Northlight Tours - Safety plan

Glacier hike (sample)

English · EN rev. 2 (revision id gl-en-2) · fictitious company

What changed in this revision: Updated equipment checklist (section 3): sun protection, spare gloves, insulated jacket, headlamp in autumn, second crampon check.

About this sample: Northlight Tours is a fictitious company. This plan was written for the IcePlans demo to show how revisions and languages are kept together. It has not been reviewed by a safety professional or an authority. Fields in [brackets] can only be completed by a real operator. Do not use this document for any real tour.

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0. Scope

- Activity: guided walk on a glacier tongue, about half a day, on a route chosen by the guide on the day.
- Group size and guide-to-guest ratio: [to be filled in by the operator].
- Minimum age and fitness requirements: [to be filled in by the operator].
- Guide qualifications: [to be filled in by the operator].

1. Risk assessment

Likelihood and consequence are rated low / medium / high before measures. The operator must review every rating for the real route.

1.1 Crevasses (open or hidden by snow)

- Likelihood: medium. Consequence: high (fall into a crevasse, serious injury).
- Measures: the guide checks the route on the day; guests walk in the track of the guide; no one leaves the route; rope is used where the guide decides it is needed; the guide carries crevasse-rescue equipment [list — to be confirmed by the operator].

1.2 Sudden change of weather (wind, fog, rain, temperature drop)

- Likelihood: high. Consequence: medium to high (disorientation, cold, delayed return).
- Measures: forecast checked before departure [forecast source — to be filled in by the operator]; weather turnaround rule (section 4); spare clothing and emergency shelter carried by the guide.

1.3 Hypothermia and cold injury

- Likelihood: medium. Consequence: high.
- Measures: clothing check at the meeting point; guests without suitable clothing do not start; the guide watches for shivering, confusion and slow pace; warm drink and insulation from the ice are carried.

1.4 Slips, trips and falls on ice

- Likelihood: high. Consequence: low to medium (sprains, cuts, fractures).
- Measures: crampons fitted and checked by the guide; short briefing on walking technique; poles; slower pace on slopes and on hard ice.

1.5 Meltwater streams and channels at the glacier edge

- Likelihood: medium. Consequence: high (being swept away, falling into a channel).
- Measures: no crossing of meltwater channels except at points chosen by the guide; keep away from channel edges and holes in the ice; water flow is usually higher later in the day, so crossings are planned early.

2. Emergency plan

2.1 Contact chain

- 1. The guide on site makes the area safe, gives first aid within their training and keeps the injured guest warm and insulated from the ice.
- 2. The guide calls [Emergency number for the area — to be filled in by the operator], then [Operator emergency phone — to be filled in by the operator].
- 3. The operator duty person informs [Responsible manager — to be filled in by the operator] and, if needed, the next of kin listed in the booking.

2.2 Meeting point

The car park at the glacier trailhead (sample location). [Exact location and directions — to be filled in by the operator].

2.3 Evacuation

- The group is never split without a guide. With two guides, one stays with the injured guest and one leads the group back on the known route.
- Evacuation route and transport from the ice: [to be filled in by the operator].
- Head count at the meeting point before and after the tour.

2.4 Communication

- The guide carries [Primary communication device — to be filled in by the operator] and [Backup communication device — to be filled in by the operator].
- Check-in with the office at [check-in times and points — to be filled in by the operator]. If a check-in is missed, the office starts the contact chain.

3. Equipment checklist (updated in rev. 2)

- Guests bring: waterproof jacket and trousers, warm mid-layer, insulated jacket (added in rev. 2), hat, two pairs of gloves (spare pair added in rev. 2), sturdy boots, sunglasses and sun protection (added in rev. 2), water and a snack.
- Provided by the operator: crampons, helmet, harness, walking poles.
- Guide carries: first-aid kit, emergency shelter, spare warm clothing, headlamps in autumn (added in rev. 2), [rescue and rope kit list — to be confirmed by the operator].
- Crampons are checked by the guide at the meeting point AND again at the edge of the ice (second check added in rev. 2).

4. Weather turnaround rule

The guide turns the group back if wind, visibility or rain make the route unsafe in the judgement of the guide. [Turnaround criteria — to be filled in by the operator].

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5. Revision history of this document

- EN rev. 1: Base version for the first season.
- EN rev. 2: Updated equipment checklist (section 3): sun protection, spare gloves, insulated jacket, headlamp in autumn, second crampon check.

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