WELCOME TO IRWIN GUIDES

IN THE LATE 1970’S Irwin Lodge opened as a snowcat skiing oasis in the Elk Mountains above the abandoned mining town of Irwin, Colorado. Receiving almost double the annual snowfall of nearby Crested Butte, Irwin seemed the ideal location to escape the crowded ski resorts and return to pure powder skiing.

In the early 1990’s, a Swiss Mountain guide began a backcountry guide service in Crested Butte, Colorado. He brought with him the prestige of the International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations (IFMGA), which set the bar for professional mountain guides emerging from Crested Butte. Through the years the guide service grew into a year round operation, called Crested Butte Mountain Guides, offering guided experiences in Colorado and beyond. In 2013 Irwin Guides combined the snowcat skiing operation with the backcountry guide service and expanded into global venues. Irwin Guides currently offers adventures every month of the year in four states, nine countries and on five continents.

The American Mountain Guides Association (AMGA) is the training and certification organization for mountain guides in the United States. It was developed by early pioneers of mountain craft and is internationally recognized by the IFMGA. Irwin Guides is proud to continue on the path of professionally trained and certified guides with several fully IFMGA licensed guides, AMGA Certified Ski Guides, AMGA Single Pitch Rock Instructors and many others working through the AMGA/IFMGA training program. Currently, Irwin Guides’ snowcat skiing operation is the only guided mechanized ski company to hold AMGA Accreditation in the United States.

In addition to guided operations Crested Butte, Colorado has gained notoriety as a premiere location for avalanche education. The American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) was born here; and today Irwin Guides carries the torch. We provide 13 different avalanche courses throughout the winter, taught by our AIARE certified avalanche course instructors. Combined with easy access to world class backcountry ski terrain, Irwin Guides is proud to offer some of best avalanche education in the country.
AT IRWIN GUIDES, we want people to lead happier, more fulfilled lives with stronger bonds between family and friends, a deeper connection to nature and enhanced skills to pursue their own outdoor passions. We create custom designed guided experiences that leave our guests touched by profound moments of accomplishment in spectacular natural environments. We hire the best and most qualified people in the industry – passionate, great human beings – to be with our clients in the field and at every step before getting there.

IRWINGUIDES.COM  INFO@IRWINGUIDES.COM  970.349.5430

THE KEY

Average Trip Size

Where to Fly

Weather

Ability Level

All of our trips can be customized to suit any group size and needs. The Ability Level category is designed to give you a general idea of what to expect on your trip.

= Beginner

= Intermediate

= Advanced

Marked locations offer enhanced accommodations with our partner company Eleven. ELEVENEXPERIENCE.COM
Summer in the Alps offers everything from trekking over stunning mountain passes to climbing the highest peaks in Europe. Climb “The Big Three”: Mont Blanc, the Matterhorn or the Eiger; experience the birthplace of alpinism in Chamonix or Zermatt, explore off the beaten track in the Vanoise National Park, hike the Tour du Mont Blanc or have a mixed adventure of via ferrata, rock climbing, mountaineering, and trekking. Whatever Alps adventure you dream up, Irwin Guides has got you covered.
Skiing in Europe is like nothing else. Huge vertical relief, incredible views and mountain refuges create an unparalleled experience. Irwin Guides offers heli-skiing in Italy, ski mountaineering and steep skiing off the legendary Aiguille du Midi in Chamonix, off-piste and touring in the Tarentaise Valley and classic hut-to-hut tours such as the famed Haute Route from Chamonix to Zermatt, the Ortler traverse in Italy or the Berner Oberland in Switzerland.
Japan is the next level of exotic ski locales. Experience light and deep powder, while enjoying the welcoming hospitality, unique cuisine and onsens (natural hot springs) on the northern island of Hokkaido. Irwin Guides offers all-inclusive, week long off-piste ski trips to Niseko, as well as touring based weeks in the Diasetsuzan National Park.

THE EXPERIENCE
- DEEP POWDER SKIING
- OFF-PISTE & LIFT SERVED
- BACKCOUNTRY TOURING
- HOT SPRINGS
- SNOW FESTIVAL

4-10 People
Sapporo, Japan
Cold and wintery

TO

Photo Andrew Burr
The Troll Peninsula of Northern Iceland holds a lifetime’s worth of ski descents, with over 1,500 square miles of skiable terrain and runs leading directly down to the Arctic Ocean. Easy helicopter access and long daylight hours allow us to rack up the vertical. Experience the northern lights or the midnight sun, hot springs, and unique cuisine on the trip of a lifetime near the Arctic Circle.

