

ACONCAGUA

Add-On to VINSON MASSIF

COMBO

2018-2019

TRIP NOTES





Aconcagua Add-On to Vinson Massif Expedition Notes

(19 days)

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This expedition to Aconcagua (6,962m/22,841ft) is run immediately after any of our scheduled Vinson Massif expeditions in the 2018/19 season, with the support of pre-acclimatised guides. After all, you have already acclimatised to 4,892m/16,050ft on Vinson Massif 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.

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 grills, lively markets and outdoor cafes 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 Condors (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 Vinson Massif 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 forecasted weather systems to plan for the best summit program.

The terrain during the majority of the ascent involves climbing un-roped travel over moraine, scree and occasional permanent snowfields where the unique neve 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.

Difficulty of the Climb

Climbing to a summit that is almost 7,000m/23,000ft in elevation is an extreme undertaking even if you have just summited Vinson Massif! 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.

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 be exerting 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 – see below). 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.

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, many of our climbers elect to hire porter support when moving between camps, or just reduce a few kilos to make your own pack weight more reasonable throughout.

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

Itinerary & Dates

Vinson Massif Dates

Trip 1: November 23 - December 8, 2018
Trip 2: December 4 - 19, 2018
Trip 3: December 15 – 30, 2018
Trip 4: December 26, 2018 - January 10, 2019
Trip 5: January 6 - 21, 2019

Aconcagua Add On Dates

December 10 - 28, 2018
December 21, 2018 - January 8, 2019
January 1 - 19, 2019
January 12 - 30, 2019
January 23, 2019 - February 10, 2019

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

The Expedition Fee

This expedition is run on demand for private climbers or groups. **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. 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 trek and 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

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.

The 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 permits to be issued in Mendoza.

Payments

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

**Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
1 Willis Street
Wellington, New Zealand**

For the account of **Adventure Consultants Limited:**

Account #: **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.

Balance

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

Cancellation & Refund Policy

An expedition member may 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.

Team members should take out private insurance if they wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons. This is called Trip Cancellation Insurance and can be obtained from your normal travel agent.

Team Membership

You will find the Adventure Consultants' mountain guides strong and companionable expedition leaders with the capacity and willingness to see you achieve your goals. We will operate on a **maximum size of 5 members and 2 guides**.

Food

Our food on the expedition when trekking in and on the mountain is prepared by the guides

and when in Base Camp 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.

Equipment List

Expedition members will be sent a list detailing all necessary individual clothing and equipment to be provided. 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 on Aconcagua and achieving success.

Medical Examination

Expedition members will be provided with a medical questionnaire and asked to visit their family physician and receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted only by our medical adviser and the guides 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.

The Advantages of Climbing With Us

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 back-up and support available. This includes nutritious and ample quantities of food, comfortable Base Camp facilities, reliable communications systems and the necessary medical back up.

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.

How to Join this Expedition

If you would like to join our Aconcagua Add On to Vinson Expedition please contact us at:

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

Phone +64 3 443 8711

<https://www.adventureconsultants.com/contact-us/>

Email: info@adventure.co.nz

Website: www.adventureconsultants.com



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

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