

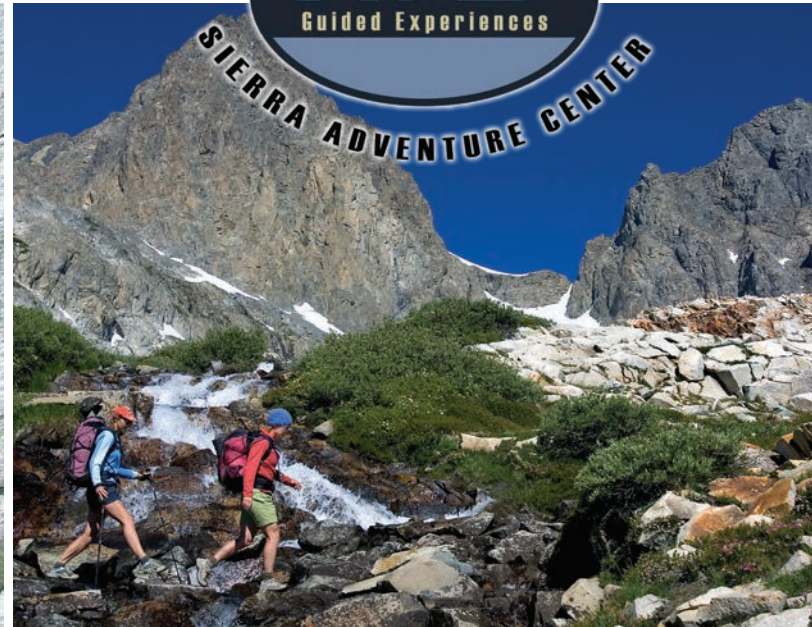
# GUIDED MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCES



**FOR ALL SEASONS**



SKI TOURS • ICE CLIMBING  
OFF PISTE SKIING • AVALANCHE COURSES  
BACKCOUNTRY SKIING  
WILDERNESS EDUCATION  
WINTER MOUNTAINEERING



**FOR EVERYONE**



BACKPACKING • ROCK CLIMBING  
MOUNTAINEERING • MEDICAL TRAINING  
INTERNATIONAL TRIPS  
PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN  
FAMILY & GROUP PROGRAMS





# Experience the mountains with us.

*Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off you like autumn leaves.* – John Muir, 1898

## REFRESH YOUR SOUL AND CHALLENGE YOURSELF

What Muir said is even more relevant today than it was 100 years ago. With the pressures of modern life in the city we all need to get away to enjoy the appeal of the mountains, whether it be the excitement of summiting a rugged peak or relaxing alongside a tranquil lake. The mountains are all the more rewarding because the alpine terrain can be rugged, remote and challenging, taking you outside of your regular comfort zones and routine of every day life. It's not for everyone, but those who do venture forth find rewards in abundance. Whether your goal is a scenic backpacking trip, a technical rock climb up Mt. Whitney or a trans-Sierra ski tour, we can show you the path into the Sierra Nevada and the steps beyond.

The Sierra Nevada has a great tradition of guides from Muir to modern visionaries such as Doug Robinson and Alan Bard. We are proud to continue that tradition so no matter your goals or your skill level we know that we can offer you the best possible outdoor experience. Here's why.

### Our Philosophy

We believe that the lessons learned in the mountains teach us to better cope with everyday life, enrich us and make us better individuals. We seek to:

- Have fun in the mountains.
- Create an experience that gets our guests away from day-to-day routines.
- Offer a time to forget about the worries of home, work and urban life.
- Help you achieve your outdoor goals.
- Make sure you have a trip that gets you to the top of your chosen peak or gives you the skills you seek - but not at the expense of fun and safety.
- Make friends for life.

### We Know the Eastern Sierra

The Eastern Sierra has been our home for decades and these are the mountains where we love to climb, hike and ski. We look at the mountains daily and can tell you the conditions, best routes and small details that make for a successful trip. We not only know the popular paths of the Sierra, but other little-known places where we have been exploring new routes, tours and remote summits.

### We are Qualified

Our guides are trained and certified by the AMGA. Certified guides have demonstrated high levels of competence and judgement as well as fulfilling technical requirements such as emergency medical certification, rescue training, and snow stability forecasting. Guides certified in rock, alpine and ski gain the international (IFMGA) credential.



