

Glacier Peak (10,541')

4 days

Glacier Peak is one of the cachet Cascade volcanoes and, though it lacks some of the ruggedness of other Cascade summits, it more than makes up for it in its remoteness and the physical beauty of its surroundings. All approaches to its climb routes are long.

In an effort to assist those who might be pursuing the 18 peak award, we'll be climbing the easy standard south side route: the Cool and Gerdine glaciers. I've climbed the route several times over the years via different approaches depending on road/trail washouts. The expectation would be for folks to drive up to Seattle the night before; we'll then drive over in the morning and plan to use the Little Wenatchee trail (TH el 3000') thru Meander Meadows to the PCT, then north to White pass where we'll leave the trail system and cross the ridge to remnants of the nearly extinct Whitechuck glacier before reaching base camp at Glacier Gap (7300') - ~ 17 miles (+/-) and close to 5300' elevation gain over two days. We'll make initial camp along the approach trail where convenient. The trailhead is 2-3/4 hours from Seattle.

Day 3 is summit day and summing should go expeditiously with ascents of the Cool and Gerdine glaciers prior to a steep snow/pumice climb to the summit plateau. We'll return and break basecamp, hiking out as far as we can and camp somewhere along the way in an effort to make the 4th/last day relatively easy. When

using this approach years ago, we ended up camping at White pass on our exit.

Gear requirement: full snow/glacier travel gear – rope, harness, helmet, crampons, ice ax, prusiks

map link:

<https://mappingsupport.com/p/gmap4.php?ll=48.079401,-121.107390&z=13&t=t4>

This link will open showing only the area immediately to the south of Glacier peak and extending as far south as White pass. You'll need to expand the map and scroll down to get the full picture of just how far we'll need to travel.

The climb is scheduled for 4 days. As the time draws near and we can better evaluate the prospective weather, I reserve the ability to adjust the dates by a day or two to insure we have the best weather window for success.



Glacier peak from near Glacier gap