

# GLACIER TREK : Matanuska Glacier

Experience a unique part of Alaska by spending a day or two exploring the amazing ice formations that make up the toe of the Matanuska Glacier. Few places on earth offer such spectacular scenery in a wilderness location within easy reach of your vehicle.

AMS guides are world class mountaineers and outdoor educators who will teach you basic mountaineering techniques to safely travel on this glacier. During your trek you will have the opportunity to learn about glaciology and see specific glacial formations such as moulins. Having lunch within close proximity to some of the world's most spectacular mountains will make your adventure to Alaska an unforgettable experience.

No prior experience is necessary; participants are expected to be healthy and of average physical fitness. All specialty equipment is provided. Actual difficulty can be customized to participant's desires.



## COURSE SPECIFICATIONS:

**Cost includes:** Professional guides and instruction, Round trip ground transportation to and from the Matanuska Glacier (beginning and ending in Talkeetna), entrance fee into Glacier Park Resort, meals, insulation layers, double plastic mountaineering boots, all personal and group climbing equipment, crampons, sleeping bag and foam sleeping pads, camping gear, safety equipment, camping at the AMS campground.

**Not included:** Transportation to and from Talkeetna before and after the trek, Transportation to the glacier from locations other than Talkeetna (eg. Anchorage) lodging in Talkeetna (AMS campground is free), personal clothing, travel cancellation insurance, guide gratuities.

## FEATURES OF THE TREK:

- Glacier tour offers excellent scenic opportunities
- Basic mountaineering skills – roping up and self-arrest
- Ice climbing
- Natural history talks
- Small peak ascent or scenic vista location

## ENVIRONMENT

This trek takes place on the Matanuska Glacier, which is accessed via road from Glacier Park Resort. Expect to be on ice and on moraine for the duration of your trek.

## REMOTENESS

Glacier treks visit remote glaciated wilderness areas where there are no physical amenities. We live in the outdoors and camp in tents. There is no running water; we carry it in or we melt snow using camp stoves and use an outhouse or catholes for human waste. Safety is always our number one priority and we equip ourselves with mountaineering clothing and survival equipment: tents, kitchens, supplies, emergency radios and cell phones.

## WHERE TO MEET

We meet at 8:00 am at AMS' office at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> street. There will be muffins and juice and coffee at AMS, but please eat a more substantial breakfast and take care of personal business beforehand. After introduction, our instructors make sure you are properly outfitted by checking any personal equipment and clothing beforehand and issuing you any items you may need from AMS. Treks leave AMS at 9:30 AM for the drive to the Matanuska Glacier. For those already in Anchorage, we can arrange for the guides to meet you at the Matanuska Glacier road head on the first day of your trek.

## ACTIVITIES

Treks are educational and fun and explore glaciated regions. Photographers and outdoor enthusiasts are rewarded with stunning views and incredible landscapes. Those with little or no mountaineering experience benefit from the instruction on: glacier travel techniques and ice axe use. Natural history enthusiasts enjoy discussions on the glaciology and history of Alaska. There is something for everyone who enjoys being in the mountains and appreciates wilderness and un-tamed beauty.

# OBJECTIVES

All treks begin with orienting participants to the hazards of a glaciated environment and teaching techniques on how to travel safely on a glacier. These include dressing appropriately, wearing a harness, roping up, belay, and self-arrest skills. Opportunities exist during longer treks to learn more about rescue and self-rescue techniques. Trekking routes are chosen for their minimal crevasse hazard danger. It is not possible to eliminate all together the possibility of a fall into a crevasse on a snow covered glacier.

## **ONE DAY TREK**

One day treks review glacier travel techniques and equipment, explore on the glacier and travel to a scenic over look or go ice climbing. Talks are given on the glaciated mountain environment from the climber's and naturalist's perspectives. A glacier tour and/or optional small peak ascent completes the day. We travel back to the toe of the Matanuska for a 5:30 departure. Distance traveled per day varies but expect to go around 1-3 miles.

## **TWO DAY TREK**

Spending the night in the middle of a glaciated region is a wonderful experience with the proper equipment and guidance. After arriving, you will help set up a campsite on the moraine with expedition tents and a pyramid tent for the kitchen & group area . As soon as our base is set up we head out on to the glacier, we hike out to the ice, put on crampons, learn safety and traveling skills, and then explore of the glacier.. Talks on glaciology and the climbing history of the area are given. With plenty of good food, don't plan on losing any weight! The evening light on the mountains is a particularly nice sight at the end of each day. The following morning, after a hearty breakfast, you head out up for an extended tour which may include a small peak ascent depending on the needs of the group. Other options include ice climbing and lowering into a crevasse for rescue training. Distance: 1-5 miles.

## **THREE DAY TREK**

The advantage of the three day trek gives you the opportunity to go on a longer climb or glacier tour and really absorb the experience of living in a mountain range. With the 24 hour light, you won't have to worry about getting caught out after dark.

## **CUSTOM TREKS**

AMS arranges treks for all ages, group sizes, and specific interests. We would be happy to design a custom trip that fits your schedule. Please contact us for availability and rates.

**Please understand that the weather does not always cooperate with our schedule and delays in and out of the mountains may occur. Emergency provisions are included on all treks.**