

black peak ice

introductory ice climbing course



winter season

late jun to early aug 2012

Price
(per person)

NZ\$1,750 3-4 pax
NZ\$1,875 2 pax

access
fly in, fly out
included in price

guide ratio
1:4 maximum

Bonus
1 day weather contingency

most technical gear including transceiver provided

accommodation in cosy private hut

dates : winter 2012

WIC#1 : jun 22-25
WIC#2 : jun 29 - 2 jul
WIC#3 : jul 6-9
WIC#4 : jul 13-16
WIC#5 : jul 23-26#
WIC#6 : aug 2-5

NB no weather contingency on this course

Not only do we guide classic alpine and waterfall ice routes throughout the greater South Island, but Aspiring Guides also runs professional & quality ice climbing courses. Our hut (1800m) on the mid reaches of Black Peak (2283m), is ideally situated for a variety of ice climbing and ski/snowboard touring options. Our hut sleeps 4 comfortably. It is stocked with sleeping bags, gas cooker/heater, good lighting, all kitchen equipment, and outside toilet.

Black Peak itself is nestled in the heart of the Harris Mountains, Lake Wanaka, with Mt Aspiring and Treble Cone Ski Area close by. From here, depending on your skills and aspirations, we can descend into Blue Creek ice routes (40 minutes below the hut). The head of the Blue Creek valley is draped with climbable flows of ice of varying length and difficulty). Alternatively we could head up, for mixed climbing, towards the summit of Black Peak. Generally, access would be on foot/snowshoes due to the difficulty of skiing in climbing boots along with heavy packs filled with technical ice-gear.

Whichever direction we head in, the course will introduce you to skills required to safely ice climb with an experienced partner or group.

course content

- ▲ Belaying and rope skills
- ▲ Movement on ice – for example french technique, front pointing;
- ▲ Technical ice tool skills - positioning and placement of the axe on moderate ice. The use of technical tools on steep ice including how to swing tools, secure placements and remove tools;
- ▲ Protection - choosing and placing ice screws and pound-ins, how to construct v-threads and ice bollards, building safe 'earnest' anchors.
- ▲ Efficient ropework - knots, belaying, rappelling;
- ▲ Safety topics - an understanding of ice and the ice environment. An understanding of subjective and objective mountain hazards;
- ▲ Route selection;
- ▲ Basic avalanche awareness and rescue techniques
- ▲ Lead climbing

The course is structured to your level of ability and experience, aimed at skills progression. Each night the group participates in an evening lecture (anchors & knots; route selection & avalanche awareness; analysis and understanding of mountain hazards). Bring your own group of three and choose the level of difficulty for your instruction.





access

Black Peak is a 5 minute helicopter flight from the valley floor. Flying in saves time and energy for the ensuing days of instruction. We get around on snowshoes if there's a lot of snow, and fly out on the last day.

logistics

duration	4 days – plus 1 bonus weather contingency day
price	NZ\$1,750 per person 3-4 pax : NZ\$1,875 per person 2 pax
access	Fly-in and fly-out (included in price)
season	late June to early August
guide-client ratio	max 1 guide : 4 clients
prerequisites	Good fitness
accommodation	cosy private hut
bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Technical climbing equipment is supplied including transceiver ▲ Appointment 5pm the evening before course start to sort equipment and itinerary ▲ 1-day weather contingency

The course price includes: helicopter flights **in and out**; qualified guide, technical equipment (harness, helmet, ice axe, ice hammer, ice screws, ropes etc.), all trip related meals and energy foods, hut fees & utilities (sleeping bags), personal locator beacon. Additional expenses are for rental boots, and snowshoes (if they are required).

we care about you

We want to maximise your chance of having a mountain experience that is successful and enjoyable therefore we offer a bonus one days weather contingency on all courses, trips and ascents. Our philosophy here at Aspiring Guides is such that we aim to cover all aspects of a mountaineering trip with you. This includes preparatory housekeeping matters too: let us know what you do/don't like eating, any allergies/medical conditions, and any special requests. We recognise that the world of mountaineering presents a challenge right from the start; namely; getting the detailed information, selecting the right option and having faith in the guiding company you decide to invest your time and money with.

location and itinerary

We will meet you in Wanaka at the scheduled appointment time, usually 5pm on the evening before your course start. The Aspiring Guides office is situated at 99 Ardmore Street, Wanaka on the main thoroughfare and only 50 metres from the shores of Lake Wanaka. Wanaka is the gateway to the Mount Aspiring National Park, and the Southern Alps. Our office staff can offer advice with accommodation and shuttle reservations, and of course, local attractions. Wanaka is very popular during the winter months. Please arrange your accommodation as early as possible.



booking and cancellations

NZ\$500 deposit per person confirms your booking. Full payment must be made 60 days before commencement date. If the balance is not received by the specified date, we reserve the right to cancel your booking and your deposit will be forfeited, unless a delay in your payment has been agreed by a director of Aspiring Guides Limited. Should you cancel your booking for any reason you will receive a full refund less a cancellation fee: more than 60 days NZ\$200 per person, between 60 and 30 days NZ\$500 per person, between 29 and 15 days 75% of the total course or trip fee. Cancellation less than 15 days or during your trip no refund will be given.

weather

Aspiring Guides is the only NZ Guiding Company that offers this bonus to its winter ice-climbing clients. Instead of a wasted day doing other activities with your guide (inside or outside) as the weather permits, your course could be deferred for one day. You will start the next day with the full four days allocated for the course still available. While one day may not be the cure for all bad weather situations, sometimes an extra day at the start of your trip can make all the difference.

