



## 19 DAY ACONCAGUA CLIMB

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**Trip Duration:** 19 days

**Trip Difficulty:** 

**Destination:** Argentina

**Begins in:** Mendoza

**Activities:** 



### INCLUDED

- Airport transfers
- Ground transportation
- Accommodations
- All meals during expedition (excluding Mendoza)
- Expert guides and porters

### EXCLUDED

- Airfare
- Park entrance fee (\$800 per person)
- Meals in Mendoza
- Beverages
- Tips

## Ultimate Expeditions®

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Ultimate Expeditions® was born out of our need for movement, our connection with nature, and our passion for adventure.

**We Know Travel.** Our staff has traveled extensively to 40-50 countries each and have more than 10 years of experience organizing and leading adventures in all corners of the globe through the world's most unique, remote, beautiful and exhilarating places. We want to share these destinations with you.

**Why Ultimate Expeditions®?** We provide high quality service without the inflated cost. Our goal is to work with you to create the ideal itinerary based on your needs, abilities and desires. We can help you plan every aspect of your trip, providing everything you need for an enjoyable experience.

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## 19 DAY ACONCAGUA CLIMB

### Itinerary

#### DAY 1 Arrive Mendoza

Elevation (ft): 2,493 ft

Upon arriving in Mendoza, Argentina our tour operator will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel. After checking in there will be free time to explore the city or relax. In the evening we will have a mandatory climb orientation meeting. Overnight in Mendoza.

#### DAY 2 Mendoza

Elevation (ft): 2,493 ft

After breakfast we will depart from the hotel and head to the permit office to obtain climbing permits for our expedition. With permits secured the rest of the day is free. This is a good time to rent any gear not already packed, i.e. plastic boots, crampons, etc. In the afternoon we will have a climb briefing and meet & greet. Overnight in Mendoza.

#### DAY 3 Drive to Penitentes

Elevation (ft): 2,493 ft to 8,900 ft

Drive Time: 2-3 hours

Today we head west towards Aconcagua. The drive is approximately 4 hours and takes us through beautiful wine country and into the mountains, reaching Los Penitentes, the center of activity for climbers. Here we will make our final our preparations for the expedition. Overnight in Los Penitentes. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

#### DAY 4 Penitentes to Confluencia Camp

Elevation (ft): 8,900 ft to 11,300 ft

Distance: 10 km

Hiking Time: 3-4 hours

After breakfast we transfer to Horcones and sign in with the park service and then make our way into the heart of the Andes as we ascend the gentle, winding trail of the Vacas Valley. Once at camp the remainder of the day is free, this is a good opportunity to rest and allow our bodies to acclimate. Overnight Confluencia Camp. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

#### DAY 5 Confluencia Camp to Plaza Francia

Elevation (ft): 11,300 ft to 13,287 ft

Distance: 14 km

Hiking Time: 6-7 hours

We make our way to Plaza Francia, base camp of the imposing Aconcagua South Wall. This section of the expedition offers breathtaking views of Aconcagua. Once at camp we will prepare for the next day of our trek which will be a long one. Overnight Plaza Francia. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

#### DAY 6 Plaza Francia to Plaza de Mulas

Elevation (ft): 13,287 ft to 14,500 ft

Distance: 22 km

Hiking Time: 8-9 hours

With an early start, we begin our long trek towards Plaza de Mulas. The trail follows the Valley de Los Horcones along rocky terrain as we slowly climb gaining altitude throughout the day. Lunch will be on the trail at Refugio Ibanez an unused campsite. After approximately 12 miles we will reach Plaza de Mulas. Overnight Plaza de Mulas. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



**DAY 7 Plaza de Mulas – Acclimatization Day**

Elevation (ft): 14,500 ft

Today is a rest and acclimatization day at Plaza de Mulas. We'll soak up the views and rest while enjoying more creative meals prepared in the dining tent. Overnight Plaza de Mulas. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

**DAY 8 Plaza de Mulas to Cerro Bonete to Plaza de Mulas**

Elevation (ft): 14,500 ft to 16,417 ft

Distance: 9 km

Hiking Time: 5-6 hours

On this second day of rest we will ascend Bonete Peak for additional acclimatization. From camp the trail leads up into the hanging valley below Bonete Peak, switchbacks climb up a broad, scree slope to the summit. This is an out and back hike and offers outstanding views Aconcagua and prepares our bodies to climb higher in the coming days. Overnight Plaza de Mulas. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

**DAY 9 Plaza de Mulas to Camp Canada to Plaza de Mulas**

Elevation (ft): 14,500 ft to 16,568 ft

Distance: 6 km

Hiking Time: 5-6 hours

We climb up past Camp Canada and progress to a higher elevation to further acclimatize and return to Plaza de Mulas for the night. Overnight – Plaza de Mulas. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

**DAY 10 Plaza de Mulas - Acclimatization day**

Elevation (ft): 14,500 ft

Today is a dedicated rest day where we will spend one last night in Plaza de Mulas before our summit push. We encourage a day hike for those who are feeling strong. All meals will be in the dining tent. Overnight – Plaza de Mulas. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

**DAY 11 Plaza de Mula to Camp Canada**

Elevation (ft): 14,500 ft to 16,568 ft

Distance: 6 km

Hiking Time: 3-4 hours

After breakfast we climb up the scree slopes to the pinnacles surrounding the flat outcrop of Camp Canada. The trail is well-defined yet steep and winds up to our camp for the night. The remainder of the day will be spent preparing for the next. Overnight Camp Canada. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

