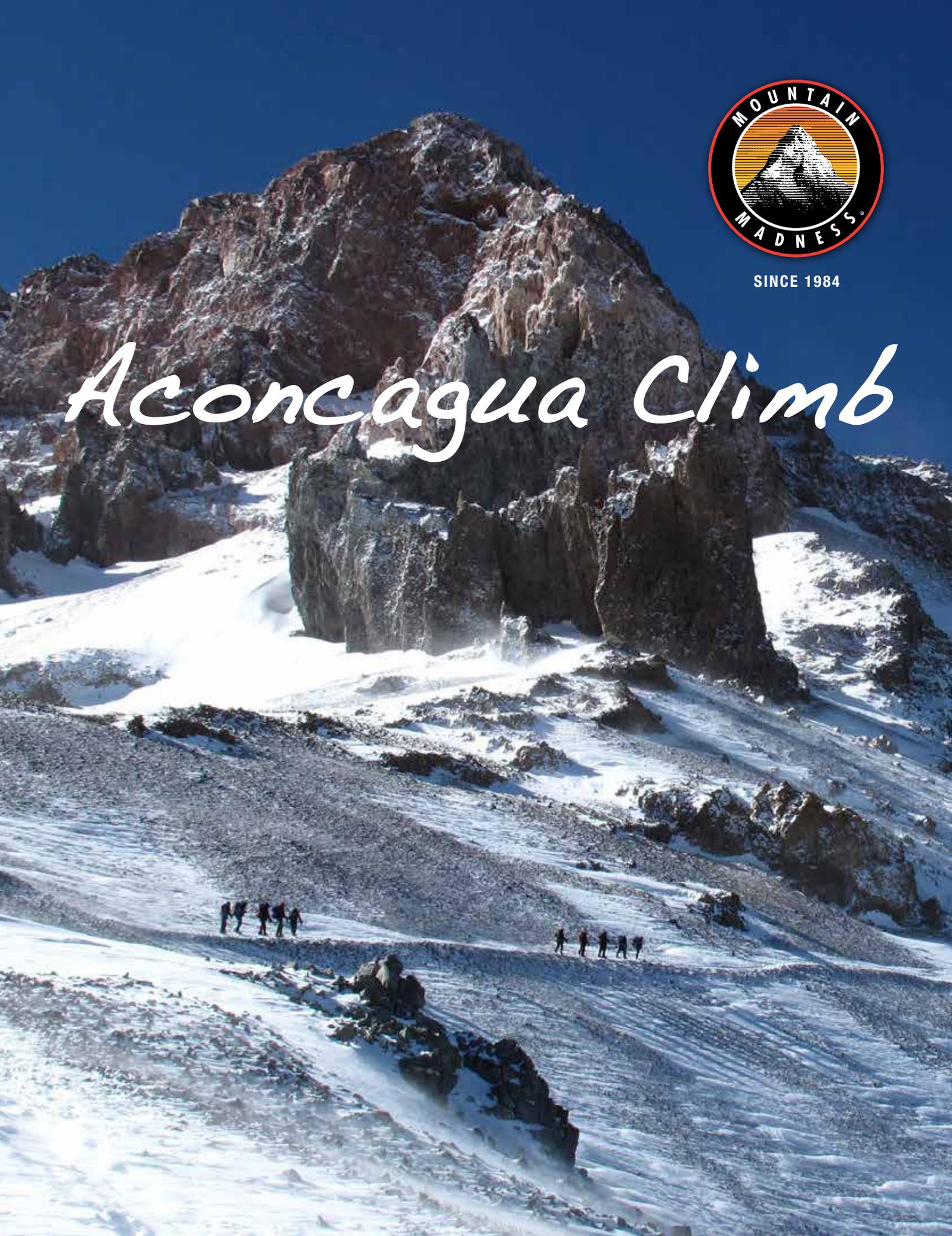




SINCE 1984

# Aconcagua Climb





# Climb Aconcagua with Mountain Madness

Soar with the Condors to the top of South America! As a stepping stone to Everest, completion of a Seven Summits climb, or just a way to challenge yourself in one of the biggest and highest ranges next to the Himalaya, Aconcagua delivers in so many ways. Begin the journey exploring the charming city of Mendoza, which lies in the heart of Argentine wine country. From Mendoza, you will travel through dramatic landscapes with deep valleys surrounded by high peaks as you approach the trailhead. As we move up the mountain, our experienced, personable guides and carefully laid out logistical planning, truly offer the best chance for summit success.



