



Matterhorn Peak

Okay, we do have to admit it; the Wheeler Survey party of 1880 who named this peak probably had possibly never seen the real thing. There is a slight resemblance but our Sierra version is not quite the same as the Swiss one. A good deal smaller, but with much better rock. And a fraction of the people.

The Sawtooth ridge dominates the Sierra skyline from Bridgeport and is aptly named with jagged peaks and sharp ridges. Matterhorn is the southern bastion of the ridge and is the high point of the area. At the other end is little climbed Blacksmith Peak.

The North Arete offers a great climb to the summit of this peak. This route was first ascended in 1953 by Yosemite climbers Jerry Gallwas, Don Wilson and Wally Kodis. The ascent is rated 5.6 and is less sustained than other routes of a similar grade such as the East Face on Mt. Whitney. But we think that the rock is better than on Whitney and offers sharp cracks and an exposed position right on the edge of the clean arete directly to the summit.

This is another good introduction to technical climbing in the high mountains and feels more of a wilderness adventure than the other route of a similar level, the North Ridge of Mt. Conness.

Meeting place and time: We will meet at the Forest Service Visitors Center in Bridgeport at 10.00 a.m. This is located on Highway 395 just south of where town starts.

Itinerary: This is a two-day trip.

Day One: After a pack check we'll caravan to the trailhead parking area at Twin Lakes (7,092 feet). This parking area is private land and there is a \$5.00 per night fee to use it. The walk starts on a well-trodden trail and climbs steeply up hill into the Horseshoe Creek drainage. After a few hours we leave the good trail and follow a seldom-maintained use trail to our high camp at a small tarn at about 9,800 feet below the peak. The approach is a good solid day.

Day 2: We are up early and out of camp hopefully before first light. An easy glacier leads to the start of the route and five pitches, with some 5.7 lead directly to the 12,264 foot summit. The descent is either via the Northeast gully that many use as the ascent route and down the small glacier to a trail back into the Horseshoe Creek drainage, depending on exactly where our camp is located. We will be back to the trailhead by late afternoon.

Dates and Prices: Check the latest brochure, call us or go to our web site for dates and rates. Should minimum participant numbers not be reached you will be given the option of paying our private rate, rescheduling, or cancelling. Price includes guiding, permits, all necessary group climbing gear, tents, kitchen gear and breakfasts, lunches and dinners (you bring hot/cold drinks and snack items). Scheduled dates include USFS trail fees. Private programs do not.

Ratios: This is a technical ascent so we keep the ratio to about 1:2 maximum ensuring quick efficient climbing and enhancing safety.

Notes and other information: The best guidebooks are Supertopo's "High Sierra Climbing" by Chris McNamara and Peter Croft's "The Good, The Great, and the Awesome". Get them from Maximus Press. <http://www.maximuspress.com>

We highly recommend that you spend at least one night at moderate altitude (higher than 8,000') just prior to the trip. Spending a night in Mammoth or camped in the Bridgeport area would do the trick. Please refer to our Planning for Success info sheet for more info.

We have to pay the Mono Village and overnight parking fee of \$5.00 per night.

Prerequisites: Experience on multi pitch rock climbs is necessary as is the ability to move all day on rugged terrain. Our Crystal Crag Ascent is a good warm up for this climb.

Equipment List for Matterhorn Peak

The following list is a general guide and will assist you in packing for the program. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have specific questions regarding equipment and if you need assistance prior to making a purchase. The following list will vary according to the time of year, and your individual requirements.

Items on the list with an * may be rented from SMC.