THE EXPERIENCE
HELICOPTER SKIING TO THE OCEAN
WIDE OPEN SPACES
ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGES
HOT SPRINGS
INTRIGUING CULTURE

4-12 People
Akureyri, Iceland
Spring skiing

TO
Want to ski like you’re in the movies? Valdez, Alaska offers easy access to rugged peaks, couloirs and glaciers easily accessed from Thompson Pass. Human powered ascents or helicopter-assisted access will get you deep into the mountains and onto glaciers where endless untracked descents await.

3-6 People
Valdez, Alaska
Wintery to spring skiing

THE EXPERIENCE
SKI MOUNTAINEERING
EPIC DESCENTS
HUMAN POWERED & HELI ASSISTED DESCENTS
The Cordillera Real is Bolivia’s foremost climbing region with eight peaks rising above 6,000m. Experience high altitude mountaineering in a wild, remote and culturally beautiful location. Two weeks allows plenty of time to acclimatize while climbing many of the surrounding peaks such as the Pyramid Grande and Pequeno Alpamayo before the ultimate ascent of Huayna Potosi at almost 20,000 feet!

THE EXPERIENCE
HIGH ALTITUDE MOUNTAINEERING
BEAUTIFUL ALPINE PEAKS
INTRIGUING CULTURE
Climb the highest peak in Africa, with the aid of local porters and guides, to see the famed “snows of Kilimanjaro” before they disappear. Combine this non-technical high altitude ascent with a once-in-a-lifetime safari expedition for the ultimate African experience.
Whether you are just getting started, taking it to the next level, or are ready to go big, Crested Butte and the surrounding Colorado Rockies are the definition of a winter wonderland. Phenomenal snow, breathtaking scenery, world-class ice climbing and 12,000 - 14,000 foot peaks for climbing and skiing are just scratching the surface of what is possible here. Let us show you our back yard.

THE EXPERIENCE
BACKCOUNTRY SKIING & RIDING
HUT TRIPS & SNOWCAT SKIING
AVALANCHE EDUCATION
ICE CLIMBING
MOUNTAINEERING
XC SKIING & SNOWSHOEING
Choose your own adventure! Summer in the Colorado Rocky Mountains is a giant playground with something to suit everyone and every skill level. Bag a peak, ride singletrack in the birthplace of mountain biking, hike endless miles in wilderness settings, land a fish in crystal clear mountain streams. All of this and more are within your reach with the expertise and assistance of our knowledgeable and experienced guides. Experience the Rocky Mountain High.
UTAH & NEVADA

THE EXPERIENCE
SPLITTER SANDSTONE CRACKS
CLASSIC DESERT TOWERS
WORLD CLASS MULTI-PITCH

Take it to the next level on the desert sandstone surrounding Moab, Utah or right outside Las Vegas, Nevada. This region is known for sunny days, cool nights and moderate temperatures in the fall and spring. Splitter cracks and epic multi-pitch sandstone await, with world class climbing just minutes from the famous Las Vegas strip. Every October Irwin Guides hosts an annual Desert Rock Camp.

2-4 People
Grand Junction or Las Vegas
Warm

OCTOBER
Mexico’s highest volcano offers a great introduction to high altitude mountaineering while allowing you to experience the rich culture of local mountain villages. This week long trip allows for additional ascents of nearby La Malinche or Iztaccihuatl peaks for acclimatization.

THE EXPERIENCE
HIGH ALPINE MOUNTAINEERING
RICH MOUNTAIN CULTURE

3-8 People
Mexico City, Mexico
Warm valleys to winter peaks

Mexico
NOVEMBER

Photo Braden Gunem
SPEND EVERY MINUTE IN THE MOUNTAINS

Adventure shouldn’t be scripted. The trips listed within are meant to ignite your adventurous spirit. All of our activities are custom tailored to suit your desires, and can happen anywhere in the world, at any time. Let us build you the experience of a lifetime.