

OENZ 9-Day Mountaineering Course Outline

Day 1 - Overview

7:30am - Meet your group and Instructor/s at “Darfield Bakery” in Darfield, a small town 30 mins from Christchurch on SH73 (good food and good coffee).

Note: if you're travelling from the West Coast, please contact us to arrange for our instructor to meet you in Castle Hill Village instead.

Today is all about getting to grips with the essential skills and equipment that allow you to travel in the mountains safely.

8:30am - Arrive at Mt Cheeseman Ski Area.

- Gear check & hand out OENZ-supplied gear
- Packing and selecting gear appropriate for use in the NZ mountains
- Fitting crampons to boots
- Avalanche transceiver checks

Ice axe and walking techniques

- Holding an ice axe
- Kicking Steps/forming steps with boots
- Primary anchor/self-belay (stopping a slide before it starts)
- Step cutting

12:30pm – Lunch

- Walking in crampons
- Flat foot technique
- Front pointing
- Mixed technique
- Self-arresting (stopping yourself when sliding using your ice axe)

5:30 - 6:00pm - Arrive at our lodge in Arthur's Pass (45 mins from ski area carpark).

Evening:

- Cook your dinner at the lodge.
- How to plan an alpine trip. Guidebooks, maps and the NZ mountain grading system
- Make a plan for day 2 - Choose an objective.

Day 2 - Overview

Today our aim is to consolidate our new skills by putting it all together and attempting to climb to a peak or high point in the Craigieburn range. Please note the word “attempt” as the mountains will decide whether we are successful in summiting and most climbers say that a 50% success rate is good.

6:30 – 7:00am - Breakfast (bring your own as nothing is open this early in Arthur’s Pass)

9:00 – 9:30am – Arrive at Broken River Ski area carpark

- Access snow via track and ski field or Allan’s basin.
- Build/talk through emergency shelters in the mountains
- Make our way up using safe travel/avalanche avoidance techniques

12:30pm Lunch (along the way)

- Get to our highest point (maybe a summit)
- Cover any skills that need refinement on the way down

5:30 - 6:00pm - Arrive at our lodge in Arthur’s Pass (45 mins from ski area carpark).

Evening

- Cook your dinner at lodge.

Day 3 - Overview

6:30 - 7:00am Breakfast (bring your own as nothing is open this early in Arthur’s Pass)

8:30am - Arrive at Mt Cheeseman ski area or Broken River ski area

- Gear check
- How to pack and carry avalanche and alpine equipment.
- Check avalanche transceivers (before you go)
- Assembling and using a probe- Spiral probing
- Avalanche transceiver search practice

12:30ish – Lunch (out in the field)

- Avalanche scenario search (single burial- single searcher)
- Identifying Avalanche terrain. Terrain - Angle, Aspect, Altitude Trigger points, Traps
- Observations. Weather and snow pack – Recent activity, Cracking/whooping, rapid loading, wind, temperature

2:30 - 3:30 pm Back at Vehicles, drive to Arthurs Pass lodge

4:00 - 6:00 pm – Theory session, PowerPoint

Evening

- Cook your dinner at lodge.

Day 4 - Overview

6:30 - 7:30am Breakfast (bring your own as nothing is open this early in Arthur's Pass)

7:30 - 8:00am – Pack and clean lodge.

- Check avalanche forecast, talk through implications and considerations based on this forecast and previous days observations.
- Trip planning –plan our day

9:30 - 10:00 am – Arrive at practical training location

- Make our way up using safe travel & avalanche avoidance techniques
 - Spacing
 - Visual contact
 - Islands of safety
 - Safe travel routes
 - Communication
 - Escape routes

12:30pm - Lunch (along the way)

- Avalanche search practice
- Rescue digging
- Team digging scenario (deep burial)
- Full Avalanche rescue scenarios- multiple burials, multiple searchers

3:30 - 4:30pm – Back at vehicles, drive back to Arthur’s Pass Lodge

5:00 - 5.30pm – Arrive in Arthur’s Pass, check gear + travel to Temple Basin

Your instructor will answer any last-minute questions and will also do a gear check to ensure we have the essential gear for the course. We’ll then make our way up to Temple Basin Lodge. A goods lift will conveniently transport your gear to the lodge. *Please note: you will need a small daypack with a head torch and warm clothing as we be walking up to Temple Basin in the dark.*

From the car park, it’s a 45-60-minute walk up a steep track to access Temple Basin. Depending on conditions, you may need to use crampons and an ice axe for some or all of the access track (your guide will advise you what to take up the track).