**DAY 12 Camp Canada to Nido de Condores**

Elevation (ft): 16,568 ft to 18,241 ft

Distance: 3 km

Hiking Time: 4-5 hours

We make our way up the switchbacks before making it to Nido de Condores. Camp for the night is an area made up of rocky peaks and unusual shapes which provide shelter from the strong blowing winds. To the south the view is of the "Gran Acarreo," (the huge scree) and reveals the famous Canaleta Couloirs and the summit of Aconcagua. Overnight Nido de Condores Camp. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

**DAY 13 Nido de Condores to Camp Berlin**

Elevation (ft): 18,241 ft to 19,455 ft

Distance: 4 km

Hiking Time: 4-5 hours

Today's hike is a short distance but altitude will influence breathing, making travel slow. With every turn the northern view becomes more stunning. This will be our last high altitude camp before attempting to summit. Overnight Camp Berlin. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

**DAY 14 Camp Berlin to Aconcagua Summit to Camp Berlin**

Elevation (ft): 19,455 ft to 22,841 ft

Hiking Time: 10-13 hours

Summit day begins around 4-5 am in the morning. As we climb the Northwest ridge we pass the highest refuge in the world, Refugia Independencia which sits at approximately 21,400 feet. We continue climbing up and to the right, crossing the Cresta del Viento (windy crest). We traverse the upper part of the Gran Acarreo which leads to the Canaleta, an 800-foot couloir that leads to the summit ridge. Finally, the Guanaco Ridge offers an easy traverse to the summit where an aluminum cross marks the highest point in the Western Hemisphere. The panoramic views of the Andes Mountains, consist of several 20,000 foot peaks, including Mercedario, another of the highest peaks in South America. To the west is Chile and the Pacific Ocean and to the east are the plains of Argentina. Overnight Camp Berlin. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

**DAY 15 & 16 Spare weather days**

These days are extra in case of bad weather. Overnight Camp Berlin. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

**Day 17 Camp Berlin to Plaza de Mulas**

Elevation (ft): 19,455 ft to 14,500 ft

Distance: 25 km

Hiking Time: 3-7 hours

We descend roughly 5,000 feet from Camp Berlin to Plaza de Mulas through the Horcones Valley. Once at camp we will enjoy a celebratory dinner, a hot shower and rest before we make our way back to Penitentes. Overnight Plaza de Mulas. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

**Day 18 Return to Mendoza**

Anyone who wishes to hike the remaining 25 km back down the mountain will depart at 8:30 am with a guide and will meet the party back at the trailhead around 3:30 pm. Alternatively, you can take a 30 minute helicopter ride that departs around 3:00 pm and drops you off at the trailhead. Overnight in Mendoza. (Breakfast, Lunch)

**Day 19 Depart**

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be transferred to the airport for flights back home. (Breakfast) DAY 1 El Calafate to El Chaltén

The day begins with a transfer from El Calafate to El Chaltén, a tiny outpost next to Los Glaciares National Park which lies at the foot of the breathtaking Mount Fitz Roy. Our route takes us across remote dirt roads passing through

open pampas along the northern side of the picturesque Lago Viedma. As we drive, we watch the granite fin of Mt. Fitz Roy rise up behind the turquoise waters of the lakes. Once at our hotel we are free to relax and enjoy the evening. Overnight Hosteria Senderos

## ARGENTINA

### Best Time to Visit

Argentina offers a diverse climate from subtropical in the north to sub-Antarctic in the far south. However, the majority of central Argentina enjoys a moderate climate with hot, humid summers and cool, dry winters and experiences two peak seasons, the summer January and February and the ski season in July. Travelers and costs generally go up during these high seasons but much of the country can be enjoyed from December through March. If planning an Aconcagua Climb, the best time to visit is late November through late February, when weather conditions are favorable. Argentina is located in the Southern Hemisphere and seasons here are opposite of the Northern.

#### Temperature

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Average High (F)	84	77	79	72	66	61
Average Low (F)	68	66	64	59	52	46

  

Month	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average High (F)	59	63	66	72	77	82
Average Low (F)	46	50	52	57	61	64

### Entry Requirements

No visas required for Argentina. A passport valid for six months after date of entry is required.

### Vaccinations

Hepatitis A and Typhoid immunizations are recommended for all travelers. For those traveling to more remote areas: Yellow Fever rarely acquired in Argentina, but immunization should be considered for travel throughout the province of Misiones and portions of Corrientes.

Immunization is also recommended for travelers visiting Iguazú Falls. Rabies — Risk is limited to the Salta and Jujuy provinces.

Dengue presents significant risk in urban and rural areas of northern and northeastern Argentina. Lower risk also exists in the city of Buenos Aires; however, transmission does not occur during the cool winter months of July through September. Dengue is a mosquito-borne illness that is becoming more frequent in tropical and equatorial climates around the world. There are no specific treatments for Dengue and vaccines are still in the developmental phase.



Preventing mosquito bites is the most important way to prevent these illnesses. For further information, please consult the [CDC's Dengue Virus Website](#).

### Travel Advisories

Make two photocopies of valuables such as your passport, tickets, visas and travelers' cheques. Keep one copy with you in a separate place to the original and leave another copy with someone at home.

Be sure to inform your credit card company as well as your bank you will travel internationally into South America. This will eliminate any credit card holds for fraudulent activity.

### Currency

Carrying cash or traveler's check, also a credit card that can be used for cash advances in case of emergency is advisable. However, only use your credit card if you have no other option, exchange rates and surcharges are not favorable. The best places to exchange money are normally bureau de change, which are fast, have longer hours and often give slightly better rates than banks. Local currency is Argentine Peso (ARS), and it is advised to carry hard notes of USD.

### Government

The government of Argentina is a presidential representative democratic republic. The President of Argentina is both head of state and head of government.

### Religion

78% Roman Catholic, 12% Evangelist, 12% agnostic, 4% atheist, Protestant 2%, Jewish 2%, 1.5% Muslim.