

FAQ

Ice Anchors

What are the prerequisites for this course?

The prerequisite is our Top rope anchors course and Introduction to ice climbing course or equivalent. There will be no time to review top roping skills so you will need to know them before taking the ice anchors course.

How long is the course?

It is a one-day course. The course runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The instructors will meet you at the parking area for 9:00 a.m. and you should be back in the parking area for 5:00 p.m.

What is the age restriction for this course?

The course is open to adults and adolescents 16 years of age or older. Minors must have their waivers signed in advance by a parent or guardian.

What should I wear?

Wear weather appropriate clothing. Bring more clothing rather than less. You are outdoors all day. It is recommended to bring two coats; one down coat for belaying and a lighter, insulated jacket for climbing. Wear clothing that you are not afraid of ripping or getting dirty. Cotton and denim clothing is NOT advisable. It takes a long time for cotton to dry and it is cold when wet. Polyester and nylon clothing is best. Rain jackets are recommended because the ice will get wet as the sun emerges. Hiking boots or plastic boots are recommended.

What is the fitness requirement for this course?

A hiking fitness is generally recommended.

What type of footwear do I need?

It is a good idea to wear hiking boots or plastic boots if you have them.

How many people will be on the course?

The maximum group size per instructor is 6 people. We usually sell out the course at 12 people.

How long is the hike from the car to the icefall?

It is a 15-minute hike from the parking lot (if at Tiffany Falls). You are able to go back to the car if you need to, however, most people stay on site.

Are there washrooms?

If you consider the bush a washroom, then yes, there are washrooms everywhere. Realistically, be prepared to go in the great outdoors.

How should I pack my lunch?

It is recommended to pack your lunch in a backpack to bring into the climbing site. Also remember to bring water. A thermos with a hot beverage or soup is recommended to help you keep warm.

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

It is not possible to watch the course without participating in it since there is only equipment (i.e. crampons and helmets) for participants. The hike into the icefall at Tiffany Falls is quite aggressive in the winter and is not recommended without crampons.

What happens if I arrive late?

If you arrive 15-minutes late, you should still be able to find the group putting on their helmets and harnesses. If you are over 30 minutes late, walk to the ONE AXE car and see if there is a note indicating when an instructor will come back to get you.

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.

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

The ropes can hold up a truck. Unless you are as heavy as a truck, there should not be a problem. The regular harnesses fit a 42-inch waist. We have X-large harnesses that fit 45-inch waistlines. Please let us know if you require a larger harness.

Is water accessible?

You can melt snow but we recommend that you bring enough water for the entire day.

Do you have gift certificates?

Yes, we provide gift certificates for all occasions.

Is this program available year round?

This program is only available in the winter and it depends on weather conditions. The season is usually from January to March with February as the peak season.

How do I know which location the ice climbing will be held at?

If the weather permits, it is usually held at Tiffany Falls. If it is too warm down here, we will travel up to Rosseau. The location in Elora forms later in the season and is only available if the winter is very cold.

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.

TESTIMOLIALS

"Fred, thanks for a great day on the ice! Your ice anchor course is truly unique in this area. I haven't found another company that teaches these skills with your balance of skill, safety and experience. Taking this course prepared me for trips into the mountains. Being able to learn these skills here gave me needed boost to head to the Rockies in confidence. Your knowledge and enthusiasm for climbing skills shows in the courses that you run."

Michael Hetherington, Waterloo, Ontario