

# *Common Ground*

EXPLORING FAITH & THE OUTDOORS

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## **Glacier Peak Climb**

**July 24 - July 28, 2024**



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# ***Trip Summary***

Glacier peak stands at 10,541 feet in the Cascade range of Northern Washington. Though roughly equivalent in height to Bend's nearby South Sister, it is both far more glaciated and far more remote. A combination of these factors makes a climb of Glacier Peak a significant undertaking as more equipment must be carried and a wider range of skills utilized.

Ahead of our trip, participants (up to 9 people), will get together for several hours to learn basic rope and glacier-travel skills, talk about equipment needed, and answer any questions you may have. Common Ground has access to some mountaineering equipment that can be utilized on a first come first serve basis. Should you need to find equipment elsewhere, our expedition leaders will help connect you with places to either rent or purchase appropriate gear.

No previous mountain climbing or glacier-travel skills are required. Instead, the primary prerequisite for this trip is that individuals be in excellent physical shape, able to carry packs of up to 45lbs for many hours at a time through rugged terrain on single track trails. Below you'll find our itinerary for the trip which should give you a better understanding of what to expect.

If, after reading this, you think you'd like to join this expedition or at least get more information, email [Randy@CommonGroundBend](mailto:Randy@CommonGroundBend) to sign up and/or ask any further questions.

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## ***Day 1 (Wednesday)***

### **Bend - Seattle**

On Wednesday, we will roll out of Bend at 5PM sharp, making our way to the greater Seattle area where we'll spend the night camped on the floor of a school gymnasium. The total drive time will be around 5.5 hours.

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## ***Day 2 (Thursday)***

### **Seattle - North Fork Sauk TH - Camp 1 (White Pass Area)**



In an effort to beat some Seattle traffic, we'll get up and roll out at 5:30AM. You'll be able to doze for another 3 hours until we arrive at the North Fork Sauk Trailhead (2,150').

We'll start hiking between 10AM and 11AM, making our way up a pristine mountain valley with scattered old growth forests. After several miles following the North Fork of the Sauk River upstream, we'll turn up toward the ridge to the north. A long series of switchbacks followed by an ascending traverse near the top of the ridge will eventually take us to White Pass (5,750ft). We'll pitch camp here for the night.

*Day 2 Stats: 10 miles, 4,500' gain*

# ***Day 3 (Friday)***

## **Camp 1 (White Pass Area) - High Camp**



After breakfast we will break camp and head northwest, crossing barren terrain left behind by receding glaciers. We'll then hop onto the White Chuck Glacier, following its path upwards until we arrive at Glacier Gap (7,300ft). It's here that we will establish our high camp.

After lunch and a little bit of down time, we'll huddle up to review our rope systems and ensure our packs are ready for the next day's summit bid. We'll then hit the sack early so as to get as much sleep as possible.

*Day 3 Stats: 5.25 miles, 2,115' gain.*

## ***Day 4 (Saturday)***



### **High Camp - Glacier Peak Summit - Camp 1**

It'll be either your excitement, your alarm, or one of your expedition partners that'll wake you up well before the sun rises. This early start, commonly called an "alpine start," is an often-used strategy to ensure climbers have optimal conditions and ample time to safely navigate the upper portions of peaks such as Glacier Peak. The precise time of our departure will be dependent on temperature since we'll want to get to the summit and back to high camp before it gets too hot causing the snow and ice to begin to soften.

We'll walk along the ridge just west of the Suiattle Glacier. Soon the rocky secondary-summit of Disappointment Peak will loom ahead of us, forcing us

to harness up in our glacier gear (if we haven't already) as we begin a counterclockwise ark up and around Disappointment Peak via the Gerdine and Cool Glaciers. Our expedition leaders will thoughtfully lead us through this glacial terrain with its crevasses, proceeding only as far as can be done safely.

Once on the North side of Disappointment Peak we will find ourselves back on the ridge that will lead us straight to Glacier Peak's Summit (10,571'). We'll spend some time here taking in the view before reversing course and making our way back to our high camp from the previous night.

Depending on our energy levels and the time of day, we may stay the night here at high camp. If there is time and energy, we'll take down camp and head back toward Camp 1 which would shorten the milage we'd have to cover on our final day on the trail.

Day 4 Stats: High Camp to Summit (one way), 3.1 miles, 3,450' gain.

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## **Day 5 (Sunday)**

### **High Camp/Camp 1 - North Fork Sauk TH - Drive Home**

While our bodies will be tired, our spirits will likely be high as we descend back down to the North Fork of the Sauk river and along its banks to the trailhead.

We will then begin our drive back to Bend and as long as you're not driving a car, you'll likely enjoy a well-deserved nap on the road. Depending on timing, we may need to spend one more night somewhere along the way. If this is the case, we'll be home to Bend no later than noon on Monday.

Day 4 Stats: High Camp to TH - 15 miles. Cap 1 to TH - 10 miles.