Triumph does not come easy on the mountain. It is the high altitude and potentially extreme weather that challenge the climber ascending Aconcagua's slopes. Our strategy is the key and our design enables proper acclimatization, provides good nutrition, and offers additional services that greatly increase your chance to reach the top.

## The Strategy

All expedition equipment is carried to base camp by mules. From there we follow the philosophy of climb high and sleep low as we establish a series of higher camps. We have built numerous inclement weather days into the schedule to allow more time to attempt the summit climb. We've fine-tuned our mountain menu to provide tasty meals, but also food that is easily digested, appetizing, and provides the calories needed to maintain energy levels. Many years ago we also recognized, the advantage of using porters and made this service available for climbers joining our teams. Now, more than 90% of our clients utilize this service, which not only makes things a bit easier, but also increases success rates.

Most importantly, your guides provide leadership that fosters team building, and supports all working toward a common goal - standing on the summit of the highest point in the Western Hemisphere (22,841feet/6,962 meters!)

## Experience on the mountain

- More than 20 years' experience on Aconcagua.
- Low client to guide ratio
- Excellent base camp service
- Veteran guides with extensive high altitude experience, from Aconcagua to Mount Everest
- Proven acclimatization program
- Knowledgeable office staff with climbing experience on Aconcagua
- Best available equipment, including pulse oximeters, satellite phones, and radios

# Why go with Mountain Madness?



Climbing big mountains, eating amazing food, enjoying great service, and having fun times with wonderful people is what Mountain Madness-style is all about!

## Decades Experience In Argentina and Local Knowledge

Since our first guided expedition over 20 years ago we've been able to tailor our trips to serve both the seasoned climber ticking off their last Seven Summit and the climber going on their first expedition of this magnitude. We've changed itineraries, searched out the best hotels in Mendoza, and used top local resources to ensure the final product, your expedition, is the most amazing, well-supported adventure possible.

Our all-inclusive package combines decades of knowledge with our trademark "Mountain Madness-style" and allows you to focus on the experience rather than the details. From the moment we meet you at the airport to the summit of South America and back, we will make sure all the bases are covered.



## Sheets and Eats

All of the meals served on Mountain Madness trips are included in the price of the trip unless otherwise noted. On the climb we use a combination of the best local and regional fare along with some specialty items brought from the U.S. Many of our guides can be considered "foodies" and will know just how to please your palate. It's no wonder that more than a few have lauded the food choices on Mountain Madness trips.

The lodging during your trip has been carefully selected. These hotels offer all of the amenities you would expect—room service, laundry, wireless internet, etc. They are often close to local points of interest, unique shops and colorful markets, and offer guests a comfortable place to relax in Mendoza before and after the climb.



### Have dietary restrictions?

No problem, we are happy to accommodate your dietary restrictions and/or allergies.



## No Hidden Costs

Mountain Madness eliminates the “hidden costs” associated with many expeditions by offering more services for the same price. We pay for virtually everything from the moment we pick you up at the airport to the end of your trip. If something is not included we let you know so you can accurately plan your budget. Keep your wallet in your pocket!

### Included:

- Three scheduled hotel accommodations, based on double or triple occupancy, one in Mendoza and two in Penitentes
- Ground transportation, including transfers from Mendoza airport to hotel
- All meals while on the mountain
- All group climbing and cooking gear
- All restaurant meals in Mendoza and Penitentes at the beginning of the expedition
- Celebration meal in Mendoza post-climb
- Mules to transport gear and food to base camp and back
- Group transfer to the airport at the end of the trip



### Not Included:

- Airfare
- Climbing permit (included on Aconcagua Deluxe)
- Restaurant meals upon return to trailhead and in Mendoza post-climb, except celebration dinner
- Personal climbing gear and other equipment and clothing
- All items of a personal nature (e.g. phone calls, laundry, room service, etc.)
- Medical/evacuation and trip Insurance
- Extra hotel nights
- Any expenses associated with early departure from the trip or extra time in base camp
- Porters (included on Aconcagua Deluxe)
- Staff/Guide gratuities



**“ It appears that as guides they are truly doing what they love and that vibe totally transferred over to me. It takes a certain kind of personality to be able to tackle a group of people with various levels of experience and make sure that everyone has a safe (and fun) journey. They were encouraging, approachable, straightforward and most important for me - a lot of fun. I had a fantastic time on the trip. ”**

–Cameo B.

