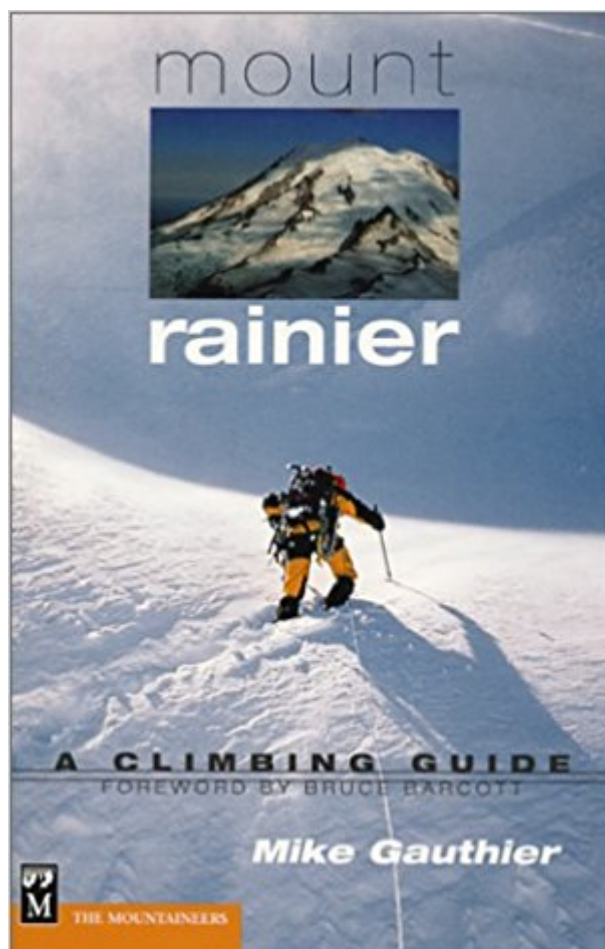


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Mount Rainier: A Climbing Guide



Synopsis

The definitive guide to climbing Rainier with 39 of the best routes. Includes details of the approach, the climb, descent, elevation, hazards, seasons, permits, safety, and much more.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

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Customer Reviews

Mike Gauthier started backpacking in the Washington wilderness at age eleven. His professional career began in Olympic National Park as a volunteer backcountry ranger. Ten years ago, he joined the National Park Service climbing staff at Mount Rainier where he is now the Lead Climbing Ranger. Mike has summited Mount Rainier over 150 times by twenty-four different routes, in all seasons and under all conditions. He regularly conducts workshops in mountain and rope rescue techniques, cold weather survival skills, backcountry snowboarding, and avalanche awareness. In 1998, he was designated a Wilderness Rescue Hero by the American Red Cross. In addition to his activities at Mount Rainier, he has led three expeditions to Alaska's Mount McKinley and is an avid snowboarder, rock climber, and photographer. His photographic artwork is on permanent display in the National Park Inn at Longmire, Washington. Mike lives in Mount Rainier National Park.

A very helpful, relevant resource by someone who really knows this grand mountain.

If your thinking of making the trek to the top of Ranier, take an evening a read this. Some interesting facts and things to think about while planning your ascent.

This book is a little dated but most of the information is still valid. The first half of the book is an overview to climbing, definitely not a "how to" for beginners looking to learn. The main feature of this book, and it does an excellent job, is for route planning. It describes all the routes, their difficulty and every other detail you'd want to know when planning your climb. Add this to your library if you're walking up Rainier.

If you are planning on climbing Rainier, you really should get this book. All the routes are covered thoroughly and the preparations and expectations are systematically laid out for you. You'll be prepared mentally if not physically, after reading the chapters appropriate to your trip. Very useful and very much a required addition to your mountaineering library.

Finally the long awaited third edition! Time has changed many routes significantly over the last ten years, this new addition portrays the changes with accurate aerial pictures taken recently. Pictures are what I need the most from this type of guide and Mount Rainier a Climbing Guide delivers beautiful images of "the mountain". As a third edition it seems the author has had time to refine his message without losing track of his original intention of helping independent climbers choose the right route for their skill level so they can more fully enjoying the paths less traveled. Thanks to the Mountaineers press for finally getting how important this book is to NW climbers and improving its form (compares more to the form factor of the Cascades Alpine Guides by Becky). This book will help us get out and climb many more moderate routes that see less travel. If you love Rainier then the new addition is a "must have". The old additions are great but they show the Rainier of many years back. This book is a timely contribution to Rainier climbers .

This is one of the best climbing guides that I have ever seen. I think that guides of this nature (no pun intended) have to walk a fine line between giving too much information and giving so little that somebody gets hurt on a route they shouldn't be on. This book walks that line masterfully. To begin with, the routes are organized in groups that are sorted by their respective approaches. The technical information about difficulties, level of intensity, and time involved are extremely realistic for semi-experienced mountaineers. What I like best, however, are the descriptions of the routes and the pictures. The descriptions are detailed enough to address certain specifics but leave enough unsaid to not spoil the personality of the individual routes. Mike's pictures are great (good enough to be on permanent display at Longmire) and show the mountain in stunning detail. Most routes receive several pictures to help you see it from all sides. To be sure, this is one climbing guide that

you must use to fully appreciate. It is not a coffee table book or a course on mountaineering - it is an excellent text detailing all of the major routes on the mountain and their commitment level for all levels of climbers. You cannot do better than this book if you are planning a climb of Rainier. From the explanations of how the seasons effect the routes to the group checklist of gear, this is one book that will pay for itself in spades by the time you are done with it.

I have been poring over it this new and expended edition of Mike Gauthier's climbers guide to Mount Rainier. I just have to say that I am so incredibly impressed with the book. The photos are amazing--they remind me of Brad Washburn's photos of Denali. And Gauthier's knowledge and technical expertise and love of the mountain show through on every page.

For both the aspiring Rainier climber, and the veteran wishing to seek out a new adventure, the first step in a successful climb is to obtain this essential guide book. I found Gauthier's book contained absolutely all the information any climber needs to be successful on a climb of this wonderful mountain, and most importantly be able to come back home to talk about it. Climbers can also be sure that all the information is accurate and up to date due to Gauthier's unique position as the Lead Climbing Ranger for Mt. Rainier National Park. Where I was most impressed with this book however, was with the route descriptions and photographs. As with the rest of the book there is no "fluff" here. The route descriptions cover all the information you need to safely ascend these routes, and have no garbage to wade through to get to it. The clear, easy to follow route pictures set the standard for which I have yet to see an equal (and believe me I have wasted enough money and time looking). I was also relieved to see a guidebook written by someone who truly knows this great mountain, and lives and works on it year-round. Any climber can learn from Gauthier's vast, expansive knowledge and his experience is second to none. All this and it will actually fit in the top flap of your pack! The definitive guide to Mt. Rainier and the only book I will ever recommend.

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