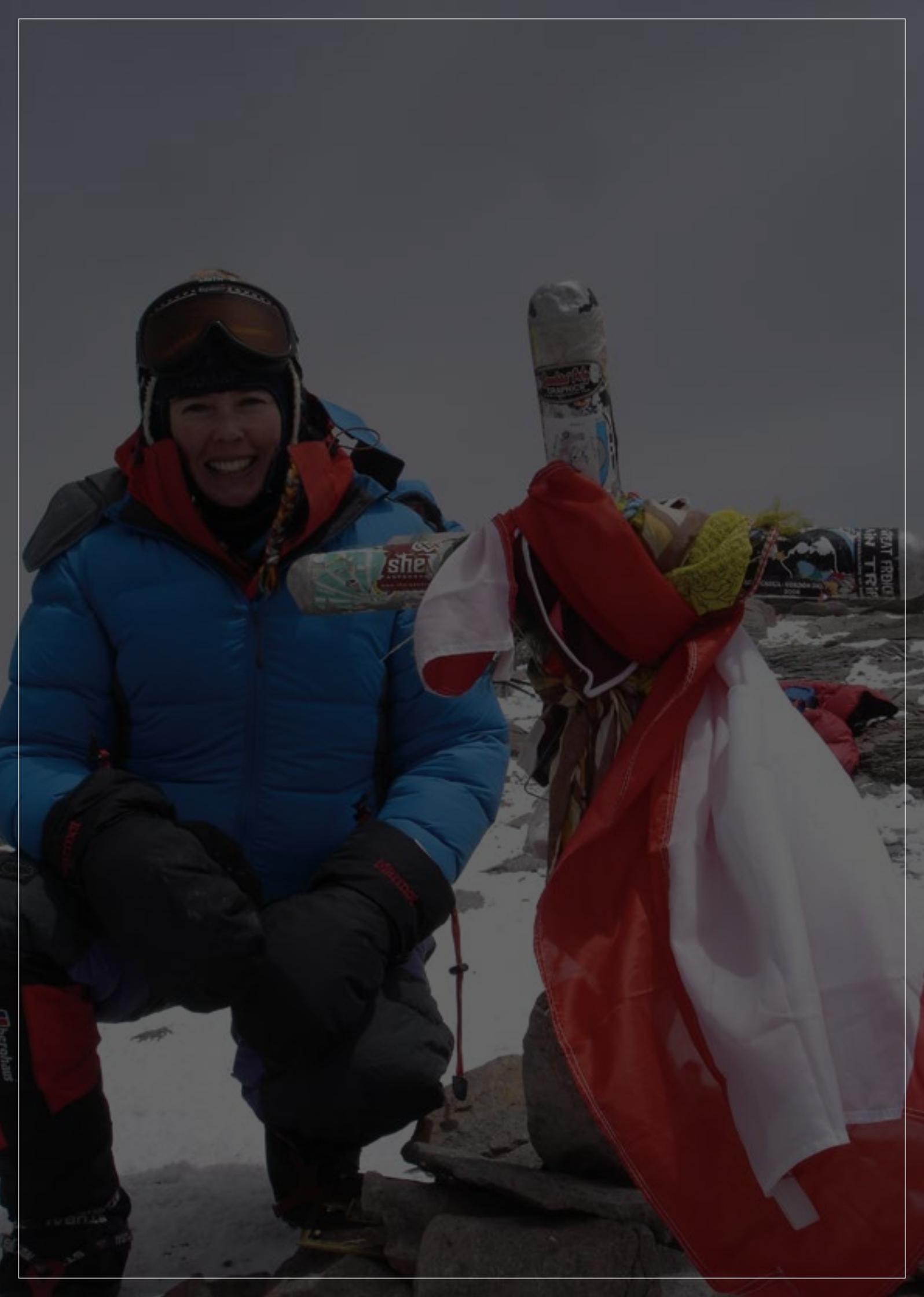




ACONCAGUA ADD ON TO MOUNT VINSON



2020/21 EXPEDITION TRIP NOTES





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2020/21 EXPEDITION ADD ON DETAILS

Dates: Trip 1: December 10–28, 2020
Trip 2: December 21, 2020 to January 8, 2021
Trip 3: January 1–19, 2021
Trip 4: January 12–30, 2021
Trip 5: January 23 to February 10, 2021

