



OURAY WINTER MOUNTAINEERING ITINERARY

Program Details: Ouray, CO offers some of the best climbing and winter mountaineering in the United States. Due to the avalanche hazard of the Colorado snowpack, a large alpine objective is uncommon. Our program focuses on getting more mileage and experience on the snow and ice terrain available in mountainous areas with less avalanche hazard. Specific objectives will vary from course to course, depending on the students' skills and interests. The weather and climbing conditions during this program will determine the exact daily itinerary. Some of the material may be presented on different days in order to take advantage of good alpine weather and conditions.

Itinerary

Day 1 - Rendezvous and meet with guide(s) and team members

This is the first scheduled day of the program. During the meet up, you will review equipment for the course and make sure everyone is adequately prepared. Once you have completed the equipment review, the group will head to the Ouray Ice Park, where you will cover a variety of ice climbing skills that will be a great foundation for the rest of the course.

- Accommodations: On your own - Hotel or Front-country camping

Day 2:

You will head back to the Ouray Ice park and this second day will expand on the knowledge gained during the first day's lessons.

- Accommodations: On your own - Hotel or Front-country camping

Day 3:

The third day will typically have time set aside to work on some multi-pitch ice and mixed climbs in the region, as well as covering some avalanche rescue gear/skills, and basic backcountry travel techniques. After this day, the group will decide whether or not to camp in the backcountry for the rest of the trip (if conditions permit).

- Accommodations: On your own - Hotel or Front-country camping

Day 4:

The fourth day will start with a gear check and then a lesson in packing as the group will head into the backcountry. The team will then head to Red Mountain Pass and find a suitable site to establish camp, where you will cover winter camping basics. For the remainder of the day, you will cover snow protection systems and other essential winter mountaineering components.

- Accommodations: Back-country camping (if conditions permit)

Day 5:

Depending on the group and weather conditions, the team will either ascend a small peak in the alpine, climb a winter route, or climb a multi-pitch route in Ouray. Regardless of the activity, the team will break down camp and head back to Ouray to wrap up the trip.

- Accommodations: On your own - Hotel or Front-country camping