



Vulkan Maipo (5300m) & Aconcagua (6959m)

Traverse by the „false Poland route“

Date: 3. - 25. january 2009, 23 days

Organisation/Guide: Hermann Berie, UIAGM Mountain Guide



The gorgeous nature of the Andes and their wonderful peaks are one of the most beautiful “Playgrounds” for mountaineers.

A good expedition for starting-up the demanding height mountaineering:

For acclimatisation the technically easy volcano Maipo is on the program. The Laguna Diamante at the foot of the Maipo is a titbit which shouldn't be left out.

Who hasn't ever dreamed of conquering the Aconcagua over a route which is not often chosen?

Not many countries can offer such an amount of different beautiful landscapes as Argentina and Chile. Central parts of Chile and Argentina are still totally inspired by the spirit of Spanish colonisation. The climate with its Mediterranean character enabled natural conditions for growing the famous wines as well as different fruits.

Santiago, the fourth-largest town of Latin America, is a center with charm and hospitality. 4.5 Mio. People live near the sunny beaches of the Pacific Ocean and the omnipresent snow-crowned cordillera. This is the starting point for our trip to the Aconcagua.

Aconcagua, altitude betw. 6969 - 7024 m

On the January 14th 1897, Mathias Zurbriggen, a Swiss guide, was the first person standing alone on top. This is the highest peak of America.

Talking of the "Poland route" means mounting over the east side ice wall, 800 m high and 55 degree steep. But there exists an easier way, without this glacier. From the highest base camp on 5900m, traversing on the normal route and so reaching the summit. This way is called the "false Poland-route" or "polacos falsos".

Each season about 4000 mountaineers are here (about a third on the false Poland route, about 20 - 30 try the way through the glacier ice wall).

Itinerary

1st day January 6th 2007 Flight Zürich – Santiago de Chile.

2nd day Arrival in Santiago. Hotel in the City. Sightseeing Santiago.

3rd day Travel Santiago - Mendoza
With a lot of impressions we move from Santiago to Mendoza, which is already situated in Argentina and lies at the foot of the Andes, it is famous for its wine and Bife de Chorizo...Hotel in Mendoza.

4th day Mendoza - Laguna Diamante (3200m)
After a nice breakfast we leave Mendoza and after about 5 hours travel by car reach the starting-point of our expedition. The wonderful surrounding Laguna Diamante helps us to acclimatize to the remarkable height. The Laguna is famous for its two nature events: The volcano Maipo is reflected in one of the lakes like a diamond. At the same time the two lakes, side, by side are gleaming in a brown and turquoise colour and put a very impressive contrast to the various colour shades of the surrounding. Tents.

- 5th day Ascent to Camp 1 of the Maipo (3800m)
This day will be strenuous, because we walk with tent, sleeping bag, mats, cooking utensils and food to camp 1 at the foot of the Maipo. Supper we prepare by ourselves and at night we sleep in the tents. This is a good preparation for our destination: the Aconcagua. Tents.
- 6th day Camp 2 (4500m)
Without a good acclimatisation, high mountaineering bears great pains, so give your body time! And the chances to reach the summit will increase. This is also the reason for going very slowly. Tents.
- 7th day Climb Vulkan Maipo (5300m)
The way-up is done over snow fields and loose rocks up to 5300m. The crater is at the same time a lake, which is often covered by ice. By good weather the enormous altitude allows a view to the pacific ocean. If our condition allows it, we descend to the base camp, otherwise we go to the camp 2. Tents.
- 8th day Camp 2 (4500 m) - Basecamp (3200 m) - Mendoza
Descending to the base camp and travel to Mendoza. Good Dinner in Mendoza with famous "Lomo and Wine". Night in Hotel.
- 9th day Mendoza - Penitentes
Day for preparation. The personal equipment must be very carefully prepared, because we do not return to the base camp after the traverse and a good planning is necessary. Night in Hostal.
- 10th day - 12th day
Mendoza - Basecamp "Placa Argentina (4200 m)"
By car we reach Punta de Vacas. 3 days are ahead of us, each one with 20 km distance and 2400m upwards to base camp Placa Argentina (4200m). The first 2 days we follow the valley of the Rio de la Vacas. The water is troubled because of sediments and fed from various smaller side rivers. Up to the base camp, we only carry a light back bag for each hiking day. The big rest of the bagage follows by the mules.

Pampas de Lenas (2862m), reached after 4 - 5 hours and Casa de Piedra (3293m) after 5 - 6h. In these camps we are surprised with very excellent menus prepared by our attendants. For the first time we now see our summit as well as the Poland glacier.

On the 3rd day, our way becomes more adventurous: we now cross the Rio de la Vacas. Afterwards our path is steep upwards to base camp Placa Argentina, which we reach after 6 h. Its amazing how the mules master this way. Placa Argentina is a colourful "town of tents", but still of a manageable size, not like the base camp of the standard route. Tents.