**[www.sierramountaincenter.com](http://www.sierramountaincenter.com)**

Our website is the place to go for complete, up-to-date information including the current dates and prices. You will find everything needed to register and prepare for your trip including registration forms, trip information and equipment lists. We also have photo galleries, panoramas and photographs of all the finest routes on the finest peaks to get you excited about taking a trip. We post upcoming trips that have space available for all of you who suddenly have spare time and the burning need to escape to the mountains.

Let's be Friends

**[www.facebook.com/sierramountaincenter](https://www.facebook.com/sierramountaincenter)**

Our Video Library

**[www.youtube.com/sierramountaincenter](https://www.youtube.com/sierramountaincenter)**

**SIERRA Mountain Center 760.873.8526**

P.O. Box 95, Bishop, Ca. 93515 [office@sierramountaincenter.com](mailto:office@sierramountaincenter.com)

### We Care About Wild Places

We have a responsibility to the land and an important part of our programs is to help others learn about and experience wilderness. Our guides are trained in Leave No Trace principles and travel lightly upon the land. Join us in exploring and preserving this remarkable and fragile environment.

### We Have Trips for Everyone

Our trips are designed to cater to all skill levels from the novice to the expert. We divide instructional programs into "Acquiring the Skills" for those wishing to gain knowledge and techniques and "Applying the Skills" which put your skills to use allowing you to take the next steps in challenging yourself.

### We Have Low Ratios

Large groups can detract from the learning process and the wilderness experience. We work to keep ratios as small as practical, and our small groups give you more of what you came for: skiing, climbing and exploring the Sierra.

### We Provide All Inclusive Trips

Our scheduled trip prices are all-inclusive (except for any rental equipment). Overnight backcountry programs include permit fees, group equipment (kitchen, group technical gear, first aid supplies and avalanche beacons), and good backcountry breakfast, lunch and dinners.

### We Offer Private Guiding and Custom Trips

With a custom trip you get exactly what you want, when you want it and with whom you want, if you want company at all. Call us to arrange a custom trip with your goals and specifications. See our web site for custom rates.

#### SP Parker



**AMGA Rock, Alpine & Ski Certified  
IFMGA Guide  
AMGA instructor/examiner**

#### Todd Vogel



**AMGA Rock & Alpine Certified  
PCIA Instructor**

Join us in the  
mountains.

SMC holds permits from Inyo National Forest, Yosemite National Park, Tiyoabe National Forest, Sequoia National Forest, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and other agencies where required. "In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."



Mt. Whitney is the high point of the lower forty-eight states and one of the most coveted summits in the country, offering routes for both the aspiring mountaineer and the expert. The elevation, while not extreme by Himalayan standards, is high and we recommend that you take time to acclimatize to the altitude and make this a minimum of a three-day climb. Most ascents that do not summit do so because of lack of acclimatization.

Ascents can be undertaken as scheduled ascents or custom climbs.

<b>MOUNTAINEERS ROUTE</b>	<b>3 Days • Introductory</b>
<b>EAST FACE</b>	<b>3 Days • 5.6 • Intermediate</b>
<b>EAST BUTTRESS</b>	<b>3 Days • 5.7 • Intermediate</b>
<b>WHITNEY &amp; RUSSELL TOUR</b>	<b>4 Days • 5.9 • Intermediate</b>
<b>WHITNEY IN WINTER</b>	<b>5 Days • Intermediate</b>
<b>WHITNEY VIA COTTONWOOD</b>	<b>5 Days • Introductory</b>

