



# Denali

## EXPEDITION

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DURATION: 21 DAYS

LOCATION: ALASKA

SKILL LEVEL: ADVANCED

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ALPENGLOW



# DENALI EXPEDITION

## Expedition Details

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**DURATION:** 21 DAYS

**LOCATION:** ALASKA

**SKILL LEVEL:** ADVANCED

**DATES:** SUMMER

**COST:** \$10,100

### DIFFICULTY LEVEL DESCRIPTION:

Advanced - must be able to You should be comfortable with camp craft in high-altitude camps and be able to perform at a high level for multiple days in a row at altitude.

### PREREQUISITES:

Team members must have completed a mountaineering course, had experience climbing on a glaciated mountain, and completed a Denali Prep Course. Please see page 7 for more detail.



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# Expedition Introduction

## Why Climb Denali?

***Towering at 20,310', Denali is the tallest peak in North America, and northern most mountain over 20,000' in the world.***

As one of the renown "7-summits", Denali is a highly sought after summit and is often regarded as the most classic climb in North America.

It is the perfect challenge for seasoned high-altitude mountaineers and intermediate climbers alike; boasting stunning views, technical terrain, and requiring immense personal resolve to reach its summit. Denali is truly a crowning achievement for the modern day mountaineer.

Our logistics partners and guides have worked extensively on Denali, making our team one of the most experienced teams running trips on the mountain. *We are working in partnership with Alpine Ascents International (AAI), an authorized concession of Denali National Park.*



## ROUTE CHOICE

The route will see us climb Denali's West Buttress; a stunning route that will take us across the Kahiltna glacier before climbing the steep snow slopes of the upper mountain. We'll be greeted with incredible views of the Alaska Range as we climb ever closer to the summit of the tallest peak on North America.

## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Denali, or "The Great One" as it's known in the native Athabascan language, holds true to its name. The true summit was first made by a team of four in 1913, with Walter Harper, a native Athabascan, being the first to stand atop its summit.

The West Buttress was first climbed in 1951 by an expedition led by Bradord Washburn, opening up the route that has become the "normal" route on the mountain in the years since.





## About Alpenglow Expeditions

*Alpenglow creates and fosters a community of climbers prepared to achieve their dreams in the world's greatest mountain ranges.*



### About the Company

Alpenglow Expeditions is an AMGA accredited business, and prides itself on working with guides who uphold and exemplify the highest standard in the profession of mountain guiding.

Led by IFMGA mountain guide Adrian Ballinger, Alpenglow focuses on creating expeditions that reflect our high standards in mountain guiding by providing precision logistics, cutting edge technology, and thoughtful itineraries that combine for successful climbs.

### History of Alpenglow Expeditions

Founded in 2004 by IFGMA mountain guide Adrian Ballinger, Alpenglow Expeditions began as a boutique guide service that focused on high altitude climbing. In those 15 years we've expanded our offerings, both internationally and in the United States. We are now proud to offer courses and expeditions ranging from a climbers first experience on the Tahoe Via Ferrata, to basic backcountry education for those interested in exploring winter landscapes, to climbing the world's highest mountain for those on the Road to Everest.

# About Alpenglow Expeditions

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## Founder — Adrian Ballinger

Adrian Ballinger founded Alpenglow Expeditions in 2004 envisioning a more holistic climbing experience for his clients than the status quo.

Adrian is the only American who has skied two 8,000 meter peaks, was the first person to ski Manaslu, the 8th tallest mountain in the world, and in 2011 became the first person to summit three 8,000 meter peaks in only 3 weeks (Everest twice and Lhotse once).

Adrian holds both an AMGA and IFMGA guide's certifications and has achieved more than 10 summits of 8,000 meter peaks (including 6 summits of Mt. Everest).



## Partner / Chief Guide — Logan Talbott

Logan has been guiding professionally for over a decade in the disciplines of Rock, Alpine and Ski Mountaineering. When not out guiding, Logan spends time in the office helping the team with the day-to-day operations of the business. From one day ascents of El Capitan to big Alpine climbs in the Himalaya, or from ski descents on Denali to backyard ski tours in Lake Tahoe, he can't help but smile when out running around the hills.

Logan is an AMGA/IFMGA mountain guide, an Avalanche course leader with AIARE, as well as a wilderness EMT. In addition to guiding, Logan has extensive experience in mountain rescue, having worked for rescue teams in both Yosemite and Denali National Parks, and volunteering locally for Tahoe Nordic SAR.

## LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, LOCAL PARTNERS

We partner with local logistics companies in each country and region that we operate in. Often we have partnerships that have been with us since the beginning of Alpenglow. Whenever we bring on a new operator we have vetted them thoroughly to insure their reliability and quality. Our local and regional logistics partners are the backbone of our in-country logistics and help us achieve the success that we're known for.



*After 15 years of guiding expeditions all over the world, including more than a dozen 8,000-meter peak expeditions, we have refined and distilled the climbing process to maximize safety, health, success, and enjoyment.*

## The Alpenglow Difference

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*Alpenglow Expeditions' Rapid Ascent™ climbs are an entirely new way to approach big-mountain expeditions.*

### **3:1** Maximum Guide to Climber Ratio

All of our guides are AMGA certified or trained mountain guides and are among the best in the business, drawing upon years spent guiding on Denali to give you the best experience possible.

### **Expedition Doctor on Call**

Dr. Monica Piris, has been on fourteen 8,000-meter peak expeditions and is a huge asset to our team. She is in daily communication with our teams during the entirety of the expedition and is available for client consultation at any time.

### **Premium Logistics**

Working with a local team to organize quality logistics for the trip, our climb provides a higher level of service above any other. From our guides, to our camp infrastructure and mountain amenities, our expedition logistics are unrivaled and will leave you wishing for nothing.

We work with AAI's local team to help organize the complicated logistics involved with climbing Denali. They are incredible and we're glad to be working in partnership with them.



# The Alpenglow Expeditions Team

## Alpenglow's Guides

All of our guides for this expedition are AMGA/IFMGA licensed or working to finish their certification. The guides that we will be working with on Denali are incredibly experienced, having spent years of their lives honing the craft of mountain guiding.

## Local Logistics Team

Our logistics are run through Alpine Ascents International, a very experienced and qualified outfitter who has been guiding on Denali for over 20 years. Together, we provide the highest quality logistics, basecamp infrastructure, and food on the mountain.

## TEAM MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

We build strong teams of qualified climbers. All climbers must have be proficient in basic mountaineering skills such as: Cramponing, walking on snow, crevasse rescue, self-arrest, glacier travel and rope skills, and winter camping experience. Team members will have completed an introductory mountaineering course, and completed 1-2 glaciated climbs within the past few years prior to climbing Denali. Having a firm understanding of mountain travel and expedition living in crucial to success. Denali is a unique and demanding mountain; the more experience that you bring to the mountain, the greater the chance you'll reach it's summit. The Alpenglow Office will be vetting all expedition team members.



## Route Description + Itinerary

Our expedition will start with arriving in Anchorage and then taking a short ride to Talkeetna, a beautiful mountain town that serves as the home base for all of the Denali Expeditions. We'll hold our first team meeting at the AAI office, review gear, and then hop on a ski plane to fly into base camp at 7,300', 2,225m on Day 2.

Wasting no time, we'll start our first day on the mountain dialing in our gear and sled-pulling system as we make our way to intermediary camp halfway between base camp and Camp I. The following day we'll continue on and make our way to Camp I at 7,800', 2,377m. With our climbing legs underneath us once again, the real climbing begins. After a night in Camp I, we'll start our first gear shuttle by climbing the "Ski Hill" to Camp II (9,600', 2,926m), where we'll leave our cache and return to Camp I.

The next day will see us return to our gear cache and either push stay the night or push on to Camp III (11k Camp) at 11,200', 3,141m. The next day we'll make sure that all of our gear is up to Camp III before starting our next shuttle up Motorcycle and Squirrel Hill to the cache around the Windy Corner and back down to C3 the following day.

Retracing our steps back up to the Windy Corner, we'll push past our cache for several hundred meters to reach Camp IV (14k Camp) at 14,200', 4,328m. The next day we'll retrieve the rest of the gear from the cache and climb back up to C4.

After an easy day retrieving the gear from the cache, we'll make our way to the fixed lines that ascend the Headwall. Carrying gear to the next cache, we'll climb climb over 900' of 45-50 degree snow and ice to the crest of the West Buttress before dropping our gear and heading back down to Camp IV.

A day of rest will help us recover from the last week's push, and ready to ascend the fixed lines once more and continue along the exposed ridge or the West Buttress to High Camp (17k Camp) at 17,400', 5,243m. After another day of rest, we'll be ready for our summit bid of Denali.

An alpine start will see us traverse across a steep face to Denali Pass, before continuing on rolling snow slopes to Archdeacons Tower and a plateau known as the "football field". We'll cross the plateau at 19,400' and ascend a moderate slope to the summit ridge. After making the ridge, we'll climb the remaining 300' to the summit of Denali and the highest point in North America. After a short celebration at 20,310', 6,190m, we'll make our way back down to High Camp.

