



At 6961 meters above sea level, 22,841 feet Aconcagua is the highest peak in the world outside Asia. The summit of Aconcagua is the very rooftop of the Western Hemisphere and is the premier peak of the Andes not only because of its altitude, but also because of its massive size and dominate profile towering above the South American continent only 80 miles from the Pacific Ocean.

From our base in the lovely city of Mendoza at the heart of Argentina's wine country, we travel to the mountain resort town of Punta Del Inca near the Chilean border. Our choice of climbing routes on Aconcagua is the Harcones Valley, or Normal Route. With stunning views of the imposing South Face, one of the great mountain walls on earth above us we approach Plaza de Mulas, one of the world's best know international climbing camps. From here the climbing to Aconcagua upper reaches is direct and efficient. We will take proper time for acclimatization and leave our supplies and options in place as we watch for optimal weather to attempt the summit from the lofty Berlin Camp at 19,000 feet above sea level.

Aconcagua is perhaps the most underestimated mountain in the world. Each year the vast majority of people who go there do not reach the top. Yet BAI teams consistently do reach the top. With proper equipment, support and planning we find Aconcagua to be one of the most beautiful and rewarding expedition climbs in the world.

Itinerary:

January 10 / 11 - Day 1 / 2 – Flight to Mendoza, Argentina. Transfer to your hotel, the Park Hyatt Hotel. Orientation meeting; gear check.

January 12 / Day 3 - In the morning we will go to the Ministry of Tourism in order to obtain the permit to climb Aconcagua.

Later in the afternoon we will drive (3-4 hours) by vehicle to Penitentes, which is at 8,500 feet (2,600 metres).

January 13 / Day 4 - Today we will hike around the area for acclimatization, we might go as high as 10,500 feet. Overnight in Penitentes at Hotel Ayelen.

January 14 / Day 5 - Hike to Confluencia, 11,000 feet (3368m) where we will camp. Our gear will be transported on mules.

January 15 / Day 6 - Acclimatization day.

January 16 / Day 7 - Day trek and hike to Plaza de Mulas Superior (Mule Square), at 13,800 feet (4200m). This will be our basecamp.

January 17 - Days 8 - Rest day at Plaza de Mulas.

January 18 - Days 9 - Extra acclimatization day at Plaza de Mulas.

January 19 - Day 10 - Ascent to Plaza Canada, where we will spend the next 2 nights

January 20 - Day 11 - Ascent to the Nido de Condores (Condors' Nest) camp, at 18,000 feet (5500m), where we will stash our high-mountain equipment before going back down to Plaza Canada for the night.

January 21 - Day 12 - Climb up to Nido de Condores, where we will spend the next 2 nights.

January 22 - Day 13 - Acclimatization day.

January 23 / Day 14 - Climb to Berlin High Camp, at 19,700 feet (6000m).

January 24 - Day 15 - Summit day. We will have a long day to the top of Aconcagua, at 22,841 feet (6962 m). After reaching the summit, we will descend to Berlin Camp for the night.

January 25/26 - Days 16-17 - Alternative summit days, or descent to basecamp.

January 27 - Day 18 - Rest day in Plaza de Mulas.

January 28 - Day 19 - Hike down to Puente del Inca, where we will transfer back to Mendoza to our hotel for a last night. Overnight at the hotel Park Hyatt, Mendoza.

January 29 / Day 20 – Return flights to your home country.

January 30 / Day 21 – Arrival in your home country

Extra days are added to the itinerary in case of bad weather; if the team is doing well and we are lucky with the weather; we might be able to finish the trip a few days earlier.

Training:

Ideally, you will begin training for your trip at least two months before departure. Strength is important to your success, but you should specifically focus on endurance. Walking hills and climbing stairs is perhaps the best preparation. Start slowly, and gradually increase the time and distance. Also, you can start adding weight to a backpack to increase the workload and prepare for your trip.

Hike four to six hours once or twice a week with a pack weighing 40 to 60 lbs. Hike uphill whenever possible. A good idea is to weigh your pack with water that you can dump out before you begin your descent to reduce pressure on your knees.

Cardio sports like running, fast walking, swimming, cycling, soccer and basketball are also great for aerobic training. If possible, try to complete two or three 6 to 10 hour hikes that climb in the vicinity of 3,000 feet before you leave for your trip.

Weather:

Weather is always a factor on ascents of Aconcagua, as it is on any big mountain. High winds on Aconcagua demand the team does excellent work in putting in camps as it works its way up the mountain. These are classic expedition style peak ascents. Regardless of whether you use porters or not, the stages between camps are long and demanding. During the expedition you will gain valuable experience about dressing properly and dealing with strenuous situations. You should be prepared for a wide range of weather conditions, from snow and heavy winds to intense heat from the sun at high altitude. We will provide a gear list that will help make sure you have everything you need.

Trip cost:

US\$4,800

Deposit: US\$500

Remaining balance of US\$4,300 is due 3 months prior to the trip.

Land costs include:

- ❑ All transportation and accommodation in Argentina (double occupancy)
- ❑ All group climbing and cooking gear for the climbs
- ❑ All meals in the mountains
- ❑ Guides (including North American guide)
- ❑ Porters for the group gear
- ❑ Cook during the expedition

Land costs do not include:

- ❑ International round-trip airfares
- ❑ All park fees and climbing permits for participants
- ❑ Additional hotels, meals and transportation should the climb end early
- ❑ All expenses for early departure from team (such as non-scheduled mule transport)
- ❑ Unscheduled airport shuttles
- ❑ Meals and hotels outside the regular itinerary
- ❑ Personal gear
- ❑ Single-room supplement for hotels
- ❑ Medical/Evacuation trip insurance
- ❑ Charges incurred as a result of delays beyond the control of Berg Adventures International
- ❑ Tips and gratuities
- ❑ Bottled drinks and Alcohol
- ❑ Personal porters