

We are the safest and oldest original owner operated guide service and climbing school located in the city of Ouray. This information is for your use as a planning and packing tool for ice climbing in the Ouray, Silverton, & Telluride areas of the incredible San Juan Mountains of Colorado. It's not inclusive! Make sure you include items that you need which aren't listed. The San Juan Mountains are located in a remote area, and items you may have forgotten might be difficult to get here. This brochure contains limited information on our complete continuum of Ice Kraft Course skill development for all levels, abilities, and ages. If you would like more information on these courses and their content, scheduling, booking, cost, or any other attribute, please contact us and we'll send it to you immediately, or you may be able to find the information you're looking for and/or the answers to some of your questions by visiting our web site at www.TowerGuides.com.

CLIMBING/GUIDING/INSTRUCTION SEASON

The ice climbing season in Colorado can last from **mid-October to mid-April** in the high mountain areas in the San Juans. Early season climbing in November, December, & early January can be incredible on the long WI 4 to 5 routes (1,000+ feet) in the high mountain areas of Ouray, Silverton, and Telluride Colorado. Stairway to Heaven in Eureka, Colorado is one such incredible classic ice route amongst many. Once the heavy snows begin, the avalanche danger in these high areas generally becomes too high for safe climbing, but it does depend on the year.

RATES

Please call 888.345.9061 for rate and booking information. Group, Limited Group Size, and Private Guiding Rates available.

EXPERIENCE & FITNESS NEEDED FOR ICE CLIMBING

No prior rock or ice climbing experience is needed to enroll in our Basic Ice Kraft Course, nor is there any age or fitness restriction to take the Basic Ice Kraft Course. **Give it a try!** In order to participate in higher level Ice Kraft Courses, you will need to have the skills taught in the Ice Kraft Course that precedes it. Minimum levels of Fitness, & Movement & Safety Skills required to participate in one of the many beautiful classic guided climbs we conduct in our area are as follows:

MINIMUM ICE KRAFT SAFETY SYSTEM SKILLS REQUIRED FOR GUIDED OUTINGS

- ⇒ Basic Rope Handling Skills (Figure 8 Follow-through & on a Bite, etc.)
- ⇒ Climbing Signals (Single & Multi-Pitch)
- ⇒ Belaying Skills (For Leader and Second)
- ⇒ Rappelling Skills (Single & Multi-Pitch)
- ⇒ Multi-Pitched Climbing Skills

MINIMUM ICE KRAFT MOVEMENT SKILLS REQUIRED FOR GUIDED OUTINGS

- ⇒ Ability to climb WI 3 or harder for more difficult routes.

MINIMUM FITNESS LEVEL REQUIRED FOR GUIDED OUTINGS

- ⇒ Good Aerobic and Strength Fitness is very helpful (the better shape you're in the more fun you'll have!). Many of the Guiding outing take place between 8,000 & 13,000 feet elevation.

ICE KRAFT COURSES & GUIDED OUTINGS

BASIC ICE KRAFT - NO PRIOR ROCK OR ICE CLIMBING EXPERIENCE NEEDED
For those who wish to begin pursuing or experience ice climbing, this is the first course in our series. Join us in the beautiful Ouray Colorado to learn the methods and techniques of this exhilarating sport. The Ice in the San Juan Area is nothing short of perfect for introductory as well as advanced instructional purposes. We'll concentrate on the theory as well as the practical components of

ice kraft including ice tool and crampon maintenance. You'll learn the fundamentals of knots, equipment, rope signals, belaying, rappelling, and rope handling techniques, as well as the class and grade system used to rate the difficulty of ice routes. From the start, we emphasize the development of your analytical judgement skills. Gain confidence as you become familiar with the variations of stance, balance, and the general principals of movement on ice with the use of crampons and ice tools. We'll guide you through ice climbing techniques to include, but not limited to, French (flat footed), Austrian (front pointing) and American (combination) crampon techniques while learning the balance, swing and placement performance of various axes and hammers. This course is a fun and educational experience for all winter outdoor enthusiasts.

MORE COURSES & WHEN?

Call us at 888.345.9061 for our Published Schedule and Course Descriptions Brochure or visit our up to date information on the web at: <http://www.TowerGuides.com/schedice.html>

PRIVATE GUIDING ON ICE

Guiding is an exacting science and creative art. We provide the highest quality professional services of the most capable guides in the country. The sensitivity, discretion, and skill of a qualified guide enable you to experience the best the mountains have to offer. From personalized instruction to extreme routes, we approach each situation as a fresh new challenge. We are fully insured and permitted by the BLM & US Forest Service to provide guided outings to the following areas:

OURAY COLORADO AREA

- ⇒ Campbird - Ribbon WI 4; 600+ Ft
- ⇒ Campbird - Skylight Area WI 2 to 4; 100 to 300 Ft
- ⇒ Dexter Slabs - Upper Dexter Falls WI 3 - 5; 800+ Ft
- ⇒ Red Mt. Pass - Horsetail Falls WI4-5, 300+ Ft
- ⇒ Many more routes of various difficulty, call for more ideas.

