



## Mountain Climbing at Logan Pass



Logan Pass is unique in that it gives visitors easy access to the subalpine and alpine environments. These areas contain special plants and plant communities that can easily be damaged by trampling. The boardwalk from the visitor center to the moraine at the foot of Clements Mountain was constructed to confine impacts and halt the process of plant loss and soil erosion that were occurring from trampling. Visitors are required to stay on the boardwalk.

However, special consideration has been given to climbers so they may cross portions of the meadows for climbs in the vicinity. Park managers have route maps and descriptions to direct climbers to more resilient approaches that avoid areas with rare or sensitive plants or easily damaged plant communities. Be considerate and careful while traveling on the approved access routes so the current use of the area will not result in resource impacts and future use will not be further restricted.

While snow makes a protective travel surface early in the year, emerging islands of vegetation are saturated with moisture and particularly vulnerable to trampling. An area closure is implemented each summer to protect this vegetation. When in effect, this closure does not effect the Oberlin and Reynolds routes noted on the back. Signs are posted at Logan Pass to indicate closed areas.

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### Off-trail Travel

Off-trail recreational users need to be aware of the sensitivity of higher elevation plant communities to trampling, specifically in the Logan Pass area. It can also be applied parkwide to similar elevations. All plant communities respond differently to the frequency of trampling, but damage to plants can begin with only a few trappings. Rare or particularly sensitive plants occur in all communities.

The best way to travel off-trail is over rock or snow, in small groups. Where possible avoid moist areas with plants growing. In dry areas it is advisable to spread out so as not to create a trail and spread out trampling. Where paths or goat trails exist, these would be preferable to starting a new route.

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### Before You Go

Inquire at ranger stations for climbing conditions and area closures. You are strongly encouraged to voluntarily register the itinerary of your climb. If you do, please check back in at the nearest ranger station or visitor center on your return. Search and rescue efforts will not be initiated as a result of a climber failing to check back in. A rescue effort will begin only after positive information has been received indicating that a person is overdue.

Be properly equipped and technically qualified in all respects for the particular climb. Prepare for unplanned and unexpected situations. Snow and extreme weather is possible every month of the year in Glacier. You will not be screened for your abilities by National Park Service personnel, although they will be happy to assist you in planning your climb. Keep climbing groups small (4-6 is ideal) for safety and environmental concerns.

## Climbing Route Descriptions

**OBERLIN ROUTE:** Access to Mount Oberlin, north and east face of Clements Mountain.

- A** Leave the northern paved switchback at the Logan Pass Visitor Center at the farthest point from the building, crossing the metal railing onto a distinct trail.
- B** After continuing along this trail to the water tank, follow the fainter trail northward (to the right).
- C** The trail fades near the water intake. You will cross the creek and continue up through a rocky open area. The trail/route then goes away from the creek to the right into the trees. Stay away from the trail (which is being rehabilitated) that goes along the creek through the upper basin.
- D** Once you leave the creek drainage, you follow rock cairns through the meadows to the ramp that leads to the ridge between Oberlin and Clements.
- E** After reaching the bench, walk through the krummholz forest to the meadow and head NW toward the near ridge of Oberlin through the dry meadows.
- F** Angle upward above the lowest major, red cliff band.
- G** Cut westward up a ramp through the cliff band, just before the krummholz forest ends on the east side of Oberlin.
- H** Continue along the grassy bench at a gradual incline upward.
- I** After passing through a small krummholz forest, you will reach a moist open area, in front of the south scree face of Oberlin. The main goat trail to the ridge is clearly visible beyond. Avoid this moist area; a sensitive plant is found here. Detour to the right above the krummholz for 30 yards and join the goat trail just beyond a small creek coming from the right. Stay off of the scree slope on the face of Mount Oberlin. To prevent resource damage and impacts, the route intentionally avoids the scree slope.
- J** Follow the goat trail to the ridge.
- K** From this point on the ridge the best route up Oberlin is to the north and good access to Clements is evident to the south.

**REYNOLDS ROUTE:** Access to Reynolds Mountain and beyond.

- A** After following the Hidden Lake Trail almost to Hidden Lake Pass you will reach a tarn (small lake) at the bottom of a small hill. Cross the wooden bridge and climb the trail gradually to where you are abreast of a second higher tarn (which may be dry late in the year). From this spot (Point A), head south, off trail, across the dry ledges at the foot of the upper tarn.
- B** Look for the opening in the krummholz (stunted, wind-blown trees) here, with a large rock that makes a good step. This is the beginning of the access route that leads to the approach to Reynolds Mountain.