**Dates and prices at [www.sierramountaincenter.com](http://www.sierramountaincenter.com)**

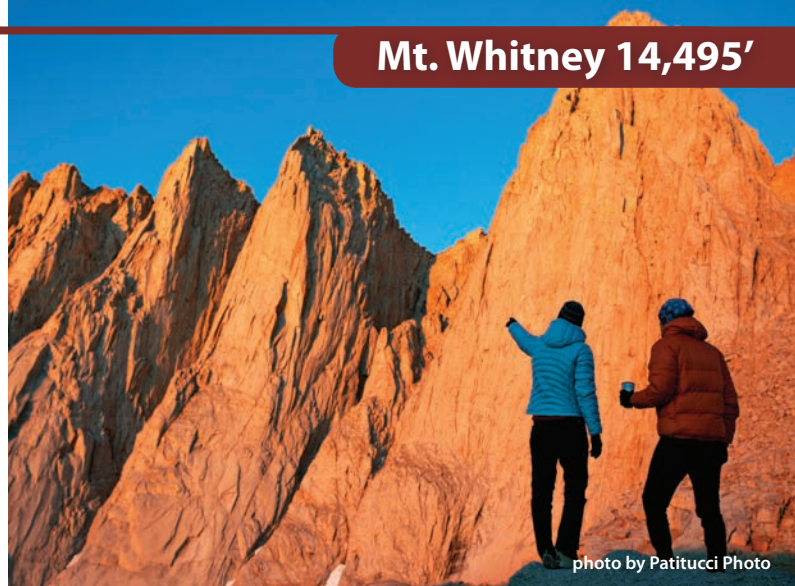


photo by Patitucci Photo

## Hiking & Backpacking



photo by Patitucci Photo

Hiking in the Sierra is probably as pleasant as it gets. The norm is blue skies and scenery ranging from thick old growth forest to sparse alpine tundra. These hikes are but a taste of what the Sierra has to offer with excursions from three-day outings to extended twenty-day hikes. We can put together custom hikes for groups at any level of expertise or difficulty and arrange all of the backcountry logistics, including food drops which for extended trips can be the crux of the trip.

<b>WHITE MOUNTAINS CREST</b>	<b>5 days • Off Trail</b>
<b>HIGH SIERRA TRAIL</b>	<b>20 Days • Off Trail</b>
<b>JOHN MUIR TRAIL</b>	<b>20 Days • On Trail</b>
<b>MT. LANGLEY ASCENT</b>	<b>3 Days • On Trail</b>

**Dates and prices at [www.sierramountaincenter.com](http://www.sierramountaincenter.com)**

The Sierra Eastside has everything: granite at Whitney Portal, sharp pocketed volcanic rock at Deadmans Summit, sculptured domes at Granite Basin and sport climbing in the well-known Owens Gorge. Cool mountain crags beckon in the summer and in the colder months there is the low desert. The Buttermilks just west of Bishop is one of our favorites and is an ideal place to learn the essentials of rock climbing. We offer scheduled programs and dates by request year-round.

### Acquiring the Skills

These programs get you started. We cover the fundamentals and put them into practice on local crags sometimes working on the ground, sometimes up on the rock. This is the place to start building a solid foundation of climbing skills.

<b>INTRO TO ROCK CLIMBING</b>	<b>1 Day • Introductory</b>
<b>INTRO TO MULTI-PITCH</b>	<b>1 Day • Intermediate</b>
<b>INTRO TO ANCHORING</b>	<b>1 Day • Intermediate</b>
<b>INTRO TO LEADING</b>	<b>2 Days • Advanced</b>
<b>SELF RESCUE FOR CLIMBERS</b>	<b>2 Days • Advanced</b>

### Applying the Skills

There is just no substitute for getting out there and climbing different routes, various rock types, cracks, faces or sportclimbs. These programs get you out there doing routes and pushing your limits to discover just what you are capable of.

<b>A DAY ON THE ROCKS</b>	<b>1 Day • Intermediate</b>
<b>MULTI-PITCH WEEKEND</b>	<b>2 Days • Intermediate</b>
<b>SPORTCLIMBING WEEKEND</b>	<b>2 Days • Intermediate</b>
<b>SIERRA NEEDLES CAMPS</b>	<b>3-4 Days • Intermediate</b>

**Dates and prices at [www.sierramountaincenter.com](http://www.sierramountaincenter.com)**  
**Needles Camp info at [www.needlesguides.com](http://www.needlesguides.com)**

## SMC Rock Climbing School



photo by Patitucci Photo



# Summer Mountaineering Programs



Of all the world's mountain ranges the Sierra Nevada has got to be one of the most pleasant to climb. The weather is generally predictable (we do not worry about the daily thunderstorms that affect the Rocky Mountains) and the rock is generally good solid granite. These factors make the Sierra the perfect training ground to learn the basics and then to move on to honing your skills on the high peaks.

## Acquiring the Skills

To get around safely in the mountains you need to have a good solid base of mountain skills. Belaying, safe movement, terrain assessment, cramponing and ice axe work are all important tools to enable you to move through the backcountry efficiently and easily. These skills will also ensure that your mountaineering career spans your entire lifetime. Our camps are the first step in acquiring them — we cover the basics and give you time to incorporate them into climbs with coaching and refinement along the way.