SILVERTON COLORADO AREA (GREAT LONG EARLY SEASON ROUTES!)

- ⇒ Eureka - Stairway to Heaven WI 4; 1,000+ Ft
- ⇒ Eureka - Gully 2 WI 3-4; 1,000+ Ft
- ⇒ Mineral Creek - Campground Couloir WI 3; 800+ Ft
- ⇒ Many more routes of various difficulty, call for more ideas.

TELLURIDE COLORADO AREA

- ⇒ Ames - Ames Ice Hose WI 5 - 6; 700+ Ft
- ⇒ East Telluride - Bridalveil Falls WI 5 - 6; 500+ Ft
- ⇒ Many more routes of various difficulty, call for more ideas.

ICE CLIMBING GEAR

We will provide all of the Technical Climbing gear for your adventure including boots if we have your size. If you have them, you may want to consider using a few of the following personal items of your own equipment for comfort and safety reasons.

PERSONAL ICE CLIMBING GEAR YOU MAY WANT TO BRING IF YOU HAVE IT. (THIS EQUIPMENT IS NOT REQUIRED)

- Comfortable UIAA Helmet
- Harness You can Put On with Boots On
- Ice Climbing Boots
- Munter or Large Locking Biner Pearabiner (Carabiner)
- Belay/Rappel Device for 9 to 11mm Ropes (ex. A.T.C.)
- Ice Tools with Wrists Loops & Holsters
- Crampons which Fit Boots Listed Above

PERSONAL GEAR YOU SHOULD BRING

- Pack large enough to carry extra clothing, equipment, food, and water to the base of the ice climbs.

- First Aid Kit.
- Mashable High Energy Foods
- 1 - 1 Qt. Insulated Water Bottle with loop to attach a carabiner to it for carrying while climbing.
- Sun Screen
- Camera with extra Film
- Alarm Clock for early morning starts.

CLOTHING

As in many outdoor activities, wearing or not wearing, the proper clothing for the environment your activity is taking place in can mean the difference between being comfortable or miserable. Having the proper clothing is a matter of Safety. Winter Weather in Colorado can be quiet variable and unpredictable. High winds with cold temperatures are common, but it can also be sunny and warm during winter months. As a result, it is good to come prepared for a variety of weather conditions despite the time of year you have planned your climb. Please wear synthetic clothing, not cotton, while you are outside. For more expert guidance in choosing quality clothing systems, we recommend you contact the helpful folks at **PATAGONIA'S GUIDE LINE** at 800-638-6464. If you don't have a particular item of clothing listed, we may be able to rent or loan you the item you don't have.

INNER LAYER

- 2 Pair Capilene Liner Socks
- Capilene Long Underwear (Top and Bottom)
- 2 Pair Capilene Liner Gloves which Fit Inside Gloves or Mittens Listed in Insulation Layer below

INSULATION LAYER

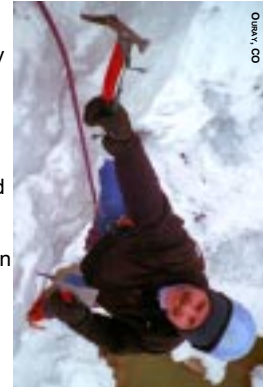
- Synchilla or Nylon/Polyester/Lycra Pants
- Zip-T Heavy Weight Capilene Long Sleeved Shirt
- 2 Pair Heavy Capilene Socks
- Synchilla, Pile Jacket, or Sweater
- Lite to Mid-Weight Hat that can be Worn Under a Helmet
- 2 Pair Heavy Pile Mittens or Gloves which Fit Inside Gloves or Mittens Listed in Protective Layer

PROTECTION LAYER

- Insulated Ice Climbing Boots (Crampon Compatible)
- Gaiters (Knee Height)
- Gortex Rain/Wind Hooded Jacket that fits over other layers
- 1 or 2 Pair Gortex Overmittens or Overgloves
- Gortex Pants that fit over other layers
- Large Dark Color Bandana
- Heavy Down or Synthetic Parka
- Capilene or Synchilla Balaclava

MEETING LOCATION & TIME

Ice climbing programs in the San Juans generally originate at 8am at our office in Ouray. Please check in with us the day before your climb or lesson to confirm meeting time and location.