Two days of descent will see us back in base camp and taking a flight back to Talkeetna.

***Summiting Denali is an incredible accomplishment that takes effort, patience, luck, and experience. After years of guiding, we provide the best support available for your attempt on the North America's tallest mountain.***





## Daily Itinerary Overview

**DAY 0** — Arriving into Anchorage by 4:30pm, you'll need to arrange your own transport and book lodging at the Talkeetna Denali View Lodge just outside of Talkeetna. You'll rest and prepare to start the expedition in the morning. Please see the Climber Information Package for details.

**Activity.** Arrive in Anchorage  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 348'  
**Lodging.** Talkeetna Denali View Lodge  
**Meals.** None

**DAY 1** — Welcome to Alaska! Starting first thing in the morning, we'll catch a ride to the Alpine Ascents Office at 8am. After introductions, orientation, and a final gear review, we'll board a ski plane and fly into Base Camp (7,300') on the SE fork of the Kahiltna Glacier. The flight into the Alaska Range is incredible, as we fly over peaks like Mt. Hunter, Mt. Foraker, and the Moose's Tooth. As we make our way closer to basecamp, the magnitude of the adventure that we are about to embark on will begin to set in and the stoke will be high. After arriving, we'll finish putting up Base Camp and will settle into our new surroundings for the next two weeks.

**Activity.** Fly to Base Camp  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 7,300'  
**Lodging.** Base Camp  
**Meals.** Lunch & Dinner

**DAY 2** — Today, the climbing begins. We'll start by shuttling our gear to our intermediary camp at the halfway point to the traditional Camp I before returning to Base Camp. This easy day will give us an opportunity to dial in our gear and sled-pulling system; an important step as we'll be pulling heavy sleds for the next eight days.

**Activity.** Shuttle Gear to Cache  
**Distance Covered.** 3 miles  
**Moving Hours.** 2-4 hours  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** +500',-500'  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 7,600'  
**Lodging.** Intermediary Camp  
**Meals.** Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner

**DAY 3** — This morning we'll make our way to Camp I at 7,800', carrying our gear with us as we make our way up the glacier to the base of "Ski Hill". Depending on the snow conditions it may be necessary to use snowshoes between the camps on the lower mountain.

**Activity.** Climb to C1  
**Distance Covered.** 1.5 miles  
**Moving Hours.** 2-3 hours  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** +300'  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 7,800'  
**Lodging.** C1  
**Meals.** Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner

# Daily Itinerary Overview

**DAY 4** — The day will see us face our first real vertical gain, as we carry a load of gear up the “Ski Hill” to cache past Camp II between 9,800’ and 10,000’. After dropping off our gear at C2, we’ll return to C1.

**Activity.** Shuttle Gear to C2  
**Distance Covered.** 6 miles  
**Moving Hours.** 6-7 hours  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** +2,000’/-2,000’  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 7,800’  
**Lodging.** C1  
**Meals.** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**DAY 5** — The destination of today’s climb will be determined by mountain conditions and how our team is feeling. We’ll either ascend back up to C2 and our cache of gear to camp for the night, or push on to Camp III (11k Camp), which is located in the small cirque at the base of Motorcycle Hill.

**Activity.** Climb to C2 or C3  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 9,200’/11,200’  
**Distance Covered.** 2-4 miles  
**Moving Hours.** 4-6 hours  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** +1,400’/3,400’  
**Lodging.** C2 or C3  
**Meals.** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**DAY 6** — Depending on our push the day before, we’ll either spend the day acclimatizing in C3 or finish working our way to C3.

**Activity.** Climb to C3 (11k Camp)  
**Distance Covered.** 0-2 miles  
**Moving Hours.** 3-4 hours  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** +2,000’/0  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 11,200’  
**Lodging.** C3  
**Meals.** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**DAY 7** — Today we’ll carry half of our gear up Motorcycle and Squirrel Hill before making the long traverse across the plateau to the Windy Corner. As we climb, we’ll be rewarded with incredible views of the Khalitna Glacier far below and peaks that surround Denali. After turning this narrow corner, we’ll continue on for a few hundred yards to store our cache at 13,500’ and then make our way back to C3.

