

NZAC Leading on Technical Ice

Who is this course for?

The NZAC Leading on Technical Ice course is designed for **NZAC Intermediate mountaineers** (or equivalent skill set) who are looking to learn the skills to climb technical water ice.

Prior to attending this course* participants must have **experience of easy alpine (non glacial) mountaineering**, be a **NZAC Trad Climber** (or equivalent skill set) and the **fitness to enjoy multiple full days (7 hours) in the mountain environment**.

*Full course pre requirements can be found in the course info pack

Course Overview

Duration: 4 Days

Season: July - August

Location: Wye Creek, Remarkables

Course Tutors: NZMGA Climbing Guides / IFMGA Mountain Guide

Ratio: 1-4

Cost: TBC

Progression: NZAC High Alpine Skills

Syllabus

Preparing for technical ice climbing

- Clothing/equipment
- Trip planning resources (avalanche forecasts/weather forecasts/guidebooks)
- Weather
- Using aircraft for access
- Selecting appropriate objectives

Being and moving on technical ice climbs

- Movement skills for technical ice climbs
- Using technical ice tools and crampons on steep ice
- Ice anchors (ice screws and v-threads)
- Rock anchors
- Ice condition and characteristics
- Belaying a lead ice climber
- Rope management for single and multipitch ice climbs

Changing Circumstances

- Resting whilst on steep ice
- Use of avalanche safety equipment including transceiver search
- Retreating from technical ice climbs

Course Outcomes*

Preparing for the High Alpine Environment

- The knowledge to select appropriate equipment and clothing for technical ice climbing
- An ability to plan trips and select routes according to their grade, condition and guidebook description.
- An ability to interpret weather forecasts and observations with a focus on how this effect ice.
- The awareness of basic safety principles regarding the use of aircraft to access the high mountains

Being and moving in the Alpine Environment

- The knowledge of how to climb steep ice well balanced, efficiently and in control.
- An understanding on how to efficiently and effectively place ice axes and crampons whilst climbing on technical ice.
- An understanding of building quality anchors (ice screw, v-thread, snow bollard) and rock (nuts, cams, rock bollard) anchors.
- The knowledge to assess the condition of ice and adapt accordingly
- The ability to place protection to protect a leader and second on technical ice routes
- The ability to retreat and descend routes using appropriate techniques (retrievable abseils, down climbing, lowering)
- The skills to efficiently manage the rope on single and multipitch terrain (block leading, swinging leads, multipitch abseils)

Changing Circumstances

- The knowledge of techniques to safeguard against a lead fall on technical ice routes
- The ability to confidently perform a companion rescue in the event of an avalanche
- An awareness of snow shelters appropriate for emergency situations

Someone who has these skills and those listed in the High Alpine Skills Course is considered a **NZAC Advanced Mountaineer** and is likely to have the skills and ability to travel on glaciated Mount Cook Grade 3 Terrain

*Course outcomes may vary dependant on participant ability and course conditions. This is a guideline, individuals must assess their own ability after a course.