



## Temple Crag Classics Camp

One of our most favorite things to do in the mountains is to set up a comfortable camp and to climb as much as we can from there. This year we invite you to join us for four days of fine alpine cragging in the Palisades area. We'll place camp above Third Lake, in the shadow of the alpine rock climbers paradise - Temple Crag. From here our options are many and include the Celestial Aretes on Temple Crag, Mount Robinson, and many more. These four days will be filled with as much climbing as you can handle and will certainly be a "dream trip" for the rock aficionado. Any of these routes are also offered as a "custom" trip. Just contact us for availability.

The 23-pitch 5.9/10a Sun Ribbon Arete even includes a Tyrolean Traverse.

A little easier at 5.8 and 18 pitches in length, Moon Goddess is a tremendous introduction to technical rockclimbing in a stunning alpine setting.

Venusian Blind Arete is Moon Goddess Arete's 5.7 next-door neighbor, and every bit as good a climb. With only ten or twelve pitches it's a bit less committing than the Moon Goddess but a little more continuous.

Why not climb them all and compare for yourself?

**Meeting place and time:** The hike to camp is a short walk so we'll meet at the end of the Glacier Lodge Road out of Big Pine (also known as Crocker Street at 11.00 a.m. Leave Highway 395 between the BP/Mobil station and the Texaco) and head west. Most vehicles will take about 20 minutes to get here from Big Pine as it's a gain of 3,500'. There is a day use parking area with an outhouse and a green USFS gate blocking the end of the road just after the Glacier Lodge turnoff. You can park here while we sort gear and then move vehicles to Glacier Lodge.

**Itinerary: Day One:** After a gear check and introductions we'll head in, taking the rest of the day to reach camp. With moderate loads the walk takes about 3-4 hours the, allowing time to prepare for the climbing days at camp. We have a several options for camp; right below Temple Crag or at Second Lake. It all depends upon the weather and water availability

**Day two:** An early start sees us off for either a warm-up route or one of Temple Crag's classics. Our targets are any of the Celestial Aretes: Moon Goddess, 5.8, Venusian Blind, 5.7, or Sun Ribbon Arete. From camp it's about 45 minutes hike, mostly on talus but ending with some early season snow climbing to the base of the routes. We usually take just one ice axe, for the leader, but chop good steps and belay for those who are following. From the top of the snow several hundred feet of easy, but roped, scrambling lead to the start of 5th class climbing on both Moon Goddess and Venusian Blind. Sun Ribbon follows a slightly different approach climber's right of the other two routes.

**Days three:** Another one of the routes.

**Day four:** By now we are probably pretty tired so maybe a little more climbing and then a return to the vehicles and a beer or soda.

**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:** Guide to participant ratios will not exceed one guide to two participants on these technical climbs.

**Notes:** 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>

You can also get our detailed unpublished SMC Guide to Temple Crag on-line.

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 would do the trick or better yet, camped at an even higher trailhead, such as one of the campgrounds in Big Pine Creek for a night just before the trip. Glacier Lodge is also a good lodging option. Please refer to our Planning for Success info sheet for more info.

**Prerequisites:** You should be in good to excellent physical condition, have experience following multi pitch climbs, and the ability to follow 5.7 to 5.9/10a. There may be some snow travel to get to the base of the routes in early season and we will let you know if you need crampons and ice axe.

# Equipment List for Temple Crag Classics

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 and crampons\*. Early season there may be snow at the base of the routes and a lightweight axe and crampons may be required. We will try to avoid carrying them up the routes and leave them at the base of the climbs. For the ice axe a standard 70 cm is adequate. Crampons should be matched to the boot. These must be matched to the boot. We suggest the Black Diamond Contact or Sabretooth and the Petzl/Charlet Sarken or Vasak.
- Harness\*. An adjustable leg loop type such as the Black Diamond Bod or Wild Things Expresso will accommodate layer changes.
- 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.

## **Other essentials**

- Footwear. This is always a hard one. You want a pair that will provide adequate support while hiking with a pack into camp. But you also need some that are light enough to put in a pack and carry up the route for the descent. Lightweight tennies are too light; a heavy mountaineering boot too much!
- 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 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.
- Climbing pack. A separate pack is recommended for these climbs if your main one is big and does not compress down.
- 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 length Ultralight thermarest paired with a Ridgerest foam pad is the best combination. Bring a Thermarest repair kit to fix any pesky leaks.

## **Clothing:**

- 2 pair synthetic liner socks.
- 1 pair heavier synthetic or wool blend socks.
- Gaiters-usually required only on spring trips.
- Long underwear top and bottom.
- Warm pants. Tights or Expedition weight Capilene.
- Warm shirt. Synchilla 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. Jacket 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, film, spare battery.
- Plastic Trash Sac. Handy for keeping gear in outside the tent should it rain.
- Optional reading material etc.
- Ski poles. These are not essential, but can be handy on the trail. It is your choice, but they do save wear on 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.

## **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.