**Activity.** Shuttle Gear to Cache  
**Distance Covered.** 3 Miles  
**Moving Hours.** 6-7 hours  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** +/- 2,500’  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 11,200’  
**Lodging.** C3  
**Meals.** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**DAY 8** — Retracing our steps from the day before, we’ll make our way back up to the Windy Corner and push past our cache up to 14,200’ and Camp IV (14k Camp) in the Genet Basin.

**Activity.** Climb to C4 (14k Camp)  
**Distance Covered.** 2.5 miles  
**Moving Hours.** 4-6 hours  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** +3,000’  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 14,200’  
**Lodging.** C4  
**Meals.** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

# Daily Itinerary Overview

**DAY 9** — Today will be an easy day, as we descend 700' to our cache at 13,500' and carry the remaining gear back to C4.

**Activity.** Retrieve Cache  
**Distance Covered.** .6 miles  
**Moving Hours.** 2-3 hours  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** +/-675'  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 14,200  
**Lodging.** C4  
**Meals.** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**DAY 10** — After our easy day yesterday, we'll climb a moderate snow slope for 1,100' until we reach the start of the fixed lines that will take us up the steep Headwall to the ridge of the West Buttress. From here, we'll continue up the ridge for a short while until we reach 16,500' where we will drop our cache. The ridge of the West Buttress greets us with dramatic views in all directions, as the mountain falls off either side of us for thousands of feet below. After dropping our cache, we'll make our way back down to C4.

**Activity.** Shuttle Gear to Cache  
**Distance Covered.** 2 mile  
**Moving Hours.** 5-6 hours  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** +/-2,200'  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 14,200'  
**Lodging.** C4  
**Meals.** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**DAY 11** — Rest day in C4.

**Activity.** Rest Day  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 14,200'  
**Lodging.** C4  
**Meals.** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**DAYS 12** — Ascending the fixed lines once more, we'll continue along the exposed ridge, passing Washburn's Tower on our way up to Camp 5 (17k Camp). Resting on a saddle just above the Rescue Gully, Camp 5 is the highest camp on the mountain and will serve our the starting point for our summit bid.

**Activity.** Climb to C5 (17k Camp)  
**Distance Covered.** 1.5 miles  
**Moving Hours.** 5-6 hours  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** +3,000'  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 17,200'  
**Lodging.** C5 (High Camp)  
**Meals.** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**DAY 13** — Today we'll rest and prepare for our summit attempt on Denali.

**Activity.** Rest Day  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 21,300'  
**Lodging.** C5  
**Meals.** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

# Daily Itinerary Overview

**DAY 14** — The time has come for us to make our summit attempt. An early alpine start will see us traverse across a steep snow face to Denali Pass. Once here, a gradual slope will take us to the Archdeacons Tower and a large plateau known as the “football field” at 19,400'. After crossing the plateau, we'll continue climbing on moderate terrain until we make the crest of the summit ridge. Looking down at the sprawling 8,000' South Face beneath us, we'll have a magnificent view of Cassin Ridge and the South Buttress. After reaching the summit ridge, we'll climb the remaining 300' to the summit of the tallest peak in North America.

At 20,310', 6,190m, the summit of Denali gives us the grand finale as we're greeted with a 360 degree view of the Alaska Range. Mt. Huntington and Mt. Hunter loom to the south as Mt. Foraker rises to the west. After a short celebration atop the summit of North America, we'll make our descent back to C5.

**Activity.** Summit Bid  
**Distance Covered.** 5 miles  
**Moving Hours.** 12-14 hours  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** +/-3,110'  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 17,200'  
**Lodging.** C5  
**Meals.** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**DAY 15** — After our successful summit of Denali, we'll start our way back down the mountain by descending to C3 and 11k Camp.

**Activity.** Descend to C3  
**Distance Covered.** 4 miles  
**Moving Hours.** 5-6 hours  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** -6,000'  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 11,200'  
**Lodging.** C3  
**Meals.** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**DAYS 16** — Our final moving day will see us descend to Base Camp.

**Activity.** Descend to Base Camp  
**Distance Covered.** 9 miles  
**Moving Hours.** 6-7 hours  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** -3,900'  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 7,300'  
**Lodging.** Base Camp  
**Meals.** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**DAYS 17-20** — We'll use these days as needed for inclement weather, rest, and acclimatization. Depending on weather etc, we'll fly out of base camp and back to Talkeetna whenever possible.

**Activity.** Extra Days

**DAY 21** — Depart Anchorage for Home

**Activity.** Depart for Home

# Travel Details

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## FLIGHTS

Climbers should schedule flights to land in Anchorage, Alaska on day 0 (June 16th, 2022) of the itinerary. You'll depart from Anchorage for home on day 22 of the Itinerary (July 6th, 2022).