Duration: 19 days

Departure: ex Punta Arenas, Chile

Price: US\$15,400 for 1:1 guide to climber ratio

▲ Climbers approach Camp Colera. Photo: Suze Kelly

This expedition to Aconcagua (6,962m/22,841ft) is run immediately after any of our scheduled Mount Vinson expeditions in the 2019/20 season, with the support of pre-acclimatised guides. After all, you have already acclimatised to 4,892m/16,050ft on Mount Vinson yourself, and since you have travelled all that way why not make use of those advantages and tackle another of the Seven Summits while you are there?

This expedition utilises helicopter access into the expedition base camp to reduce the approach time so you can get directly into the climbing once you arrive. It is likely you will complete the ascent in a short timeframe if the weather is conducive, but we have included an additional week of contingency time into the program to maximise the opportunity for success.

HISTORY

The earliest historical link to Aconcagua comes from the discovery of 15th century Incan remains on its slopes at an altitude of 5,300m/17,400ft, although it is believed that the Incas climbed significantly higher than this on the mountain.

In 1887, Swiss guide Matthias Zurbriggen climbed the long scree slopes on the north-western side of

Aconcagua alone after his companions turned back with altitude sickness and was credited as the first person to summit. Zurbriggen was already famous in Switzerland and New Zealand, where he had made numerous first ascents as well as the second ascent of Aoraki Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain.

The Polish Glacier was the second route to be pioneered on Aconcagua. The 1934 Polish Andes Expedition accomplished this first ascent in alpine style, a climb far ahead of its time.

HOW THE EXPEDITION OPERATES

We will depart Punta Arenas two days after your return from Antarctica. We travel to the Argentine city of Mendoza that is famous for its tree-lined avenues, beautiful tiled plazas, Malbec, parrilla



▲ Climbers make their way above Base Camp. Photo: Ezequiel Casares

grills, lively markets and outdoor cafés with vibrant Latin rhythms.

The following morning, we arrange our climbing permit then travel by coach 180km/110 miles to the town of Penitentes at 2,720m/8,920ft. From here we take a helicopter to Plaza de Mulas Base Camp. We will make this ascent from the shorter Plaza de Mulas aspect at the head of the Horcones Valley.

Upon arriving at Plaza de Mulas Base Camp (4,300m/14,100ft), we utilise a mess tent to enjoy satisfying catered meals and we will sleep in mountain tents. We begin by carrying and caching equipment to Camp 1, also known as Plaza Canada (5,050m/16,570ft). The route then ascends to Camp 2, known as Nido de Condores (5,550m/18,210ft) and then to our final camp, Camp Colera (6,000m/19,700ft). We employ local porters to help carry group food and fuel, leaving you to only carry your personal gear. The exact climbing itinerary is not fixed to allow for the optimal acclimatisation program and any inclement weather. Aconcagua is higher than Mount Vinson by 2,000m/6,500ft, so we do still need to consider our acclimatisation and some rest days may be required along the route. The Aconcagua Massif is sometimes subject to very cold temperatures and storms that sweep in from the Pacific Ocean that is only 160km/100 miles to the west. Your guide will be working around any forecast weather systems to plan for the best summit program.

The terrain during the majority of the ascent involves un-roped travel over moraine, scree and occasional permanent snowfields where the unique névé penitentes or 'ice towers' will be encountered.

Summit day begins from Camp Colera very early in the morning and it is here we join the normal

route from the Horcones Valley, which meanders up the 'Canaleta' and through to the summit. The ascent is never technical and conditions are varied; some seasons the route is completely free of snow, whereas other years see deep snow on this section so we must be prepared for all eventualities. Aconcagua is known for very cold weather high on the mountain. About 6-10 hours after leaving top camp, we reach the summit and its splendid panoramas. It's only a few hours down to Berlin Camp (5,940m/16,490ft) and a well-earned brew!

Having completed the climb, we now descend in one day to the comfortable Plaza de Mulas Base Camp for a good meal and rest. The following morning we embark on the all-day trek out down the valley and pass through Penitentes, to then return to Mendoza on the same day.

PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE

Climbing to a summit that is almost 7,000m/23,000ft in elevation is an extreme undertaking, even if you have just summited Mount Vinson! The ascent of Aconcagua is a very physically demanding objective that is frequently underestimated due to the incorrect assumption that because the climb is not technically difficult it is not extremely physically challenging.

Climbers on Aconcagua must be prepared to endure an environment that can be potentially life-threatening. You may encounter extreme weather conditions, including cold temperatures and very high winds, as well as the effects of extreme altitude. We suggest all team members prepare themselves physically and mentally for the expedition through a physical training program.



▲ Celebrating on the summit of Aconcagua. Photo: Pablo Gurrieri



▲ Traversing the Canaleta. Photo: Pablo Gurrieri



▲ The rocky slopes of Aconcagua. Photo: Ezequiel Casares

To climb Aconcagua you need to be physically fit, have strong mental stamina and be capable of strenuous exercise for several days duration. Expedition members can expect to exert themselves for about six hours per day (12–14 hours on summit day) and be capable of carrying a 15–20kg/30–45lb pack, although additional porter support is available. To be successful you must train by carrying a heavy pack in mountainous terrain. Summit day is the most physically demanding of the days and entails a 1,100m/3,500ft ascent at altitude.

TRIP DATES

This expedition is run on demand for private climbers or groups following any of our standard Mount Vinson expedition departures.

Mount Vinson Expedition Dates:

- Trip 1: November 23 to December 8, 2020
- Trip 2: December 4–19, 2020
- Trip 3: December 15–30, 2020
- Trip 4: December 26, 2020 to January 10, 2021
- Trip 5: January 6–21, 2021

Aconcagua Add On Dates:

- Trip 1: December 10–28, 2020
- Trip 2: December 21, 2020 to January 8, 2021
- Trip 3: January 1–19, 2021
- Trip 4: January 12–30, 2021
- Trip 5: January 23 to February 10, 2021

ITINERARY

Day 1	Flight to Mendoza, hotel night
Day 2	Obtain Aconcagua permits, drive to Penitentes, hotel night
Day 3	Flight to Base Camp
Day 4	Preparation day at Plaza de Mulas, camp
Day 5	Carry to Camp 1, Plaza Canada, return to Plaza de Mulas, camp
Day 6	Rest day at Base Camp
Day 7	Climb to Camp 1, Plaza Canada, camp
Day 8	Climb to Camp 2, Nido de Condores, camp
Day 9	Climb to Camp Colera
Day 10	Summit day, descend to Berlin Camp



▲ While mostly non-technical snow and rock, the cold and altitude present a challenge! Photo: Ezequiel Casares

Day 11–17	Weather/contingency days
Day 18	Descend to Plaza de Mulas, flight to Horcones and drive to Mendoza, hotel night
Day 19	Depart for home

Many of our expedition members come to us because they have seen us in action on a previous trip and decide to opt for our level of service and proven experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make expeditions safe and successful.

TEAM SIZE

The team will be led by an Adventure Consultants Mountain Guide and have a maximum size of 5 members and 2 guides.

You will find the Adventure Consultants mountain guides companionable and strong expedition leaders with a willingness to see you achieve your goals. The number of guides is determined by the team size.

THE ADVANTAGES OF CLIMBING WITH ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to high altitude expedition climbing. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our climbers the best possible chance of success.

We employ strong and specialised Expedition Leaders and staff, who are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, the best backup and support available. This includes nutritious and ample quantities of food, comfortable Base Camp facilities, reliable communications systems and the necessary medical back up.

FOOD

Our food on the expedition when trekking in and on the mountain is prepared by the guides. When in Base Camp, this is provided by the well-trained Argentine catering team. Please indicate any specific dietary requirements you may have on your application form. For special diets such as vegan and gluten/dairy free, we will call you to discuss your needs and how this will work in the group cooking situation. If your dietary requirements are especially strict, you are advised to bring a sufficient supply of your required food types with you to ensure you are provided for.

VISAS

Generally, entry visas are not required for travellers to Argentina staying less than three months but please check with your travel agent for details according to your nationality. Trekking and climbing permits are a separate matter dealt with by the expedition agent.

NOTE: You will need proof of your evacuation/rescue insurance for the climbing permits to be issued in Mendoza.