SNOW TRAVEL SKILLS	1 Day • Introductory
MINI MOUNTAIN CAMP	3 Days • Introductory
EXTENDED MOUNTAIN CAMP	7 Days • Introductory
FALL ICE CLIMBING SEMINARS	3 Days • Introductory

## Applying the Skills

Once you have learned the skills you still need to learn how to incorporate them into your climbing. Until you use them and discover for yourself how they work you do not truly "own the skills." These peak ascents and camps are designed to take you to the next level under the tutelage of an expert guide and instructor. You will push your limits in a learning environment, expanding your skills and becoming more comfortable in the mountains and along the way have fun and enjoy the splendor and beauty of the mountain world.

MT. CONNESS NORTH RIDGE	1 Day • Introductory
MATTERHORN PEAK ASCENT	2 Days • Introductory
THE FOURTEENERS CAMP	5 Days • Intermediate
TEMPLE CRAG CLASSICS CAMP	4 Days • Intermediate
PALISADES HIGH PEAKS CAMP	5 Days • Intermediate
THE THIRD HULK LINKUP	3 Days • Advanced

Dates and prices at [www.sierramountaincenter.com](http://www.sierramountaincenter.com)

Sometimes hauling a heavy pack around the mountains is a necessary evil, the only way to get to the truly remote places. But then sometimes the back-breaking work can be avoided. As our knees and shoulders age we are finding that using porters or pack stock to a basecamp makes life easier. Who does not want to come back after a hard day, clean up under a solar shower, have a dinner with fresh vegetables and maybe a salmon steak? This is not a dream!

We can also put together custom trips using pack stock or porters creating an easy way to get the whole family into the backcountry.

## Summer

RITTER & BANNER CAMP	5 Days • Introductory
PARENTS & KIDS CAMPS	5 Days • Introductory
WHITNEY VIA COTTONWOOD	5 Days • Introductory
JOHN MUIR TRAIL SEGMENTS	7-10 Days • Introductory

## Winter & Spring

HUT BASED SKI, SNOWBOARD & SNOWSHOE WEEKENDS	2-3 Days • All Levels
CORN CAMPS	5 Days • Intermediate • Advanced

Dates and prices at [www.sierramountaincenter.com](http://www.sierramountaincenter.com)

## Take a Load off Your Back & put it on someone else's





The Sierra Nevada has some of the best alpine rock climbs anywhere and the Eastside is a destination for climbers worldwide. This is a selection of our favorite ascents, ones that we will repeat many times for the sheer joy of climbing on golden granite with sharp-edged holds and cracks warmed by the California sun, high above alpine meadows and gleaming lakes.

Dates are scheduled for some climbs or they can be undertaken as custom ascents.

LONE PINE PEAK:	NORTH RIDGE	2 Days • 5.7 • Intermediate
MT. HUMPHREYS:	EAST RIDGE	2 Days • 5.7 • Intermediate
TEMPLE CRAG:	SUN RIBBON ARETE	2 Days • 5.9 • Advanced
	MOON GODDESS ARETE	2 Days • 5.8 • Intermediate
	VENUSIAN BLIND ARETE	2 Days • 5.7 • Intermediate
MT. SILL:	THE SWISS ARETE	2 Days • 5.6 • Intermediate
BEAR CREEK SPIRE:	NORTH ARETE	2 Days • 5.8 • Intermediate
	NORTH EAST RIDGE	2 Days • 5.4 • Introductory
MT. WILLIAMSON & MT. TYNDALL		5 Days • Intermediate
CHARLOTTE DOME:	THE SOUTH FACE	3 Days • 5.9 • Advanced
THE THIRD PILLAR OF DANA		1 Day • 5.10 • Advanced
CLYDE MINARET:	THE SOUTH FACE	3 Days • 5.9 • Advanced
INCREDIBLE HULK:	THE RED DIHEDRAL	2 Days • 5.10 • Advanced
PALISADES PEAK TRAVERSE		5 Days • 5.8 • Advanced

Dates and prices at [www.sierramountaincenter.com](http://www.sierramountaincenter.com)

## Classic Alpine Rock Ascents



## Classic Alpine Ice Climbs



Snow and ice conditions vary tremendously from year to year and often depend upon the previous winter's snowfall. As regular travelers in the mountains we know that climate change is real and that the glaciers have retreated and as a result we have lost many of our favorite ice climbs. Routes that used to form dependably now rarely form and are becoming nonexistent. But living here we know what is "in" and what is not. Talk to us and we can give you the latest up-to-date information about the routes that are in best condition.

