



2020 Sample Itinerary Climbing & Conservation: The American West

Sept. 20 Students arrive at Denver International Airport by 2 pm, drive to Leadville, CO

Sept. 20 – 22 Program Orientation: Leadville, CO

Sept. 23 – Oct. 4 Wilderness Backpacking in the Sawatch Range, Colorado

The semester begins with a 10-day backpacking trip deep in the Rocky Mountains. While travelling over rugged terrain, the group builds a base of wilderness travel skills. At an alpine climbing area, students new to the sport practice basic climbing skills, while those with previous experience face new climbing challenges in a remote and beautiful setting. Students navigate complex topography, cook robust meals on a backpacking stove, develop their leadership through real-world decision-making, all while unifying as a group as they imagine the many adventures that lie ahead of them.

Oct. 5 – 12 Introduction to Sport Climbing in Rifle, CO.

Rifle, CO is home to some of the best limestone sport climbing in the US. Here, students start to settle into the routine of base-camping, cooking on double burner stoves with food kept fresh in coolers. Days are spent traveling to different crags around the area to begin a sport-climbing progression. From learning the fundamentals of climbing movement, lead climbing, building anchors, and rappelling, students develop a strong foundation that will help them progress through the more advanced climbing techniques to come. Students will also examine how this “mountain park” has been developed to promote recreation and has emerged as an international attraction in this small mountain community.

Oct. 13 – 20 Utah Climbing Part 1, Basic Trad Climbing in Moab, Utah.

Students will build on their basic climbing progression here by learning a new form of climbing---“trad climbing” or traditional climbing. Students will also be introduced to current issues regarding public land management in the area and begin working on a trail-building project with Trailmix, a local conservation group.

Oct. 21 – Oct. 28 Utah Climbing Part 2, Crack climbing in Indian Creek

Students then transition to a camp in the world-class climbing destination of Indian Creek. For the week, students learn the art of crack climbing. Set within the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument, this area is also home to amazingly unique natural and cultural history. Students will have ample time to explore this area and discuss the national controversy surrounding management of Bears Ears.



Oct. 29- Nov 4 Canyoneering in Jacob's Chair, Bears Ears National Monument

Students travel deeper into Bears Ears National Monument to put their evolving rope management skills to the test by learning about the sport of canyoneering. Students will get to travel into some of the Southwest's most beautiful and remote slot canyons by rappelling into them.

Nov. 4 – 11 Utah Climbing Part 3, Desert Towers in Castle Valley

The final section of their time in Utah is focused on combining all the technical skills students have developed to climb the many desert towers that define climbing in the area. Days are spent in small teams attempting to summit a tower or working on other climbing goals at the various cliffs in the area. Continuing the work with Trail Mix trail-building will compliment their time on the rocks.

Nov. 12 – 23 Student-led Sport Climbing in Lime Kiln Canyon, Arizona

From Moab we will travel to just outside of Mesquite, Nevada to climb the outstanding limestone in Lime Kiln Canyon. In this canyon students will get the opportunity to hone their leadership skills by taking charge of the climbing plans for the day. With options to focus their sport climbing craft on a variety of single- and multi-pitch routes, this stunning landscape will give students the options to accomplish their individual and group climbing goals.

Nov. 24 – Dec. 6 Student-led Trad/Sport Climbing in Cochise Stronghold, Arizona

In the dramatic rock formations of the Cochise Stronghold, students will continue to take ownership of their rock climbing experience by designing and implementing the daily itinerary. Students will be able to choose from sport, traditional, and multi-pitch climbing objectives in this region and work together to support each other in meeting their climbing goals and solidifying their technical skills. In addition to exploring the diverse climbing of Cochise, students will also learn about its diverse and complex cultural landscape as ancestral lands of the Chiricahua Apache and its proximity to the border with Mexico. While here students will also complete a 24-36 hour solo, and write their Full Circle, a reflection of what this semester has meant for them.

Dec. 7 Course closing and transference: Phoenix, AZ.

This final day is spent celebrating the community and providing closure for the course.

Dec. 8 Course concludes in Phoenix, AZ. HMI will provide transportation on this day to the Phoenix Sky Harbor International airport; please review additional travel information below.

Please note that this is a sample itinerary. The dates and locations are subject to change.



2020 Climbing & Conservation: Updated Travel Information

ARRIVAL:

You should plan to arrive at Denver International Airport (DIA) before 2pm on the day your course starts.

Enrolled students will receive an email with additional guidance on recommended precautions for COVID-19 before and during travel to HMI several weeks before the course begins.

Driving

If you choose to be dropped off at DIA, you should plan to arrive at DIA sometime between 10 am and 2 pm.

Some students may drive directly to HMI's campus. If you choose to do this, please plan to arrive between 4pm and 6pm. Please note that we have strict guidelines for visitors on HMI's campus as part of our COVID operation plan.

A further note on student vehicles:

HMI has limited space for students to store their cars. If you plan to leave a car on HMI's campus, please notify us as soon as possible. HMI cannot be held responsible for any damage to your personal vehicle while you are on course. Additionally, we cannot permit students to use their personal vehicles for any reason once the course has begun. While there may be a few opportunities to access items stored in your vehicle, you should plan to keep everything you will need for the semester with you for the course. **Finally, you will need to arrange transportation back to HMI's campus after the course has ended to pick up your vehicle.**

Flying

If you choose to fly, we will be glad to meet you at the **Denver International Airport (DEN)**. We will be meeting flights that are scheduled to arrive between **10 AM and 2 PM only** on the day your course starts. From the airport, we'll load the van and drive to HMI.

The Denver International Airport consists of three separate concourses and the main terminal. All concourses are serviced by an easy-access, underground rail system that takes passengers from their arriving concourse to the terminal. The train is free and departs every 2 minutes. The train trip from the furthest concourse (Concourse C) to the terminal takes approximately 5 minutes.

When you get off the plane, follow signs to the train that will take you to the Main Terminal and Baggage Claim. Exit the train at the terminal, and take the escalator up one flight to the atrium of the terminal. This is the Ground Transportation and Baggage Claim level. HMI Gap faculty members will be waiting for you in the center of the Great Hall with signs and wearing HMI clothing. From there, we will help you gather your baggage (please meet us **before** looking for your luggage).



If you cannot arrive at Denver International between 10 AM and 2 PM, you may need to arrange for ground transportation to our orientation site. (Please contact HMI for more information).

Important Information to Have with You

You will want to carry a calling card number or a cell phone and a few telephone numbers with you on the day you travel:

High Mountain Institute office	719-486-8200 (press 0 to get the faculty on duty)
Denver International Airport Information	303-342-2000
Denver International Airport paging	303-342-2300

If you are having trouble finding the HMI faculty at the airport, please call the High Mountain Institute office first before trying anything else.

COURSE CONCLUSION:

You should arrange to depart the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport after 2pm on the day your course concludes.