The one day Weather Contingency applies only to the **start date** of your trip. This means your course could start a day late if your guide chooses to use this option. Once a course begins there is no additional weather contingency days allowed. There are also no refunds for bad weather.

The mountains are immune to human plans and expectations. We need to make our plans flexible to allow for inclement weather and other unfavourable conditions. When the weather is bad in the mountains we will make a decision whether to attempt entering the mountains each given day. We do not believe that entering the high country soaked to the skin and a bad forecast is a good idea. Your guides are very experienced and will attempt to the best of their ability to make the best decision they can. In the unlikely event adverse weather prevents a trip from immediately moving into the mountains, we will use the weather contingency option and delay the course for a day.

If the weather continues to remain unstable and we are unable to fly into Black Peak hut, we will use an alternative location and activities will be introduced until such a time as the weather clears and the mountains can be entered (or) until the finish dates of the course. An alternative venue would be Franz Josef glacier. Refunds of any kind are not available in the unlikely event we don't make it in to Black Peak.

It is very rare for a course not to get into the mountains. In the unlikely event of a course being held up longer than anticipated in the mountains, for any reason, AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF NZ\$550 PER GUIDE PER DAY IS CHARGED (this is a cost price and will be divided between the course participants). Your guide/s are working until you return to our offices at the course finish.

meals and snacks

Energy snacks and nutritious meals are an essential ingredient in helping you perform to your highest standard. We provide excellent meals and plenty of it. We cater for your specific dietary requirements.

maps and guidebooks

We have maps and guide books available for purchase in our office. Alternatively, we can post these to you.



valuables and luggage

Additional luggage and valuables can be securely stored at our office during your trip.

insurance

We strongly recommend that all our clients carry travel insurance which covers you while travelling to and from NZ, luggage mishaps, and in case you have to cancel your trip. The New Zealand Accident Compensation System (ACC) will cover most of the expenses relating to an evacuation and/or medical treatment/rehabilitation in the unlikely event of an accident occurring. This service may not apply to evacuation costs for personal medical conditions. You are not entitled to bulk payments for compensation and you cannot claim damages for costs under the ACC act (no legal action can be made in NZ). Whilst our focus is on safety we will not be responsible for any evacuation or medical costs resulting from any accident. Likewise equipment damage or loss remain your responsibility. Some insurance companies can provide adventure activities' cover – if you wish to investigate this option further, please contact our office for information.

communication and messages

Our climbing trips and courses are in radio and satellite phone communications with our Operations/Safety base and the Department of Conservation local office that manages each National park area. We obtain weather information and coordinate helicopters through these channels. In some circumstances mountain radio links are available for the relay of any urgent messages.

how hard will the course be?

Initially the course will be structured around instruction of techniques whilst acclimatising you to the mountain environment. A few days into the course the climbing days will be longer and more challenging. Most days will involve 8 hours of activity. Some aspects of the mountains may seem foreign at the outset, but your guide is there to help ease you through these new experiences.

fitness & health

To make the most of your learning experience it is advisable to be fit enough to partake in the activities with enough stamina to get the most participation and enjoyment. We have two editorials on our website (NEWS, Fitness guidelines) on how to prepare for mountaineering. Your guide places special importance on fitness levels and will regulate the pace accordingly.

how to book

To register for a trip, you can book online through our excellent website. Your deposit of NZ\$500 may be paid by Visa or Mastercard or bank transfer (NZ only). The forms required can be found on our website. Our booking terms and conditions are detailed on our online booking form on our website.

We will send an appointment email approximately 4 weeks before your trip is due to commence. We will provide final information and ask for more information from you, e.g. dietary requirements, trip objectives and/or concerns, height and weight, fitness and any equipment rental required.



You can fly to Wanaka from Christchurch on a twice daily service (www.airnz.co.nz). Alternatively if this connection is not possible from Christchurch, fly to Queenstown, which is 1.5 hours shuttle from Wanaka with Wanaka Connexions – http://www.time2.co.nz/transport/wanaka_connexions. Direct Trans-Tasman flights are available to Queenstown, Dunedin (3 hrs drive from Wanaka) & Christchurch (5 hrs drive from Wanaka).

We look forward to sharing your aspirations....
and the opportunity of climbing with you in the future

the team @ aspiring guides