CO, VERO

GETTING TO OURAY

AIRPORTS

- ⇒ Montrose, CO (Best!), 35 Miles (40 Min.) Away
- ⇒ Denver, CO, 300 Miles (6-7Hrs.) Away
- ⇒ Grand Junction, CO, 96 Miles (2 Hrs.) Away
- ⇒ Durango, CO, 80 Miles (2 Hrs.) Away with 3 Big Passes!

GROUND TRANS FROM THE MONTROSE AIRPORT TO OURAY (35MILES).

- ⇒ [Telluride Express](#), 888.212.8294, 970.728.6000

MONTROSE, CO CAR RENTAL COMPANIES

- ⇒ Budget Rental Car, 970.249.6083
- ⇒ Dollar Rent a Car, 970.249.3770
- ⇒ Hertz Rent-a-Car, 970.249.9447

IN & AROUND OURAY

GUIDE BOOKS

- ⇒ [CO. Ice, Waterfalls](#), 888.345.9061, 970.325.4879, www.TowerGuides.com
- ⇒ [San Juan Ice Climbs](#), 888.345.9061, 970.325.4879, www.TowerGuides.com
- ⇒ [CO. Ice Climbers Guide](#), 888.345.9061, 970.325.4879, www.TowerGuides.com

AVALANCHE COURSES

- ⇒ [Silverton Avalanche School](#), 970.387.5184

AVALANCHE CONDITIONS

- ⇒ [Colorado Avalanche Information Center](#), 970.247.8187

MOTELS/LODGING

- ⇒ [Comfort Inn](#), 800.438.5713, 970.325.7203
- ⇒ [Rivers Edge Motel](#), 970.325.4621

GROCERIES

- ⇒ [Duckett's Market](#) in Ouray, 8:30am-6pm Mon. - Sat.

THINGS TO Do

- ⇒ [Ouray Hot Springs Pool](#) (Fantastic!)* Bring your suit!
- ⇒ [Ironton Park X-Country Skiing](#)~8 miles away
- ⇒ [Downhill Skiing](#) in [Telluride, CO](#)~47 miles away*
- ⇒ [Red Mountain Pass Skiing](#)~13 miles away

OURAY & OURAY ICE CLIMBING GUIDES

We are the oldest original owner operated guide service and climbing school located in the city of Ouray, and the only one with a perfect Safety Record.

North American Ice Mecca, Historic Mining, and Geo-Thermal Wonder Mountain Town, OURAY, located at 7,760 feet above sea level, is nestled in the unparalleled beauty of the towering snow covered San Juan Mountain Peaks. Ouray, and the surrounding area, simply provides the most abundant and accessible ice climbing in the Continental United States and perhaps North America. Spending a couple of days on the ice with a local CMGE CERTIFIED Guide Administered Service is an excellent way to safely develop your skills on waterfall ice. Topics from safety and movement techniques, basic uses and limitations of ice protection and equipment, anchoring skills, introductory avalanche assessment and awareness, ice quality assessment, and general winter preparedness are covered in our courses.

Please contact us in Ouray if you have any more questions or need date availability to book your winter ice climbing outing. We are happy to help you with your travel and lodging arrangements if we can. We hope to see you soon!

Above Ouray Ice & Tower Rock Guides is an Equal Opportunity Service Provider and Above Ouray Ice & Tower Rock Guides is a permittee of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest. All or part of this Fully Insured Operation is conducted under Special Permit on Public Lands by the U.S. Department of the Interior BLM & NPS Agencies; U.S. Department of Agriculture USFS Agency, & other State Agencies

MASTERS TEACHING THE ART OF MOVEMENT ON ICE, ROCK, & SNOW...

OURAY, CO

Above Ouray Ice & Tower Rock Climbing School & Ski Mountaineering Guide Service

• OURAY'S SAFEST LOCAL GUIDE SERVICE.

GENERAL INFORMATION & WINTER GEAR LIST FOR ICE CLIMBING IN OURAY, SAN JUANS, RIFLE ICE PARK, UNAWEEP CANYON, & OTHER GREAT COLORADO LOCATIONS

• ICE KRAFT COURSES & PRIVATE GUIDING DAILY ALL WINTER.

• TRY IT TODAY! NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE NEEDED.

• OUR WELL TRAINED EXPERT GUIDES & INSTRUCTORS WILL SHOW YOU THE ROPES & INSURE YOUR SAFETY.

• OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE!

PROVIDING YOU WITH A LOCALLY OPERATED CERTIFIED GUIDE ADMINISTERED SERVICE TO OURAY, COLORADO

Phone: 888.345.9061

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