

FAQ

Ice Climbing

I have never ice climbed before in my life. Can I take this course?

Introduction to ice climbing is a course designed for complete beginners. It is also ideal for those who have done indoor climbing and would like to try it outdoor on frozen waterfalls for the first time. Some of our clients come out every year even if they have climbed before because they like to know that our top-notch instructors set the routes they are climbing and we provide all the gear.

How long is the course?

It is a one-day course. The course runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The instructors will meet you at the parking area for 10:00 a.m. and you should be back in the parking area for 4:00 p.m.

What is the age restriction for this course?

The course is open to adults, and adolescents. Minors must have their waivers signed in advance by a parent or guardian. Minors who are under 13 must be accompanied by a participating adult.

What if I don't have a strong upper body?

Ice climbing is a combination of using your feet as well as your arms. Our climbs are rated from easy to medium so there are different levels for beginners to try. Gaining proper technique will allow you to improve without having a super strong upper body.

What is the fitness requirement for this course?

A hiking fitness is generally recommended.

How high are the frozen waterfalls?

The frozen waterfalls range from 70 feet to 90 feet.

How many people will be on the course?

The maximum group size per instructor is 6 people.

What type of footwear do I need?

It is a good idea to wear stiff hiking boots or ski boots. We do provide the ice climbing boots, however, some clients prefer to wear their own boots. We also have crampons that can fit most boots.

How long is the hike into the cliffs?

It is a short (10 minute) hike from the parking lot. You are able go back to the car if you need to.

Are there washrooms?

Sometimes yes, but plan for no. Al fresco is the way to go. You may want to make a pit-

stop before you arrive.

Should I bring a lunch?

We recommend that you bring your food in a backpack so that you can hike with your hands free. We recommend a thermos with a hot beverage to help keep you warm.

Can my wife/husband/daughter/son/brother/sister/friend/neighbour come and watch the course without participating?

We do not provide helmets or crampons for non-participants. Spectators can watch at their own risk. The ice climbing sites are difficult to access without crampons and in some locations, you may have to rappel down the cliff. Spectators are usually not recommended for ice climbing.

What happens if I arrive late?

If you arrive late, you should be able to find the group putting on their helmets and harnesses. If you are over 30 minutes late, an instructor may come back in one hour to find you. If you can see the group, you can hike down to meet them (at your own risk).

What should I do if I am lost?

Prevention is the best advice. The map on our website has an interactive link to Google maps where you can type in your home address and Google maps will give you a recommended driving route and estimated drive time. Please print out this map/directions and bring it with you.

Can I get a copy of the photos the instructor took?

The photos taken by the instructors are for use in the brochure or website. Due to the high volume of requests we are not able to email them to each individual. If you are really nice to us and take us out for dinner, we may consider sending you some shots. Starting in 2008, you can access the ice climbing photos on Facebook.

I am scared of heights. Can I do this course?

Some people have a natural fear of heights and they have found the course thrilling because of that exciting fear. You probably know yourself well and if ice climbing intrigues you, we welcome you.

I am a big guy. Will the ropes hold me?

The ropes are designed so that they can hold your truck. Unless you are as heavy as a truck, there should not be a problem.

Is drinking water accessible?

No. You can try licking the ice but that is not recommended. Make sure you bring enough water for the day.

What should I wear?

Wear weather appropriate clothing. You are going to be outdoors all day. You should layer your clothing and bring more than you expect you will need. Extra hats and mitts

are a must and waterproof pants and jacket are also recommended. The ice is sometimes wet or dripping. Wear clothing that you are not afraid of ripping or getting dirty.

Do you have gift certificates?

Yes, we provide gift certificates for all occasions.

Is it customary to tip my instructor?

Tipping is not required. If you feel that you have received exceptional service and would like to gift the instructors with a tip, they will graciously accept it and appreciate your generosity.

TESTIMONIALS

"I thoroughly enjoyed the ice climb on Saturday. I was very impressed with the two guides. They were both nice, friendly, supportive and helpful people. Another group of ice climbers with a different company arrived at 10:30 a.m. while we were finishing gearing up in the parking lot and I realized that ONE AXE is very good at what they do. The guide from the other group did not arrive early to put up the routes (like ONE AXE did) so his paying customers had to wait for him to do that. Also, they could not do the better climbs that ONE AXE had set up because the early bird gets the worm. The ONE AXE guides had arrived well before we were there and had obviously spent time dibbing the best climbs and ensuring the safety of their climbers. Hats off to you!"

Kurtis Sarjeant, Toronto Ontario

"Once again please pass on my thanks to Fred for an awesome day of climbing. I am still sore but I loved every minute of it, and I can't wait to do it again soon. I had a great time and got some good climbing pictures. Thanks a lot for another fun filled day. I can honestly say I have never regretted taking a course from you and look forward to some more this summer."

Jason LeBlanc, Kingston Ontario

"We all had an amazing time in the Intro to Ice Climbing with Fred Schuett as our instructor. It was so much fun even though it was extremely cold! We all really hope to do it once again next winter! I can't wait to tell everyone what an incredible experience I had! Also, I have a few friends in Toronto that will also be contacting you in the near future. Thanks for such a fun time and we hope to see you in summer for yet another adventure!"

Neesha Khanderia, Toronto Ontario

"Wow, I'm completely impressed with you guys overall. The ice climbing was awesome and you guys were great. We had an amazing time and have already decided to sign up with you again. The mountaineering trip is also a HUGE possibility for next year."

Samantha Parker, Toronto Ontario

"I would to say that we really enjoyed our day climbing with your company. Your guides are very professional and nice people. We really want to go out again. Thanks again for the great day!"

Kirstie Golden, Toronto Ontario

"I have to send out my compliments to everyone; making the day a success. I enjoyed what I learned as well as Fred Schuett's instruction, smart guy! Thanks Fred. As the weather starts to warm up, I would be interested to learn what I can about gear placement, stations, etc. in your advanced programs. I enjoyed your positive energy. Thanks again and see you for ice climbing again this Saturday."

Bill Clayton, Toronto Ontario