m. Quick Stats: 2.5 miles round trip, 2400' of elevation gain and loss.

Day 11 Optional rest day.

Day 12 Move to High Camp at 17,200ft/5242m. This is a long hard day. We will no longer have the use of sleds and so all expedition gear must be carried in climber's packs for the ascent to High Camp. We will have the option of retrieving our cache on the way to camp or returning to pick it up in the following days should the need arise. Quick Stats: 1.75 miles, 3000' of elevation gain.

Day 13 Optional rest day. Most climbers need and want a rest day after the move to High Camp.

Days 14-19 Summit days. The trip from 17,200' to the summit (20,320'/6193m) will take between 14 and 18 hours round-trip and is the hardest day of the expedition for most climbers. It is not uncommon for teams to have to wait several days at High Camp for a chance at the summit. Some teams never get a chance at the summit. High winds and very cold temperatures are the norm and your time spent here will likely be miserable. Quick Stats: 5 miles round-trip, 3120' of elevation gain and loss.

Days 19-20 Descending days. It will take two full days to descend from High Camp back to the landing strip. We need to be back at the landing strip by no later than 6am on the morning of the 21st. day of the trip. Quick Stats: The descent from High Camp back to Base Camp will cover 14 miles and 9800 feet of elevation loss. The last half-mile back to BC is uphill (Heart Break Hill) and we will have to gain about 600' before reaching BC.

Day 21 If the weather is good, we will fly off the glacier and sort gear in Talkeetna. It is not entirely uncommon to be delayed for a day or more while waiting for the weather to clear up enough for glacier planes to land. Upon return to town, most climbers opt to spend the night in Talkeetna and enjoy one of the fine dining and drinking establishments with

fellow climbers in town. Lodging will be arranged when we get back to town and your guides can help you make needed reservations for shuttle rides once we are settled in and unpacked.

Climbing Team

The maximum climber to guide ratio is 9:3. The team will have a maximum size of **9 members and 3 guides.**

The level of experience required

To climb Denali you need to be physically fit, have strong mental stamina and be capable of strenuous exercise for several days' duration. Expedition members need to be capable of carrying a 50 pound / 20 kg + pack. Climbers must have intermediate technical snow and ice climbing experience, glacier travel and winter camping skills.

Climbing at altitude affects people differently; most climbers notice a lower performance rate than normal. Our climbing days are mostly short to accommodate this and vital rest days are usually welcomed! Our graduated acclimatisation program allows you to progressively consolidate your fitness.

Expedition Fee

The cost of the expedition is US\$6,300 per person ex Talkeetna, Alaska.

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Mountain guides
- All expedition organisational requirements
- Round-trip mountain flight
- Group equipment: stoves, tents, ropes etc. and all supplies necessary to make a safe and strong bid for the summit.
- A dispatch page following the climb on the www.aai.cc website
- Group food during the climb

The expedition fee does not include the following:

- Round-trip airfare to Anchorage, Alaska
- National Park Service climbing permit fee of US\$350 (US\$250 aged under 24)
- Meals and lodging in Anchorage and Talkeetna
- Transportation to/from Talkeetna, about US\$180 round trip
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Personal trip cancellation/ medical evacuation insurance
- Excess baggage
- Any rescue costs

- Any costs associated with early departure from the expedition
 - Extra expenses incurred from weather delays in Talkeetna
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Visas

Generally entry Visas are not required for travellers staying less than three months but please check with your travel agent. (Climbing permits are a separate matter dealt with by the expedition agent).

Payments

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

**Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
Wellington, New Zealand**

for the account of **Adventure Consultants Limited**
Account # 1000-594771-0000

Swift Address: **BKNZNZ22** Account Type: **USD**

We can accept your deposit payment by credit card – **Visa, Mastercard** or **AMEX**. The balance must be paid by bank transfer of funds.

Deposit

A non-refundable deposit of US\$1000 is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

Balance

The balance of **US\$5,300** is split into two payments, half due 120 days from departure and the remaining half due 60 days before the trip departure date.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

An expedition member may cancel his/her participation on the following basis:

- A During 120 days or more prior to the departure date, the cancellation fee is full refund less the \$1000 non-refundable deposit.

- B During 60-119 days prior to the departure date, the cancellation fee is 50% of the full expedition fee.
- C With less than 59 days prior to the trip start date there will be no refunds.

Team members should take out private insurance if they wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons. This is called Trip Cancellation insurance and can be obtained from your normal travel agent.

Food

During the expedition you will enjoy high quality and nourishing food. Please indicate any specific dietary requirements you may have on your application form.

Marketing

While the official name of the expedition will remain the "Adventure Consultants Denali Expedition 2012", you can for personal marketing purposes use another name if it will assist you in any way. You will also be completely free to enter into personal agreements with sponsors or supporters if you wish.

Equipment List

Expedition members will be sent a list detailing all necessary individual clothing and personal equipment to be provided.

Medical Examination

Expedition members will be provided with a medical questionnaire and asked to visit their family physician and receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted only by our medical adviser and treated with full confidentiality. Advice on immunisations will be provided at this time.

The advantages of climbing with us

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to high altitude expedition climbing. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our climbers the best possible chance of success.

We employ strong and specialized Expedition leaders and support staff, who are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, the best back-up and support available. This includes nutritious and ample quantities of food, comfortable base camp facilities, reliable communications systems and the necessary medical back up.

Many of our expedition members come to us because they have seen us in action on a previous trip and decide to opt for our level of service and proven experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make expeditions safe and successful.

How to join this expedition

If you would like to join the expedition please request an Expedition Application Form and forward along with your climbing résumé and the deposit for the trip.

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