



Aconcagua Normal Route CME

22,840 ft/6962 mts.

Aconcagua is the highest point on the American continent and the tallest peak in the world outside of Asia. Rising approximately 4,000 ft above its surrounding peaks, Aconcagua, "The Stone Sentinel", dominates the rugged Andean landscape. The ascent to its summit offers spectacular views of the Andes Mountain range.

Aconcagua was first climbed in 1897, up the Northwest side of the mountain by Swiss Mountain Guide Matthias Zurbriggen. This route has become the most popular way to climb the mountain and is known as the Ruta Normal or Normal Route. The extreme altitude, severe winds, and cold temperatures make an ascent by this, or any other route on this mountain, very challenging.

Skill level: Beginner/Intermediate

Location: Aconcagua, Andes Range, Argentina

Length: 19 days

Climber/guide ratio: 3:1

Prerequisites: excellent physical condition





Itinerary

Day 0	Flight to Mendoza. You should arrange your flight to arrive to Santiago or Buenos Aires in the morning and connect to Mendoza the same day.
Day 1	Mendoza. (2,428 ft) We'll be waiting for you at the airport and then we'll drive to the Hotel. After having an introductory meeting and checking gear we'll go out for a welcome dinner in a typical Argentinean restaurant.
Day 2	Mendoza – Penitentes/Uspallata. Early in the morning we'll obtain the mandatory permits and immediately drive to Penitentes or Uspallata (8,860 ft) where we'll arrange the loads for the mules. Night at the Hotel.
Day 3	Penitentes - Confluencia. We'll drive to the entrance of the park and then hike about 3 hours to Confluencia Camp (11,010 ft).
Day 4	Plaza Francia Trek. After a 3–4-hour hike, we'll reach the lookout of the impressive South Face of Aconcagua (13,400 ft). Return to Confluencia camp.
Day 5	Confluencia - Plaza de Mulas. We'll hike for about 6 to 8 hours to Plaza de Mulas base camp (14,300 ft) crossing "Playa Ancha" and then climbing "Cuesta Brava".
Day 6	Plaza de Mulas. Rest day. We'll just relax and enjoy the surrounds.
Day 7	Cerro Bonete. As part of our Acclimatization, we ascend Bonete (16700 ft). 5 to 6 h roundtrip.
Day 8	Plaza de Mulas. Rest day. We'll do a short trek to the Horcones glacier and get some practice on using our crampons.
Day 9	Canada Camp. We'll move to Canada Camp, setting up our tents there, with the help of porters.





Day 10	Nido de Cóndores Camp. It will take us about 5 hours to reach this camp, at 18.200 ft. From here we'll be able to see one of the best sunsets ever!
Day 11	Nido de Cóndores Camp. We'll have a full resting day, getting ready for the next push.
Day 12	Colera Camp. Reaching the highest camp will be our goal this day. After a 3-5 hour hike we'll reach 19,600 ft and get prepared for summit day.
Day 13	Aconcagua summit (22,841 ft). Early in the morning we'll start our summit day. After reaching Independencia shelter at 21,476 ft and crossing the "big traverse" we'll start climbing the groove "Canaleta". After this strenuous section we'll traverse the Guanaco's ridge, which will take us straight to the highest point in the Western hemisphere. 10-13 hours roundtrip.
Day 14/15	Extra days. We include two extra days in case of bad weather or for further acclimatization in high camps (In case it's agreed to use base camps, it has an additional lodging cost).
Day 16	Colera Camp - Plaza de Mulas. We'll wake up late and hike down to base camp, where we'll arrive for lunch. In the evening we'll prepare the mule's loads to go down the day after.
Day 17	Plaza de Mulas - Penitentes. This day we'll put on our hiking shoes again and go all the way down to the Park entrance (5/7 hours) and then to our hotel in Penitentes where we'll spend the night. Optional: Heli flight to the trailhead (15 minutes, skip night in Penitentes, extra night in Mendoza).
Day 18	Penitentes - Mendoza. After breakfast we'll drive to Mendoza and check-in to our hotel. This night we'll get together for the last dinner to celebrate the climb.
Day 19	Flight back Home. Transfer to the airport. End of our services.

Restaurant meals included: day 1 (D), day 2 (L, D), day 17 (D) and day 18 (D).
Hotel includes breakfast.





Included

- Certified Mountain Guides (IFMGA/AAGM/EPGAMT)
- 2 hotel nights in Mendoza
- 2 hotel nights in Penitentes or Uspallata
- Assistance obtaining the permits (permit's fee not included)
- All the meals while in the mountain
- Restaurant - meals in Mendoza and Penitentes (as seen on the Itinerary)
- Camping and cooking gear for the group
- 2 nights full board in Confluencia Camp
- 5 nights full board in Plaza de Mulas basecamp
- Base camp services: dining tent, WC, satellite phone and internet service, hyperbaric chamber, emergency oxygen,
- Mules for gear
- Porters for group gear
- Private ground transportation throughout the trip

Not included

- Plane tickets
- Park Fees (\$900 - must be paid in cash)
- Restaurant meals and those not listed in the itinerary
- Restaurant drinks
- Personal equipment
- Personal Insurance
- Porters for personal gear
- Personal expenses
- Rescue costs and extra expenses caused by abandoning the expedition
- Gratuities
- Bottled water and/or water transportation to high camp if needed

