



## Denali Day to Day Itinerary

May 17 – June 6, 2023

**May 16 (Day before your climb begins):** Travel to Anchorage and arrive by 4:30pm. **Climbers must make their own arrangements with a shuttle service and book lodging in Talkeetna.** We advise that you purchase all/most food before heading to Talkeetna. Please see your trip logistics for details at: <https://www.alpineascents.com/climbs/denali/logistics/>.

**May 17:** Meet at the Alpine Ascents Office at 8am (we will transport climbers from the Talkeetna Denali View to our office). After introductions, orientation, and final gear check, we will board a ski-equipped aircraft and fly to Base Camp on the S.E. Fork of the Kahiltna Glacier (7,300'). The flight to Base Camp is marvelous, presenting outstanding views of a variety of peaks including Mt. Foraker, Mt. Hunter, and the Moose's Tooth. Upon arrival we prepare our Base Camp. Note: a glacier travel review may be done on this day.

**May 18:** Glacier travel review. We'll carry to our intermediary camp (approximately halfway to the traditional Camp I). This gives us a chance to get an easy start and let you sort out any adjustments in gear and sled-pulling setup. This is important, as we will be pulling sleds for the next eight days.

**May 19:** Carry loads to Camp I (7,800 ft.). Snowshoes may be necessary between camps on the lower part of the mountain.

**May 20:** Carry loads to cache between 9,800 and 10,000 ft. (Camp II) and return to Camp I. The route this day ascends a slope called "Ski Hill," which flattens out as we approach Camp II.

**May 21:** Our carry today depends on snow/weather conditions and how the group is feeling. We'll either ascend back to our cache and camp for the night or continue on to 11,200 ft. (Camp III.) Camp III is located in a small cirque at the base of Motorcycle Hill.

**May 22:** We'll carry all our gear to Camp III.



**May 23:** We'll carry half our gear up Motorcycle and Squirrel Hill and then traverse a long gradually rising plateau to Windy Corner. We'll continue on around this narrow corner for a few hundred yards to make a cache (at approximately 13,500 ft.) and return to Camp III. This day provides stunning panoramic views of the surrounding peaks and the northeast fork of Kahiltna Glacier, 4,000 feet below.

**May 24:** Move to Camp IV (14,200 ft.).

**May 25:** Descend to our cache at 13,500 ft. and carry to Camp IV. This is an easy day as we'll descend 700 ft., pick up our gear, and return to Camp IV.

**May 26:** We'll carry loads to 16,500 ft. and return to Camp IV. From Camp III, we'll ascend 1,100 ft. of moderate snow slopes to reach the beginning of the fixed lines. Using ascenders on the lines to self-belay, we'll climb the Headwall, which consists of 900 feet of 45° to 50° snow and ice up to the crest of the West Buttress. From there, the climb takes on an entirely different nature with views that fall off in both directions several thousand feet below us.

**May 27:** Rest Day at Camp IV.

**May 28:** Carry and move to High Camp (Camp V, 17,200 ft.). We'll again ascend the fixed lines and follow the exposed ridge 600 feet up around Washburn's Tower, and on to Camp IV, which we establish on a saddle just above the Rescue Gully. It overlooks Camp IV 3,000 feet below.

**May 29:** Rest day. Rest and prepare for the summit attempt.

**May 30:** Summit day. We traverse across a steep snow face to Denali Pass. From here, we'll follow gentler slopes to reach Archdeacons Tower and a large plateau at 19,400 ft., known as the "football field." From the plateau, we'll ascend moderate terrain to the crest of the summit ridge, where we'll look down upon the immense 8,000 ft. South Face, with Cassin Ridge and the South Buttress in full view. Once on the summit ridge, excitement grows as we'll climb the last 300 feet to the top of North America. From the summit, we'll have a 360° view of the entire Alaska Range, with Mt. Hunter and Mt. Huntington to the south and Mt. Foraker to the west. These peaks, along with scores of others, make this Mountain View one of the most impressive in the world. After taking photos, we'll descend to our High Camp.



**May 31 – June 1:** Return to Base Camp. From High Camp, we spend two days returning to Base Camp, where we will board a plane and return to Talkeetna.

**June 2 – 6:** Extra days, for inclement weather, rest and acclimatization as needed.

*Please plan to depart from Anchorage the day after your climb ends (June 7) after 1:30pm.*

**Note:** Due to the nature of climbing Denali, there may be delays/accelerations due to weather and guide decision-making. It is important to keep schedules slightly flexible, as we will take extra days or combine days if necessary to give everyone the best possible chance of success. A detailed logistics package will be forwarded to each team member upon receipt of application. Our staff will work closely with all Denali climbers.

**Alpine Ascents is an authorized concessionaire of Denali National Park and Preserve.**