We'll arrange for all the flights in and out of Base Camp.

## SHUTTLE TO HOTEL

Climbers will need to arrange for their own transport from the Anchorage airport to the Talkeetna Denali View Lodge just outside of Talkeetna. Please let us know if you have any questions.

*Please confirm your itinerary with Alpenglow Expeditions before purchasing.*





## Accommodations

*No matter where we travel, Alpenglow strives to stay in safe, clean and comfortable accommodations. Our tents are always in good shape and are replaced regularly.*

### IN-TOWN

For our nights in Talkeetna, we stay in the Talkeetna Denali View Lodge. Its a beautiful hotel that will be a great place to rest after traveling and summiting Denali.

### ON-MOUNTAIN ACCOMMODATIONS

Base camp life includes a 3 person personal tent for you and another team member. Alpenglow's base camp infrastructure includes a dining tent for the guides to boil water and serve meals.

We'll keep this infrastructure until we reach high camp, where we will have 3 climbers per tent to save weight and increase warmth.



## General Trip Information

### FOOD

Fresh, healthy and nutritious food is brought in from Talkeetna. We provide hearty meals that are both pleasing to the palate and filled with calories to replenish our depleted bodies.

### MOUNTAIN TRAINING

Denali is obviously a large physical undertaking, and climbers who are joining our teams should have a deep understanding of what it takes to train for a mountain like this. For a personalized training schedule, please reach out to our in-house trainer:

[lynette@alpenglowexpeditions.com](mailto:lynette@alpenglowexpeditions.com).

### MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

All of our expeditions and treks are physically demanding. Regardless of the skill level or experience needed, it is essential that you arrive in good physical shape, and prepared to handle extreme conditions, including cold, heat, and long tiring days. Alpenglow Expeditions, LLC and its guides reserve the right to remove any member of our trips at any time if we do not believe they are ready for the rigors of the trip.

You are responsible for your own medications, inoculations, and deciding whether you are physically able to participate in an Alpenglow Expeditions trip. You should discuss your participation in this trip, and the dangers involved, with your physician.

#### On Mountain Medicine

Our guides are certified in wilderness medicine, CPR, and are experienced in client care in remote high altitude locations. However, Alpenglow Expeditions, LLC is not a medical facility and Alpenglow Expeditions, LLC assumes no liability regarding medical care.



## INCLUSIONS

The cost of your trip includes your land costs (excluding in-town meals). This includes:

- Double occupancy lodging while in town, according to itinerary.
- Meals on the mountain
- Group camping and climbing equipment
- Base camp and mountain infrastructure
- Scheduled transportation while in the countries we are visiting
- Certified guides
- Covid testing arrangements for re-entry into home country (does not include cost of test)

## CANCELLATION POLICY

View our cancellation policy online her:

[Cancellation Policy](#).

## INSURANCE

We require that all participants carry rescue insurance and health insurance. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Your policy numbers must be provided to us prior to leaving the USA.

## EXCLUSIONS

The cost of your trip does not include:

- Flights to/from the city where the expedition begins
- Additional nights in hotel outside of the itinerary, this includes but is not limited to extra hotel nights due to an early summit bid and early departure from the mountain.
- Airport taxes
- Visas
- In-town meals
- Immunizations
- Tips for guides or local staff
- Travel, rescue, or any other type of insurance
- Hospitalization or evacuation costs
- Single supplement room charges
- Excess baggage charges
- Alcohol
- Antigen/PCR Covid test cost
- Other personal expenses
- Airport transportation for early arrival/late departures outside of scheduled itinerary

*\*\* The costs of delays or changes to itinerary that are beyond the control of Alpenglow Expeditions or its agents are not included.*







## Expedition of a Lifetime

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*Summit success is only achievable with your hard work and perseverance, and of course the right team of people around you.*

We think of ourselves as your partner in dreaming, planning, climbing and celebrating. Our entire team from Adrian, guides, support personnel and logistics partners are excited to have you along for the expedition of a lifetime.

**ALPENGLOW**  
expeditions

[ALPENGLWEXPEDITIONS.COM](http://ALPENGLWEXPEDITIONS.COM)

### BOOKING + INQUIRES

For booking details, questions, or more information please call or email us:

**1 (877) 873-5376**

[info@alpenglowexpeditions.com](mailto:info@alpenglowexpeditions.com)



# ALPENGLLOW

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This expedition is operated by Adrian Ballinger and Logan Talbott, IFMGA Mountain Guides.

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