



International Alpine Guides

CALIFORNIA ALPINE GUIDES

Snow Climbing Skills Class Equipment List

All of the items listed below are required and It is extremely important to the success and safety of your course that you bring them all. Weather conditions can vary dramatically, and you must be prepared! Any questions give us a call at: 877-686-2546

*The items noted with an * can be provided at no cost by IAG/CAG as noted and are subject to availability. You must notify us no later than 7 days before your trip of any gear you require from us. Please answer the Gear Request Question in your reservation terminal to advise us of any gear you require from us.*

The examples listed below are suggestions of options for each category and represent the most ideal equipment and clothing items for your trip. However, there are many other options that will also work great, as well!

Technical Gear



Crampons *(We can provide)

A 10 or 12 point mountaineering crampon. Check sizing with your boots. Rigid ice climbing crampons are not recommended.

Example: [Black Diamond Snaggletooth Crampon](#)



Ice Axe *(We can provide)

Should be designed for mountaineering. Length depends on your height and intended use. For mountaineering the axe should hang a few inches from the ground when held comfortably in your hand from the head.

Example: [Black Diamond Raven Pro Ice Axe](#)



Harness *(We can provide)

A lightweight climbing harness that is easily packable.

Example: [Black Diamond Couloir Harness](#)



Helmet ***(We can provide)**

A lightweight climbing helmet is necessary.

Example: [Black Diamond Vector Helmet](#)



Adjustable Ski Poles ***(We can provide)**

Choose a lightweight pole with wide baskets on the end. Must be adjustable.

Example: [Black Diamond Compactor Ski Poles](#) or [Black Diamond Traverse Ski poles](#)



Boots ***(We can provide)**

You need a highly insulated still mountaineering boot. Either a leather or double plastic boot. Regular hiking boots won't do.

Example: [Scarpa Inverno](#) or [ASOLO AFS 8000](#)



Backpack ***(We can provide)**

An internal frame backpack 28-45 liters in size. Ice axe loops on the outside are a good feature.

Example: [Black Diamond Speed 30 pack](#)



Full Wrap Sunglasses or Glacier Glasses

Sunglasses must be dark lens full wrap.

Example: [Julbo Montebianco](#)



One- Liter Wide Mouth Water Bottles ***(We can provide)**

Hydration is important we want to make sure there is no complications with your hydration system. Please have 2 one-liter wide mouth water bottles. No tubing features they will freeze.

Recommended: [Nalgene 1-liter Wide Mouth Bottle](#)

Clothing

For clothing, we emphasize a layering system in which we put on and take off layers of clothing depending on the outside temperature and the level of activity.

Outer Waterproof Shell Jacket (hard shell) with Hood

A waterproof and breathable shell jacket with no additional insulation sewn in. Lightweight is better.

Example: [Black Diamond Liquid Point Shell](#) or [Patagonia Women's Torrentshell 3L Jacket](#)





Outer Waterproof Shell Pant

Must be waterproof and breathable with side zippers.

Example: [Patagonia Rainshadow Pant Men's and Women's](#)



Climbing Pant (soft shell)

A lighter weight non-waterproof pant that breaths much better than waterproof pants. This is what you will probably be wearing most of the time.

Example: [Outdoor Research Cirque II Pant](#) or [Patagonia Simul Alpine Pant](#)



Midweight Long Underwear Base Layer Bottom

Choose a synthetic or wool. Cotton will not be acceptable.

Example: [Ridge Merino Men's Aspect Midweight Merino Wool Base Layer Bottom](#) or [Patagonia Women's Capilene® Thermal Weight Bottoms](#)



Midweight Long Underwear Base Layer Top

Choose a synthetic or wool long sleeve.

Example: [Under Armour Women's Coldgear® Authentic Mock](#) or [Under Armour Men's Coldgear Base 4.0 Crew](#)



Insulating Layer- Lightweight or Heavyweight

Fleece, wool or a lightweight down jacket works fine. Avoid the lightest weight fleece.

Example: [Patagonia Women's and Men's R1® Fleece Pullover](#)



Warm Hat

A wool or synthetic hat that's not too bulky.

Example: [Black Diamond Merino Beanie](#)



Sun Hat or Ball Cap

A lightweight sun hat or ball cap to keep your face protected during those sunny days.

Example: [Patagonia P-6 Logo LoPro Trucker Hat](#) or



1 Pair of Socks

Mid weight to lightweight wool or synthetic socks. If you normally wear liners bring them also.

Example: [Darn Tough Hiker Micro Crew Cushion](#)



Insulated Glove- Mid weight to Heavy Weight

High elevations will be chilly get moving quick with a nice insulated pair of gloves. Water resistance, wind proof, and highly insulated.

Example: [Black Diamond Pursuit Gloves](#) or [Marmot Radonnee Gloves](#)



Gaiters

A pair of gaiters that come up to at least your knees. Make sure they fit over your boots.

Example: [Outdoor Research Verglas Men's and Women's](#)

Other Items

Gear that will make your trip run a lot smoother.

Sunscreen

A must whenever exposed outdoors choose a 30 SPF or higher.

Lip Balm

Protect your lips and avoid chapping and burning with 15 SPF or higher lip balm.

Lunch Food and Snacks

Please bring a lunch and snacks. Bring a blend of protein and carbohydrates.

