

ACONCAGUA SUMMIT CLIMB

Ascend Aconcagua, America's highest mountain, via the lesser-travelled Vacas Valley route, in this 18-day itinerary designed to maximise acclimatisation time.



Day 0 **Depart UK**

Day 01 **Mendoza – Altitude: 760 mts**

HB

Our expedition starts in Mendoza, Argentina. Our ground handler will be waiting for you at the airport and will transfer you to a hotel in the city. A group meeting will follow, during which you will be introduced to your guides and team members. Overnight hotel.

Day 02 **Mendoza / Penitentes – Altitude: 2700 mts.**

HB

We will obtain individual entrance and ascent permits. You will be personally assisted in this procedure. After this we travel to Villa de Penitentes, where we stay at a Hotel in the mountain. There we get the equipment ready for transportation to the base camp by mule.

Your Financial Protection

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

Day 03 Penitentes / Pampa de Leñas – Altitude: 2950 mts. FBA



We drive to Punta de Vacas, Aconcagua Park Entrance, where our permits will be checked. Then, we head off to Pampa de Leñas by walking 4 or 5 hours, starting the 3 day approach trek to base camp.

Overnight Camping.

Day 04 Pampa de Leñas / Casa de Piedra – Altitude: 3240 mts. FBA

On this day, we advance towards an intermediate camp, passing through the Quebrada de Vacas, for 6 to 7 hours. Here we will be able to see the first sight of the Western Face of the Aconcagua.

Day 05 Casa de Piedra to Plaza Argentina – Altitude: 4.200 mts. FBA

We start trekking for 5 to 6 hours, ascending the Relicho steep slope, which takes us to Inferior Plaza Argentina. Here we will be able to see the last native vegetation before climbing towards the glaciers, where Plaza Argentina is situated.

Day 06 Rest day at Plaza Argentina – Altitude: 4.200 mts. FBA

At Plaza de Argentina we rest spent the day acclimatizing. This is a good opportunity to get to know the Camp, take a shower and explore the area. Late afternoon we get together with the guide, do a medical check-up, reorganize and review the equipment, and prepare the loads for transportation the next day.

Day 07 Carry equipment and food to Camp 1 – Altitude: 5000 mts. FBA

Today is spent transporting equipment to Camp 1, before returning to Plaza Argentina, with our packs lighter.

During the load transportation to Camp 1, we reach a level of 5000m, providing good acclimatisation.



Day 08 Ascent from Base Camp to Camp 1 – Altitude: 5000 mts. FBA

We start the ascent to Camp 1 taking the first part of the Polish Route. After a 5 to 6 hour walk on easy terrain we arrive at Camp 1 (5000 mts). We collect the load that we

brought the day before, assemble the camp, and then divide the equipment that we will be carrying the following day.

Day 09 Carry equipment to Camp 2 – Altitude: 5.500 mts. FBA



We continue with our gradual acclimatization to altitude. During the load transportation to high camp 2, we reach a level of 5500 mts. This is a hard day, with about 6 hours of walking, though mostly on easy terrain. After lunch, we return to Camp 1, where we overnight.

Day 10 Rest day at Camp 1 – Altitude: 5.000 mts. FBA

Today is set aside to rest and acclimatise. Overnight at Camp 1.

Day 11 Ascent to Camp 2 – Altitude: 5500 mts. FBA

We start the ascent from Camp 1 to Camp 2, where we collect the load that we brought two days before, using the Ameghino Traverse Route. Here we rest and have dinner.

Day 12 Carry equipment and food to Camp 3 – Altitude: 6000 mts. FBA

We carry food and fuel to Camp 3, 'Colera', before returning to Camp 2 to rest. The ascent to Camp 3 takes approx. 4 hours.

Day 13 Ascent to Camp 3 "Colera" – Altitude: 6000 mts. FBA

We return to Camp 3 via the less-travelled Upper Guanaco's Valley Route. The camp is placed at the same altitude as the Berlin refuge (from the Normal Route), strategically situated where there is shelter from the wind.

Day 14 Summit day – Altitude: 6962 mts. FBA

Today is summit day, the most demanding day of the expedition. We use the last part of the Normal Route, climbing the North Ridge to Independencia Refuge at approximately 6,500 mts. We ascend through the "Portezuelo del Viento", climb "La Canaleta", and pass through the "Filo del Guanaco", before reaching the summit. On a clear day, the views from the summit



are stunning. We descend to Camp 3.

Days 15/16 Spare days in case of bad weather conditions. FBA

These extra days are set aside in our itinerary in case of poor weather conditions, providing the best possible chances of each participant reaching the summit.

Day 17 Descend to Plaza de Mulas Base Camp. FBA

Return from Camp 3 to Plaza de Mulas Base Camp, the largest camp in Aconcagua. We'll enjoy a large dinner to celebrate the experience.

Day 18 Return from base camp to Penitentes and back to Mendoza. FBA

We have breakfast and then start the descent from Plaza de Mulas to Penitentes. There is a private transport waiting for us to take us to the hotel in Mendoza City where we enjoy a celebratory dinner.

Day 19 Mendoza FBA

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be transferred to Mendoza airport for your return flight home.