Food: Temple Basin Lodge will provide a cooked meal when we arrive.

Day 5 - Rope Skills

Food: Breakfast - Catered by Temple Lodge

Lunch – Catered by Temple Lodge

Dinner – Catered by Temple Lodge

Snacks – Basic snacks (muesli bars and fruit) provided by Temple Lodge.

Hot tip: You may wish to pack some of your favourite snacks for your course as mountain days can be long.

7:00 - 8:00am - Breakfast and get ready for the day.

Skills session

Today will be all about learning the gear and some foundational skills to set us up for the week of climbing. We will introduce all of the technical equipment, fit harnesses, and introduce a range of useful knots.

While some people like to come into the course prepared and knowing these fundamentals in advance, please be prepared for the whole group to visit these skills.

Once we are comfortable with our gear and some base skills, we will head outside to run an afternoon session. We have multiple topics that could be introduced this afternoon and the guide will pick the best one for the group and conditions at the time.

Skills session your guide will choose from: *(See appendix 1 below for the breakdown of these skills)*

- Knots
- Belaying methods
- Abseiling
- Anchors (snow or rock)
- Movement on rock & snow

If the weather is storming, then there is a good chance you will practice some of these skills indoors, with a shorter trip outside in the weather.

6:30 - 8:00pm Dinner & Dessert

Your instructor will look at the weather for Day 6 and provide you with the following information:

- Skills you will look to cover in Day 6
- Gear you will need for the day
- Departure time for leaving the lodge
- Whether you will be out for the whole day or part of the day *(only applicable on a bad weather forecast)*

Day 6 – Pitching & Ridge Travel

Food: Breakfast - Catered by Temple Lodge

Lunch – Catered by Temple Lodge

Dinner – Catered by Temple Lodge

Snacks – Basic snacks (muesli bars and fruit) provided by Temple Lodge.

Hot tip: You may wish to pack some of your favourite snacks for your course as mountain days can be long.

7:00 - 8:00am Breakfast and get ready for the day. If the weather is good, you will be out/away from the lodge for the entire day.

Building on from yesterday's skills your guide will likely take you up the hill for some multi-pitch climbing/ridge travel and simul climbing skills.

Here you may cover some of the following skills **If you covered these skills yesterday we will move on to another skill – you will apply and consolidate the skills during the day of travel.*

- Belaying methods
- Abseiling
- Anchors (snow or rock)
- Pitching & multi-pitch climbing
- Roped Movement techniques

6:30 - 8:00 Dinner & Dessert

Your instructor will look at the weather for Day 7 and provide you with the following information:

- Skills you will look to cover in Day 7
- Gear you will need for the day
- Departure time for leaving the lodge
- Whether you will be out for the whole day or part of the day *(only applicable on a bad weather forecast)*

Day 7 – Attempt a Summit

Food: Breakfast - Catered by Temple Lodge

Lunch – Catered by Temple Lodge

Dinner – Catered by Temple Lodge

Snacks – Basic snacks (muesli bars and fruit) provided by Temple Lodge.

Hot tip: You may wish to pack some of your favourite snacks for your course as mountain days can be long.

7:00 - 8:00am Breakfast and get ready for the day.

If the weather is good, you will be out/away from the lodge for the entire day.

Building on from yesterday's skills your guide will complete the remaining climbing skills left to be taught with the objective to attempt a summit.