DANA COULOIR	2 Days • Introductory
NORTH PEAK	1 Day • Introductory
MT. THOMPSON	2 Days • Introductory
MT. GILBERT	2 Days • Intermediate
MT. MENDEL	2 Days • Advanced
U-NOTCH	3 Days • Intermediate
V-NOTCH	3 Days • Intermediate

5 Dates and prices at [www.sierramountaincenter.com](http://www.sierramountaincenter.com)



## Avalanche Education



For safe winter backcountry travel you need the ability to recognize avalanche terrain, assess the dangers and know emergency procedures. All of our courses follow the guidelines and standards of the AAA (American Avalanche Association) for certification and we use the curriculum provided by AIARE (American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education). We have also been heavily involved in the creation of the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center and sit on the Board of Directors. For information on ESAC go to:

[www.esavalanche.org](http://www.esavalanche.org)

LEVEL I AVALANCHE COURSE	3 Days
AVALANCHE SAFETY REFRESHER	1 Day
LEVEL II AVALANCHE COURSE	4 Days

Dates and prices at [www.sierramountaincenter.com](http://www.sierramountaincenter.com)

The moderate 60-70 degree ice of June Lake's Horsetail Falls is the ideal locale to learn climbing skills. Once you are comfortable balancing on your front points Lee Vining is the place to hone your ice skills on icicles and pillars ranging in steepness from 70 degrees to vertical. We provide ice tools, crampons and helmets. The ice is often busy so we use low ratios as much as possible since small groups help with safety and crowding concerns.

### Acquiring the Skills

Ice climbing is a strange thing! Lots of sharp pointed tools and a medium that is more generally found mixed with soda or alcohol. But once you get into the swing of things it becomes a whole lot of fun. Dress warm, play hard and enjoy an environment that few get to experience as we introduce different climbing techniques, work on tool and foot placements and climb until we can climb no more.

#### INTRO TO ICE CLIMBING A DAY ON THE ICE

2 Days • Introductory  
1 Day • Intermediate

### Applying the Skills

Once you feel good about being out there balanced on the front points it is time to bring it all together on the longer Bard Harrington wall. The routes here are the longest in Lee Vining and are up to five pitches in length, technical and demanding. If you are feeling good then how about some mixed routes such as "Heel Toe" or in late season "April's Fool".

#### ADVANCED ICE CLIMBING CUSTOM ICE GUIDING (for those routes you have your eye on)

2 Days

Dates and prices at [www.sierramountaincenter.com](http://www.sierramountaincenter.com)



## Waterfall Ice Climbing

## Sierra Belles



Head into the High Sierra with other women on an exciting and fun trip. We want to give you a complete outdoor experience and our women's trips cover a wide range of programs and skills. We provide a comfortable, supportive environment with other women and women guides. Meet new friends, enjoy great scenery, eat great food and sometimes even finish up at the spa to soothe your sore muscles after your adventure.

ICE CLIMBING AND SPA WEEKEND	2 Days
OVERNIGHT SNOWSHOE HUT EXPERIENCE	2-3 Days
PEAK CLIMB AND SPA WEEKEND	2 Days
HIGH SIERRA BACKPACKING	3-6 Days

6 Dates and prices at [www.sierramountaincenter.com/womens](http://www.sierramountaincenter.com/womens)



Winter is great! Sure it can be cold and snowy but that is all a part of the fun. For us winter is not the “off-season” at all; it is the best season, with fewer people around and the mountains to ourselves. All you need is a little encouragement to get out there and we can provide that.

## Acquiring the Skills

We know that your first trip out in the winter can be intimidating, so we work hard to alleviate your concerns and make these first trips as wonderful an experience as possible. You don't have to be an expert skier for the ski oriented programs and for the snowshoe trips no winter experience is needed. In fact, if you can walk, you can snowshoe. Our North Lake Hut out of Bishop makes for an ideal warm and cozy shelter from the storm to retreat to and relax after a day's skiing or exploring the Paiute and Lamarck Col areas.

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BACKCOUNTRY RANDONNEE SKIING	2 Days
INTRO TO TOURING SKILLS	3 Days
HUT BASED TRIPS: SNOWSHOEING	2-3 Days
SKIING	2-3 Days
PARENT AND KIDS	2 Days
SNOWBOARD	2 Days

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## Applying the Skills

Ever driven Highway 395 and gazed at those steep gullies and slopes? Perhaps you stopped at the boundary of a downhill area and wanted to head out further, but were unsure how to do it. The company of a professional guide with local knowledge and experience makes all the difference, giving you the confidence to venture out.