- 13th day Transport of material to camp on 5000m. For the night descending to base camp. It is more agreeable than to transport all at once. Afterwards sleeping on 5000 m.
- 14th day Rest day. Gathering our forces for the next days.
- 15th day Base camp 4200 m - Camp 1 (5100 m)
We definitely leave base camp and march over stone dust, snow fields to camp 1. Air becomes thinner but acclimatisation from Volcano Maipo helps.
- 16th day Camp 1 (5100 m) - Camp 2 (5800 m)
Today we have a short distance but at the same time 500 m altitude to manage. We carry the whole baggage and install our camp 2 at the foot of the Poland glacier.
- 17th day Camp 3 (6250 m)
We leave the Poland route and follow the so-called "false polend route" and arrive at Camp 3 (6250 m) by the normal route.
- 18th day "Summit day" 6969 m - Basecamp "Placa de Mulas (4230 m)"
Starting at 4 a.m. following tracks, but without climbing, it goes upwards. The famous "canaleta" is the technically most demanding part of our tour. We arrive on the highest peak of the South American continent the Aconcagua. Descending by the standard route in the north, passing "Nido de Condores" until base camp « Placa de Mulas ». There again, we meet civilisation.
- 19th day Base camp Placa de Mulas
Spare day, or a hike to "Confluencia", in order to shorten the travel to Santiago.

20th day Placa de Mulas - Puente del Inca - Santiago
A long trek lies before us. From Horcones we travel by car to "Puente des Inca". Fortunately the mules again carry our baggage along the Horcones valley. Back by our bus to Santiago de Chile. Night in Hotel.

21th day Departure Santiago - Zurich

22th day 27.01.2007 Arrival Zurich

Requirements

Mules will be hired to carry group gear and food to base camp and members will carry only moderate loads to base camp. The approach takes three days. From here, we'll use standard McKinley tactics of climbing high and sleeping low in our attempt on Aconcagua. Several rest days are included. Following the climb, we'll travel back to Santiago in private vans where the trip will terminate.

This expedition is very strenuous and because of high altitude some risks are involved. The participants must not be super mountaineers but should have some experience in high alpinism. They must be able to master snow, ice and rocks safely and independently.

They must be able to form own rope crews and take the responsibility towards mountain, partnership and tolerance.

A very good fitness is extremely important and is a condition for a successful tour. Each participant who is interested, must begin soon with a consequent and suitable training. I could help to arrange such trainings. It is very important that everyone does know his limits on the mountain and be able and willing, if necessary, to turn back and break-up a trip.

Everyone takes the whole responsibility. I emphasize that during this expedition I stay at disposal for the whole guidance but not for the personal care for each one. But nevertheless each one must be ready to follow the instructions and decisions of the tour manager. These instructions and decisions are made in the interest of the whole group.

I guarantee a careful organisation and handling of the expedition. But nevertheless changes of program may become necessary and must be accepted. I decline all responsibility and liability for accidents or other damages.

Language Spanish (Castellano)

Costs Included

- Economy class return Airfares from Zürich – Santiago - Zürich
- Group Transport to and from Mendoza
- Group Transport Mendoza – Volcan Maipo – Mendoza
- all Group transfers by Bus and Jeep from Santiago, Mendoza and Camps
- National park fees (Volcan Maipo and Aconcagua)
- Permit for summit Aconcagua US \$ 350.00
- Overnights in Doublerooms, Breakfast in Hotels oder Pensionen
- Full board accommodation on the expedition (days on the mountains)
- Accommodation in tents (2 members each)
- Dining- and Showertent
- Mules to and from Placa Argentina und Placa de Mulas des Aconcagua
- All porterage costs
- Group equipment (ropes, first aid kit altiude, technical climbing equipment, basecamp radio)
- Basecamp Team (including Cook, cooking gear, stoves)
- Sightseeing program round Santiago and Mendoza
- Guide fee for Guide Hermann Berie, UIAGM Mountainguide

Costs not included

- Personal Clothing and climbing equipment (boots, packs, sleeping bags and pad, crampons and ice axe)
- Meals while not climbing
- Bar bills and laundry

Price EUR 4'690.- / CHF 7'350.- with 8 - max. 10 members

Booking If you would like to book a place on this expedition, you can do this with our application form attached.

Anmeldeformular

Vulkan Maipo (5300m) & Aconcagua (6969m) January 5 - 27 2007

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Adress: _____

City / State / Country: _____

Date of birth: _____ Nationality: _____

Tel.P: _____ Tel.G: _____

Cell phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

- I understand and accept the general business conditions (AGB).
A cancelation cost insurance is mandatory
- I need a cancelation cost insurance, please send forms
- I give Hermann Berie permission to use the pictures of this tour for commercial use.
- The Aconcagua expedition demands a good physical condition, such as health as well as solid high mountaineering experience. I am informed about the advertised requirements and confirm herewith that I have no heath problems whatsoever. If in doubt I will consult my personal physician. Hermann Berie does not accept any liability due to accidents or illness, with the exception of gross negligence by the mountain guide.

Place and dates: _____

Signature: _____