



SWS Mountain Guides

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MATTERHORN – 12,262 ft. SIERRIAN ALPINE ASCENT



General Description: Climb via the East Couloir of Matterhorn Peak (12,279 feet). Our 3-day mountaineering course is a demanding program complete with the scenic approach, cross-country travel, a glacier crossing, and steep snow & ice climbing with rock scrambling. Come to learn from California's best mountain guides in our Spring Ascent of **Matterhorn Peak**. Perhaps the best classroom in the country for such a course we head into the stunning and isolated **Hoover Wilderness** for three 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 Matterhorn Peak Alpine 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 ax and crampons techniques, belay & snow 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.

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

Group Size: Limited to 6 clients

Guide to client ratio: 1:3

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

Itinerary: 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 trailhead at Twin Lakes at 7,000, parking at the Mono Lake Village. From the trailhead, 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



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after setting up camp to get you ready for the next day's climb. 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. Ascend the couloir to the East Ridge and head up and right over 3rd class ledges to the summit, or continue around to the Southern aspect for more easier terrain, all depending on conditions & group skill.

Food: Group breakfast(s), dinner(s), and hot beverages included. Please bring your favorite, high-calorie, high-carbohydrate lunches and snacks. Examples: bagels, cheese, dried fruit, trail mix, Performance bars, chocolate, etc.

Prerequisites: Basic to Intermediate climbers with basic skills in backpacking, rock climbing, or snow climb. The better shape you are in, the more enjoyable the climb will be for you as well!

Level: Basic to Intermediate Climbing skills depending on route conditions. Participants should be in **very good to excellent physical condition**. Our backpacks will weigh anywhere from 40 to 50 pounds. Previous rock, snow, or mountaineering experience is recommended.

Pricing and Dates: For updated pricing and dates please visit our website at www.swsmtns.com

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. 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.

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