Climbing equipment

- Ice Axe*. A standard 70 cm. general purpose axe will suffice for most routes.
- Crampons*. These should be matched to the boot. We suggest for very flexible boots the Charlet Moser G10 or Black Diamond Contact Clip; for stiffer boots the Black Diamond Sabretooth, the Moser G12 or Rambo.
- Harness.* An adjustable type such as a Black Diamond Alpine Bod works best.
- Helmet. New models such as the Petzl "Helios" or the Black Diamond Half Dome are comfortable and light weight. We provide these for the program.
- Two locking carabiners and a couple of non-lockers.*
- Belay/rappel device*. An ATC style is preferred.
- Comfortable rock shoes sized large enough so that you can wear them all day. Also see below,

Other essentials

- Footwear. A pair of boots that can climb rock are needed and a medium-weight pair of leather mountaineering boots will be sufficient. In general you should wear the lightest boot you can get away with. We like the Sportiva Trango or Trango Plus for this route. You can also climb in rock shoes but that means you will have to carry your bigger boots.
- Camp Shoes. A lightweight pair of tennies or Tevas to wear in camp. This will reduce vegetation damage at our campsites.
- Pack. A 4000 cubic inch will hold everything for the backcountry. Internal frame packs are recommended for their comfort and balance when climbing. A pack that allows plenty of compression is best since this allows it to be carried on climbs without the need for a smaller day pack. The Gregory Makalu or Reality are about the right size. You will need a smaller day pack if your big pack won't compress adequately.
- Sleeping Bag. Most summer trips are warm and a bag rated to about 25° will be plenty warm enough except in the spring and late fall.
- Sleeping pad. A 3/4 or full length closed cell foam or Thermarest. If you bring a Thermarest also bring a repair kit to fix pesky leaks.

Clothing

- 2 pair synthetic liner socks.
- 1 pair heavier synthetic or wool blend socks.
- Long underwear top and bottom. Capilene or some other synthetic is most desirable.
- Warm pants. Tights or Expedition weight Capilene.
- Warm shirt. Synchronia or 200 weight works well.
- Another fuzzy sweater top or pile jacket of some sort.
- GoreTex Jacket and Pants - A lightweight set is sufficient and heavy bulky rainwear is unnecessary. Side zips on the pants should be long enough to slide on over boots. Jackets must have a hood. Do not skimp on your rain gear.
- Shorts for on the trail.
- Tee shirt for on the trail
- Polypropylene or similar gloves and shells.

- Warm hat.
- Sunhat

Etc.

- Sun glasses. Good quality with side shields.
- Water Bottles. Two quart (1 liter) wide mouth bottles and or a hydration system holding up to 50oz. (2 liters).
- Headlamp. With a spare set of batteries.
- Iodine for water purification.
- Eating and drinking equipment. Forget the traditional Sierra cup, instead use an insulated backpacking mug, with a lid. This can double for a bowl. Fork and spoon
- Pocket knife. Swiss army style.
- Personal toiletries. It is not necessary to smell like a rose each day so do not over do it. Remember toilet paper and a small zip-lock bag to carry out the used in.
- Sunscreen and lip screen. SPF 30+. A 1oz. bottle will be enough. Make sure the lip stuff actually contains a sunscreen.
- Bug repellent. Only needed in the early season.
- Personal Medical Kit. The guide will carry a large kit so yours will predominately consist of foot repair items, mild pain killer such as Advil and bandaids.
- Camera. Bring film and a spare battery to record those moments.
- Plastic Trash Sac. Handy for keeping gear in outside the tent should it rain.
- Optional reading material.
- Ski poles. These are not essential, but can be handy on the trail. It is your choice, but they do save the knees.

Food

- We will provide breakfast, dinner and lunch but bring some snack items like cliff bars, power bars, gorp concoctions. A days worth for most people would be 2 bars, 3 ounces of gorp, and perhaps a candy bar. Don't over do it.

Shared Equipment Provided by SMC

- Shelter. We will provide lightweight, storm worthy tents. If you have your favorite, by all means bring it, but we do want to pair people up where possible to reduce weight.
- Stove. We provide MSR Whisperlite stoves.
- Cookwear.
- Water purification. A sad but true fact of life is that much Sierra water is contaminated. Iodine may be used individually or the group can carry a pump style purifier.
- Bear Canisters. Sierra bears have fallen into bad habits and learned that backpacker's food is tasty and easy to obtain. We provide these bulky items since the area warrants their use.

You specifically don't need

- ⊗ Cell phones. They rarely work anyway.
- ⊗ Big first aid kits (we have a comprehensive one).
- ⊗ Deodorant or any toiletries beyond those listed above.
- ⊗ Items that are not on this list.