▲ Checking in at Plaza de Mulas. Photo: Mark Austin

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Expedition members will be provided with a medical questionnaire and asked to visit their family physician to receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted by our medical adviser and the guides only and is treated with full confidentiality. Advice on immunisations will be provided at this time.

DOCUMENTATION & PHOTOGRAPHS

Expedition members will be requested to provide 3 passport photographs and a copy of their passport biodata page.

EQUIPMENT LIST

Expedition members will be sent a list detailing all necessary clothing and equipment to be procured. We will correspond with you prior to the trip to answer your queries and ensure you have met all the equipment requirements. Having the correct equipment is key to your performance on summit day and to achieving success.

PORTER SUPPORT

Porter support for group equipment and waste is included in the expedition fee. This means that you will only carry your own personal equipment, usually around 15–20kg/30–45lbs. There is also an option of purchasing additional porter support for all or part of the Aconcagua expedition to assist in carrying personal equipment. For example, some of our climbers elect to have porter support moving between camps, others select this throughout the expedition.

Porters can usually be organised from Base Camp but if you would like to organise this service in advance, please contact our office.

EXPEDITION FEE

The cost of the expedition ex Mendoza, Argentina is US\$15,400 for a single climber. Please contact us for pricing for larger groups.

Climbing permit fees are an additional cost of US\$730 for Trip 1 and US\$950 for all other departures. Permit fees are payable in Argentine Pesos at the National Park Service office in Mendoza prior to departing for Penitentes.



▲ Sunset on Aconcagua from Plaza de Mulas. Photo: Suze Kelly

Permit fees are subject to change and the peso equivalent varies depending on the official exchange rate on the day.

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Adventure Consultants mountain guides
- All expedition organisational requirements
- Airport transfers if arriving on scheduled arrival date
- All land transport within Argentina ex Mendoza
- Helicopter flight from Penitentes to Plaza de Mulas Base Camp and return
- 1 night's accommodation in Mendoza at the start and end of the expedition
- All expedition food once at Base Camp
- Group equipment: ropes, tents, stoves, cookware etc. and all supplies necessary to make a safe and strong bid for the summit
- Equipment transport to Base Camp (maximum 23kg per person)
- Porter support for all group equipment and waste
- Regular written and photo internet dispatches for families and friends to follow your progress

The expedition fee **does not** include the following:

- Personal clothing and equipment
- Climbing permit fee, payable in Mendoza
- Meals and personal expenses in Mendoza
- Additional accommodation in Mendoza beyond the included nights
- Return flights to Mendoza
- Hotel and meals at Penitentes at end of trip if the team elect to stay here rather than return to Mendoza
- Excess equipment over the 23kg per person

- Personal travel insurance/trip cancellation insurance/medical evacuation insurance
- Any costs associated with an early departure from the expedition
- Gratuities to guides and local staff

NOTE: All prices subject to change.

PAYMENT DETAILS

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
42 Willis Street
Spark Central
Wellington
New Zealand

for the account of Adventure Consultants Limited

Account Number: 1000-594771-0000

Account Type: US Dollars

Swift Address: BKNZNZ22

NOTE: All bank transfer charges are for the remitter's account.

We can also accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Amex) plus a 3% credit card fee.

DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of US\$1,000 is payable to secure a place on the expedition.



Happy to be on the summit. Photo: Leonardo Miranda

BALANCE

The balance is payable 90 days prior to the expedition start date.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

An expedition member may then cancel their participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 90 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
- For cancellations made within 89–60 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the balance payment fee.
- For cancellations within 59 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

We strongly recommend you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent if you wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons.

HOW TO JOIN THIS EXPEDITION

If you would like to join our 2020/21 Aconcagua Add On to Vinson Expedition, please contact our office at:

Adventure Consultants Ltd
PO Box 739, 20 Brownston Street
Wanaka, 9343
New Zealand

Phone: +64 3 443 8711

Freephone from North America: +1 866 757 8722

Email: info@adventure.co.nz

Website: www.adventureconsultants.com



▲ Climb Aconcagua and Vinson in one extended expedition. Photo: Pablo Gurrieri



Adventure Consultants is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their 'Revitalise a Village' programmes.

Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA/UIAGM standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.

