



MATTERHORN PEAK MOUNTAINEERING CAMP

This 2 day mountaineering program ventures into the Sawtooth Range west of [Bridgeport, CA](#) along Highway 395 on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada Range. Our goal is to climb Matterhorn Peak (12,279 ft.) via the [East Couloir](#) on steep snow and ice. MAS guides will review introductory mountaineering skills such as crampon & ice use, roped team travel, snow anchors and belay systems. In general this program allows participants to learn mountaineering skills while enjoying the beauty of High Sierra.

Day 1 starts at 9 AM outside the small cafe of [Annett's Mono Village](#) at Twin Lakes, approximate 20 minutes drive from Bridgeport. Group gear will be distributed and a thorough equipment check will ensure everyone is properly prepared. With backpacks packed the group will hit the trail for a strenuous 4 mile hike to position us in an excellent and scenic spot about a mile below Matterhorn Peak on the eastern end of the Sawtooth Ridge. The late afternoon will be used for "snow school" to introduce the equipment and give participants some practice.

Day 2 will start early to hike the last mile to the base of the East Couloir. Crampons, ice axes and ropes will be fitted before crossing a small glacier. The slope angle quickly increase as we enter the couloir. MAS guides will often use a mixture of snow anchors, ice screws and rock protection to climb the steep couloir. At the saddle of the couloir there remains another 700 feet of steep snow climbing on the southeast slope of Matterhorn Peak. The last 100 feet requires some exposed 4th class rock terrain to reach the summit. From the top you can see south into Tuolumne Meadows of Yosemite National Park, and west into the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River. The descent follows the climbing route and often requires some rappells and well deserved glissading. Once back at camp we will take a brief rest before breaking camp and head back down to the cars by about 5 PM

PREREQUISITES:

- [Crampon & Ice Axe Workshop](#) or equivalent
- [Rope Team & Snow Anchor Workshop](#) recommended or equivalent
- Very good physical condition - ability to hike 8 miles with a 40 lb. backpack
- Previous overnight backpacking experience

TRIP OBJECTIVES

- Learn and refine mountaineering basics of ice axe and crampon use.
- Introduce and use roped team travel and snow anchors for steep snow and ice climbing.
- Practice skills relevant to safe mountain travel including route finding and avalanche avoidance.
- Enjoy traveling on a rope team and descending by glissading.
- Practice making snow camping comfortable, enjoyable and safe.
- Relax and enjoy the beauty of Matterhorn Peak and the High Sierra.

MEETING TIME & PLACE:

Meet your guides at 9 AM outside the coffee shop at Twin Lakes. Afterwards group gear will be distributed before we hit the trail.

COURSE REGISTRATION:

Preregistration is required and a 50% deposit reserves your spot. [Secure online registration](#) is available through the MAS web site. Participants can also [email](#) or call the MAS office at (209) 753 6556 ext. 1.

•PLEASE SEE EQUIPMENT LIST ON REVERSE•

MATTERHORN MOUNTAINEERING CAMP EQUIPMENT LIST

Please try to pack light and compact. Be prepared to save some room in your backpack for group gear (approximately the size of a basketball). If you have any questions about equipment on this list please don't hesitate to call the MAS office. You may be asked to show the contents of your pack to your guides prior to leaving the trail head.

GEAR:

- Boots*: high-top leather or plastic mountaineering boots; 3/4 or full shank necessary for crampons.
- Ice Axe*: Length should run from your hand to your ankle. A leash from the head of the axe to your harness is preferred.
- Crampons*: 10 or 12 point crampons should be pre-fitted to your boot.
- Poles*: telescoping probe poles are the best, but regular ski poles will suffice. (optional)
- Climbing harness: adjustable leg loops are best. (MAS can provide)
- Backpack*: internal frame preferred; 3500-4500 cubic inches
- Sleeping bag*: down or synthetic mummy bag rated to 20°F or colder.
- Sleeping pad*

CLOTHING:

- 1 pair heavier synthetic or wool blend socks, hiking style.
- 1 pair synthetic liner socks (optional)
- Gaiters depend on your boot system. If in doubt, please ask.
- Long underwear top and bottom. Polypropylene or some other synthetic is most desirable.
- Warm pants: tights or expedition polypropylene or similar weight.
- Warm shirt: expedition polypropylene or light fleece type.
- Fleece jacket or equivalent.
- Light down or synthetic fill jacket. This item would replace above item.
- Good quality snow/rain/wind jacket and pants. Jacket should have a hood.
- Warm hat
- Warm winter gloves
- Sun hat & bandana (optional)
- Spring gloves (optional)
- Neck gaiter or balaclava (optional)

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- Sunglasses
- Goggles
- Tooth brush, personal medications and basic first aid supplies you might need (e.g. moleskin, ibuprofen)
- Heavy-duty sunscreen and lip protection
- Two 1-liter plastic water bottles (wide-mouth required)
- Headlamp with extra batteries and bulb.
- Camera and film (optional)
- Plastic spoon, bowl and insulated cup (MAS will provide if needed)
- Three lunches, snacks and breakfast for the first morning

MAS PROVIDES:

- Four-season dome tents
- One backcountry breakfast & dinner
- Snowshoes if necessary
- Permits and guiding fees
- All cooking supplies
- First aid kit, repair and contingency supplies
- All climbing gear necessary
- Professional guiding and instruction

* gear rentable at a mountaineering shop