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SKI DESCENTS	3 Days • Intermediate - Advanced
POWDER WEEKEND	2 Days • Intermediate - Advanced
CORN CAMPS	5 Days • Intermediate - Advanced

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Dates and prices at [www.sierramountaincenter.com](http://www.sierramountaincenter.com)

## Spring Ski Touring



## The Winter Backcountry



photo by Patitucci Photo

The Sierra Nevada excels in spring touring and with great snow and incredible scenery we consider our spring tours to be some of the finest you will find anywhere in the world. Skis are your means of transportation into the backcountry and on our basic tours the ability to hold a steady traverse and execute a strong kick turn are the most important skills — more so then linking elegant turns straight down the fall line.

We have skied the High Route dozens of times and know it well. But we invite you to “think outside the regular tour” and sample some of the less well-known tours, some of which we have pioneered.

### Introductory Tours

HILTON CREEK MINI TOUR	2 Days
MAMMOTH TO JUNE	3 Days
YOSEMITE HIGH COUNTRY TOUR	5 Days

### Intermediate Tours

BENEATH THE PALISADES	5 Days
IONIAN BASIN	6 Days
RITTER RANGE CIRCUMNAVIGATION	5 Days
TOUR DE DARWIN	3 Days
PAIUTE TO ROCK CREEK	5 Days

### Advanced Tours

SIERRA HIGH ROUTE	6 or 7 Days
MONARCH DIVIDE	7 Days
CLARENCE KING AND GARDINER BASIN	6 Days
SIERRA CREST	6 Days

7 Dates and prices at [www.sierramountaincenter.com](http://www.sierramountaincenter.com)



As adventurers we all dream of traveling and taking our skills to the world's ultimate summits. At SMC we work to give you the skills needed and the adventures to realize those dreams. We only offer trips to places where we have been before that we know well. That way we can put together the best trip possible for you and a trip that will certainly be one of a lifetime.

<b>ALASKA</b>	<b>MT. RUSSELL</b>	<i>6 Days</i>
	<b>PEAK 11,300</b>	<i>7 Days</i>
	<b>LITTLE SWITZERLAND CAMP</b>	<i>7 Days</i>
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>DOLOMITES CLIMBING</b>	<i>10 Days</i>
	<b>DOLOMITES VIA FERRATAS</b>	<i>10 Days</i>
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>THE WAPTA TRAVERSE</b>	<i>7 Days</i>
<b>PATAGONIA</b>	<b>PATAGONIA EXPLORATION</b>	<i>14 Days</i>
	<b>THE NORTH TOWER OF PAINE</b>	<i>14 Days</i>
	<b>CERRO GUILLAMET</b>	<i>12 Days</i>
	<b>THE PATAGONIAN ICECAP</b>	<i>14 Days</i>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	<b>SOUTHERN ALPS CLIMBING</b>	<i>20 Days</i>

Dates and prices at [www.sierramountaincenter.com](http://www.sierramountaincenter.com)

## Expeditions & Foreign Trips



photo by Penny Brothers

Many thanks to Patitucci Photo for the cover and other photos. [www.patitucciphoto.com](http://www.patitucciphoto.com)

## Winter Mountaineering



photo by Patitucci Photo

Climbing any Sierra peak in winter is always a major accomplishment. Winter is cold, approaches are longer than in summer, the weather is often poor and avalanche assessment is essential. But the reward is fewer people and a sense of accomplishment in overcoming the elemental obstacles of winter. Whitney and Williamson in winter are also great training for anyone with higher ambitions and aspiring to the peaks of Alaska such as Denali, or further afield.

### Acquiring the Skills

<b>SNOW TRAVEL SKILLS</b>	<i>1 Day • Introductory</i>
<b>WINTER MOUNTAINEERING</b>	<i>5 Days • Introductory</i>
<b>MIXED ALPINE ROCK DAY</b>	<i>3 Days • Intermediate</i>

### Applying the Skills

<b>MT. WILLIAMSON IN WINTER</b>	<i>5 Days • Advanced</i>
<b>MT. WHITNEY IN WINTER</b>	<i>5 Days • Intermediate</i>

Dates and prices at [www.sierramountaincenter.com](http://www.sierramountaincenter.com)

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