Summit options include: Mt Temple, Mt Blimit, Mt Cassidy

6:30 - 8:00 Dinner & Dessert

Your instructor will look at the weather for Day 8 and provide you with the following information:

- Skills you will look to cover in Day 8/9
- Gear you will need for the day
- Departure time for leaving the lodge
- Whether you will be out for the whole day or part of the day (*only applicable on a bad weather forecast*)

Day 8 – Crevasse Rescue

7:00 - 8:00am Breakfast:

A packing session will take place this morning. You will be given information on what you will need to take with you in regard to technical climbing gear.

Today our focus is on moving around in crevassed terrain, building a snow anchor & building an assisted haul system and an un-assisted haul system. We'll be practicing the following:

- T-Slot snow anchors for crevasse rescue
- Moving roped up on glaciated terrain
- Practice crevasse rescue
- Demonstration of crevasse rescue assisted hoist (drop loop).
- Practice un-assisted crevasse rescue

6:30 - 8:00 Dinner & Dessert

Your instructor will look at the weather for Day 9 and provide you with the following information:

- Skills you will look to cover in Day 9
- Gear you will need for the day
- Departure time for leaving the lodge

Day 9 - Revisit Skills or Mini Adventure

7:00 - 8:00am - Breakfast

8:30 - 9:00 – Pack up and drop bags at gear lift.

The gear lift only operates in the morning, your gear will be put in the shed at the bottom of the mountain ready for collection at the end of the day.

9:30am - 12.30pm – Extra time

Your guide will have this time planned into your sessions to cover some of the information listed in the table above.

However, this is a great time to ensure you have everything you wanted from the course and to cover anything in further detail that you're unsure of. Your guide will continually check in with you on how you're going on this course and we encourage you not to leave any questions till the last day as we can't guarantee we can cover it at the last minute!

12:30pm – Lunch (at the lodge or packed lunch depending on the plan for the day)

2:00pm – Leaving Temple Basin Lodge

Time to say goodbye to Temple Basin and head back down the access track.

3:00pm – Pick up bags from goods lift/end of course

5:00pm Back in Christchurch

If you're travelling with OENZ back to Christchurch you can expect to be back in central Christchurch between 5:00 -5:30pm

Some alternative skills that <u>may</u> be covered over the course in bad weather day/forecast	
Mountain weather	Indoor application of haul systems
Indoor application of rope skills	Mountain Navigation
Trip planning	Avalanche skills

Breakdown of skill sessions covered throughout the technical mountaineering course (TMC).

Movement Techniques:

- Movement on rock in crampons
- Self-arresting (only introduced when we have 6 & 7-day participants joining)
- Front pointing
- Two axe climbing techniques
- Mixed climbing (rock and snow)
- Scrambling (un-roped travel)

Roped Movement Techniques

- Roping up for ridge travel
- Simul climbing

Knots: you will be taught throughout the course:

- Clove hitch
- Italian Hitch (Munter hitch)
- Girth Hitch (Larksfoot)
- Rethreaded figure 8 (used for tying into harness)
- Figure 8 on bight
- Overhand on bite
- Overhand rethreaded (used for joining ropes)
- Alpine butterfly
- Tape knot (water knot)
- Prussic – classic, klemheist & French wrap

Belaying methods

- From harness
- From the harness with a redirect to the anchor
- Guide Mode
- Italian/Munter Hitch
- Body belay

Abseil

- Self-protected abseil

Anchors: 2 pt & 3 pt anchors

- Snow stakes – Vertical top clip/Vertical mid clip/Horizontal mid clip
- Snow bollard
- Bucket Seat
- Rock Anchors

Pitching & Multi-pitch Climbing

- Gear & equipment needed for the route (rock and snow)
- Leading and placing runners
- Belaying and seconding a pitch
- Transitioning anchors/swapping leads
- Abseiling off a route
- Climbing with a third party member *(may not be delivered as a practical skill if numbers are even)*

Glacier Travel & Crevasse Rescue

- Roping up for Glacier Travel
- Walking in glacier travel mode (interpreting terrain features and safe travel selection)
- Holding a fall (simulated falling into a crevasse)
- Building an anchor
- Transitioning the load
- Constructing a suitable haul system – Unassisted or assisted hoist
- Extracting your partner from the 'crevasse'