

Mt Sidley 4285m

- A stunning Mountain in an extreme environment
- Antarctica at its very best, a white wilderness



EXPEDITION OVERVIEW

Perhaps THE most remote mountain the world (sorry, but also one of THE most expensive to climb) **Impressive and exceptionally remote; Mount Sidley is to be found in one of Antarctica's least travelled corners of its polar ice sheet, making it a truly special place to visit.** To date there have been very few ascents of this - Antarctica's highest volcano. **It is one of the Volcanic 'Seven Summits' highest volcanoes on each continent.** One side of the mountains forms a huge caldera crater with a diameter of 5 km, with its internal walls forming a sheer one kilometre high cliff of ice. On the other side there are blue ice slopes that rise gently to the crater rim giving access to its summit. Sidley's spectacular remote setting is a 'must do' for adventurous mountaineers in search of one of the most remote and unique places on earth! It is advisable to book at least 6-9months in advance

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.

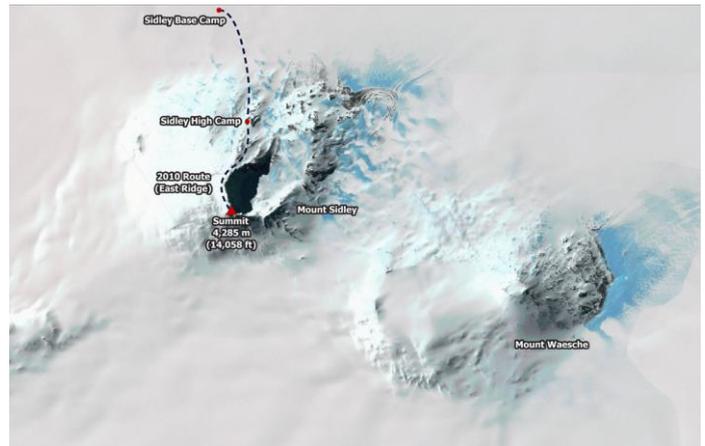
OUTLINE ITINERARY

KEY to inclusions (C-Camping, B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner/evening meal)

Day 1 Arrive in Punta Arenas and transfer to your hotel. **H,B.**

Day 2 Spare day in case of delays or lost baggage. Free time to ensure you have all the supplies you need and to explore Punta Arenas. **H,B.**

Day 3 Expedition briefing, final preparations and equipment checks with information on our flight arrangements, the current weather and what to expect on your arrival in Antarctica to ensure nothing has been missed. We talk through our/Antarctica's environmental policy and how we can ensure this pristine environment is maintained. The rest of the day is free to explore the city. **H,B.**



Day 8-12

There are a variety of possible ascent routes from the easy slopes on the North side to a steeper route up the west ridge via Bennett Saddle. The final choice will be made by the team and your guide. The climb from base camp to the summit involves about 2250m of ascent.

From base camp carrying our gear between rucksacks and pulks/sleds, we ascend alpine style via two camps. Although the glacier is never steep, these can be tough days due to hard 'sastrugi' (wind scoured snow flutings) and mushroom formations. The team may ski to the lower camp and then on foot with crampons, will be roped together as should be the case on any glacial terrain. On arrival at camp we build snow walls to protect us from the wind, the snow is easily sawn into blocks and folk quite often become quite creative during down time as sculptures start to form! A toilet area is created so that contamination is kept to a minimum and all removable waste can be taken off the mountain (yes, including human waste that quickly freezes). **(C,B,L,D)**



Day 4 Flight to Union Glacier

If the weather conditions in both Punta Arenas and the Union Glacier permit, we fly by a Russian jet powered Ilyushin-76 aircraft over Tierra del Fuego and out across Drake's Passage, towards the frozen lands of Antarctica. This is a five hour flight and there will be an opportunity to visit the flight deck for some incredible views. On arrival on Union Glacier we erect our tents and enjoy a good meal. **(C,B,L,D)**

Day 5-6 Acclimatisation on nearby peaks and final preparations **(C,B,L,D)**

Day 7 If we have not flown the previous day, we fly by Ski aircraft to Mt Sidley, a flight of about 550miles (885kms). This is situated on the far west of Antarctica in the Executive Committee Range. During the flight you will begin to get an understanding of the vast remoteness of Mt Sidley After unloading the aircraft, we establish camp and rearrange our loads ready for the journey ahead. **(C,B,L,D)**



On Summit Day we follow the summit ridge along the rim of the caldera that forms the summit ridge. There are

extraordinary snow formations and snow mushrooms that are formed by damp air blowing in from the coast being lifted to altitude then freezing into weird formations against any obstacles. Reaching the top you look out to the vastness of Antarctica across the 3 mile (5 km) wide caldera and sheer walled amphitheatre, created by an explosive eruption 4.7 million years ago. In descent we retrace our steps back to BC. (C,B,L,D)

Day 13-14 Return to base camp

If the weather has been kind we can use up our spare days can be used for an optional ascent of Mount Waesche or other satellite peaks (C,B,L,D)

Day 15 Return to Union Glacier Camp

Fly back to Union glacier to celebrate our achievements.

