



# Expeditions

## Aconcagua extension (after Ojos del Salado) 6962m



### **EXPEDITION OVERVIEW**

Having climbed Ojos del Salado we will be acclimatised to the altitude and be ready to make a faster ascent of Aconcagua than those starting from Mendoza. We avoid the normal and somewhat busier route from the Horcones valley and opt for the more remote and exciting approach up the Vacas Valley. Mules will be used to support the trek into the base camp. We take the False Polish traverse using Camp 3 Guanacos & Camp Colera joining the Normal Route for the final summit day. Our itinerary has a good number of spare climbing days giving the best chance of summiting one of the continental Seven Summits. The team will have use of radios whilst on the hill.

### **Participation Statement**

Adventure Peaks recognises that climbing, hill walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

### **Adventure Travel – Accuracy of Itinerary**

Although it is our intention to operate this itinerary as printed, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of flight schedules, climatic conditions, limitations of infrastructure or other operational factors. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops and the duration of the day may vary from those outlined. You should be aware that some events are beyond our control and we would ask for your patience.

## ACONCAGUA EXTENSION ITINERARY

**Day 16 Mendoza** Fly to Mendoza, transfer to hotel and obtain climbing permits before enjoying the remainder of the day in this vibrant city.

**Day 17** Today we travel overland into the mountains and to Penitentes, a drive of about four hours. Here you organise your loads and mules for the trip. **Hostel, Penitentes (H,B)**

**Day 18** The trek into Base Camp at Plaza Argentinas starts today with a short drive to Punta de Vacas. Mules will carry all of your gear so you can enjoy the walk without heavy loads. The walk on the first day is reasonably easy although very hot and dusty and takes you through green desert valley scenery enclosed between the steep mountains of the Andes. Trekking up the west side of the Rio de las Vacas to your camp at Pampa de Lenas (2800m) is approximately 5 to 6 hours. The Park Ranger will examine the permits and issue rubbish bags, which will be checked again at the end of the expedition to ensure all garbage is removed from the mountain. **Camp, Pampa de Lenas. (C,B,L,D)**

**Day 19** In the past the day would normally have started with a cold river crossing of the Rio de las Vacas but now a bridge is available. You then continue trekking up the Rio de las Vacas to our camp at Casa de Piedra (3250m), a journey of about 6 hours. From here you will get superb evening views of Aconcagua. **Casa de Piedra. (C,B,L,D)**

**Day 20** We start the day with a river crossing to enter the Relinchos valley, initially a steep narrow canyon. It may be necessary to cross the stream a few times before coming out into the much broader hanging valley and the Base Camp at Plaza Argentinas (4200m). The campsite will be in the moraine that provides a convenient windbreak and good views of the route ahead. **Base Camp, Plaza Argentinas. (C,B,L,D)**

**Day 21 Move to camp 1** Preparation morning before moving to camp 1 (approx. 3-4hrs) **(C,B,L,D)**.

**Day 22 Climb to Camp 3 Guanacos** Camp 3 is situated on a platform 500m below the old summit day traverse from Camp 2. Spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. Porters assist with group gear. **(C,B,L,D)**

**Day 23 Move to Camp Colera**, our launching platform for the summit bid. When the team are ready to make their summit attempt we will move up to Camp Colera ready to make the summit attempt the following day (5970m) **(C,B,L,D)**.

**Days 24 to 26** The team has three days in which to reach the summit leaving spare time in case of bad weather, however the summit will be attempted on the first day of good weather. **Camp Colera. (C,B,L,D)**.

*The Route: An hour before first light we will start our ascent joining the normal route at just over 6000m before*

*white rocks. From here we ascend up to the old ruined Independencia hut 6450m. At the sheltered area of the hut we usually have a short break before starting the long and steady traverse from where the ground slopes dramatically all the way down to the large settlement of colourful tents which form the 'normal route' Base Camp, you enter the 'Canaletta', a large gully leading down from the summit ridge, which gives the most strenuous walking. A good snow coverage provides a better grip for crampons but if warm weather has melted this then the rocky terrain makes for more difficult footing. From here the group follows the summit ridge with its superb views of the south face for about 30 minutes until the last few steep steps leading onto the summit. A long day (6 to 8 hours ascent and 2 to 3 hours descent) but worth the effort for some stupendous 360° views and the pleasure of sitting on the highest peak in the Southern hemisphere.*

**Day 27** We return to Plaza Argentinas Base Camp. **Camp. (C,B,L,D)**

**Days 28 and 29** Trek back to the roadhead via Pampa de Lenas and transfer to Mendoza **(C/H,B,L,D day 28)**

**Days 30 and 31** Return international flight

*Extra hotel nights. Please note we include one hotel night in Mendoza at the start and one at the end. Should the expedition finish early, clients are responsible for the cost of any extra hotel nights.*

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## INFORMATION (additional to that on the Ojos del Salado dossier)

### WEATHER CONDITIONS

As for Ojos del Salado but be prepared for stronger winds.

### HEALTH

There is a doctor at Aconcagua base-camp who will perform a basic medical check before your climb, including blood pressure, O<sub>2</sub> saturation and heart-rate.

### VISAS AND PERMITS

**Aconcagua Climbing Permits** are obtained in Mendoza and must be paid for in cash (approx \$945 as of 2014/15 season). Please note that prices do often increase and we have no control over this. We recommend you take US dollars with you which our agent can assist in changing to Argentine pesos.

### CURRENCY

The currency in Argentina is the Argentine peso. Foreign currency can be exchanged at most banks.

### TIPPING

Allow in the region of \$100 USD for tips. The average in town tip is generally 10%. For exceptional service you may wish to consider a higher amount.