Day 16 Weather permitting the Ilusion will arrive to take us back to the warmth of Punta Arenas.

(Hotel will be arranged for you – to pay locally).

(Hotel will be arranged for you – to pay locally).

Days 17 This is the first possible date for your return International flights to depart Punta Arenas. **However, due to the nature of flights on and off Antarctica we strongly advice you book your alterable international return flight for four days later than the planned departure date from Antarctica. It is easier to bring them forward on arrival into Punta Arenas than trying to change them whilst on the ice!**

Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but it is subject to weather. Flight delays can be expected so please don't schedule any important meeting directly after your planned return date, this is Antarctica! **Flexible international flight tickets should be purchased.**



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE/FITNESS

The technical difficulty of this climb is not high, but it is physically demanding with a need to carry heavy loads up to 20kg combined with good camping skills in a harsh environment (training can be given, please enquire about our winter or Arctic alpine training). The trip is ideally suited to mountaineers who have experience of Alpine PD+ routes and previous experience of altitude to at least 4000m. Basic alpine skills including glacier travel and crevasse rescue will be needed.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The climate is strongly influenced by the high pressure of the polar ice cap, giving quite stable conditions but, as in any mountain environment, high winds and snowfall can effect progress. During the climbing season (Antarctica's summer!), November to the end of January, you will have 24 hours of daylight with average temperatures of -30°C combined with intense sunshine: a unique combination.

CATERING ARRANGEMENTS

We use a combination of fresh produce which remains frozen and lighter weight specialist foods for high on the mountain. Packed lunch items include a variety of snacks: chocolate, muesli bars, nuts, dried fruit, cheese, salami, etc. A tent is used as a cook/communal tent which is cosy, sociable and quite comfortable.

USEFUL TIPS

Just in case your main luggage goes missing en route, it is a good idea to wear your boots on the plane. Most other things can be replaced but comfortable, well worn-in boots cannot.

EQUIPMENT

A detailed equipment list is provided on booking. Specialist items such as sleeping bags, boots and down jackets can be hired or purchased with 15% discount.



BAGGAGE

For your own comfort and enjoyment travel light with good quality warm clothing. Normally airlines restrict baggage to 23kg, but you will be wearing boots and one set of arctic clothes. Some items can be left at the hotel for your return. We provide you with an Adventure Peaks kit bag.

VISAS AND PERMITS No Visa required for UK, EU or US citizens. Passports must be valid for at least six months after the end date of the trip.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT

We have a well staffed full time office open seven days per week that can provide on-going technical advice and guidance during the build up to your expedition.

IMPORTANT – The small print

Please note, flights to and from Antarctica can be delayed due to the weather. Please buy a flexible ticket, be patient and bring a good book to read. Our logistics company have stipulated that your travel insurance needs to cover

you for at least 14 days after your anticipated return date from Antarctica. 3 Hotel nights on a twin room basis in Punta Arenas are included in the cost of the expedition, these are usually at the start of your trip. Additional nights including when you arrive back in Punta Arenas from Antarctica, must be paid for directly. The agent will help arrange this accommodation for you.

MISSED INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

We suggest you purchase a fully flexible air ticket to allow for bad weather. It is best to book your return at least five days later than your planned return to Punta Arenas and then bring it forward rather than trying to delay it from central Antarctica in the freezing cold! Adventure Peaks cannot be held liable for any missed international flights.

EXTENSIONS SKI LAST DEGREE to the South Pole

Adventure Peaks offers the opportunity for climbers with some skiing experience to ski the last degree to the South Pole (from the 89th degree to the 90th degree). We fly out to the 89th degree on a ski equipped Twin Otter to start our 70 mile journey across the wind scoured ice in an effort to reach the Geographical South Pole. The trip takes about ten days. Very few people have completed such a journey to this southern most tip of the world. This journey can be done independently or in combination with Mt. Vinson. Please request full information sheet.



EXTENSION Mount Vinson

You can combine the Ascent of Mt Sidley with Mt Vinson (or Vice Versa). The supplement is in the region of \$24,000 (£17,500).



WHAT IS INCLUDED

- 3 Nights hotel Accommodation in Punta Arenas
- Expedition Briefing in Punta Arenas
- Round Trip to Antarctica from Punta Arenas
- flights within Antarctica as shown in the itinerary
- Meals and accommodation while on Antarctica
- Expedition Guides
- Baggage on Antarctica from Punta Arenas 25kg
- All Group expedition Equipment
- Pre Expedition Support and Guidance
- Adventure Peaks Kit Bag

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- Personal Equipment and Clothing but can be rented
- Expenses associated with an expedition being delayed or finishing early
- Insurance
- Satellite Phone usage