## Who are the guides?

On Aconcagua you can expect your lead guide to have extensive international, high altitude expeditionary experience and indispensable local knowledge of both mountain culture and the mountain itself. Mountain Madness leaders on Aconcagua are selected from our

cadre of highly experienced, professional mountain guides. Our team works worldwide and brings that international experience to every trip and climb. Trained in mountain safety and wilderness first aid, knowledgeable and skilled in

climbing at altitude, as well as with the varied logistics of an international expedition, they have a passion for what they do and are amazing compadres to share the climb of a big mountain.



Mountain Madness is an American Mountain Guide Association accredited guide service, which is recognized internationally. The AMGA accreditation program was developed to ensure

the highest quality service available. Accreditation examines such things as operating guidelines, permits, insurance, employment, business practices, and guide training. Many of our guides hold full certification with the AMGA - the highest level of guide training available in the U.S. and/or have extensive expedition guiding experience. The end result is that accreditation provides a consistent and meaningful standard by which to judge the reliability and professionalism of a climbing service and its guides.





# Am I ready?

This climb is suited for advanced beginning climbers who are in excellent physical condition with basic mountaineering experience. Although the higher altitude, length of climb, and more extreme temperatures make this climb more challenging than Mount Kilimanjaro, the actual terrain is similar, but will likely require the use of an ice axe and crampons. It is required that you are familiar with the proper use of these tools prior to your trip to Aconcagua. Often climbers are required to use crampons and ice axes while crossing the Gran Acarreo and climbing in the Canaleta on summit day.



## **Our intention when putting together a team is to have climbers with these attributes:**

- Capable and self-reliant with the minimum experience outlined below
- Excellent physical condition
- Positive attitude

## **For those with minimal mountaineering experience a logical progression before joining the team might look like this:**

**Step 1:** Take a climbing course; even better, take a climbing course in Ecuador or Bolivia to gain skills and some high altitude experience. In the U.S., classic summit climbs in the Cascades offer an excellent way to prepare for this trip and polish those skills needed to climb Aconcagua. Summit climbs are offered on Mount Shuksan, Mount Baker, Mount Adams and others.

**Step 2:** Get additional experience with high altitude climbing; something like Kilimanjaro would work, but even better would be trips to the Mexico Volcanoes, the Ecuador Volcanoes or Mount Elbrus. If these steps go well for you, start packing! Or;

**Step 3:** Go on a trip that has some genuine expedition-type climbing, which means multiple camps at higher elevations, the possibility of storms, and some cold-weather conditions. Some examples of such trips include Chopakalki in Peru, Island Peak in Nepal, or Nun in India.

And if you're unsure of whether you are totally prepared, consider that porter support is available on all Aconcagua climbs. Give us a call and we can talk about the trip and whether or not you're ready.

## **Porters**

An ascent of Aconcagua presents a significant physical challenge to climbers. Group and personal gear is transported to base camp on mules and from there the team is responsible for ferrying loads to the higher camps. Porters are available for hire on an individual basis at base camp. Each porter carries up to 20 kilos of weight. Prices in the 2015/2016 season were up to \$1,300 total for carries to each camp and return to base camp.

This is a very individual decision. There is no doubt that having a porter makes the climb somewhat less strenuous, but it is no substitute for being in very good physical condition. Mountain Madness leaves the choice of hiring a porter up to you, however we will help with the hiring at base camp.

*Porters included with the Aconcagua Deluxe Expedition*



# Getting There

## Travel information

The total number of days for your trip includes all travel to and from your destination, with some exceptions. For this trip you will need to arrive in Mendoza, Argentina on day 2. You can arrive any time on day 2. This necessitates an overnight flight from the U.S. beginning on day 1 of the itinerary. Typically, the route to Mendoza is through Santiago, Chile. Travel times from places outside the U.S. may vary. Your return flight home will also be an overnight flight departing from Mendoza on day 20 of the itinerary for a night flight back to the U.S. or your final destination.



## In-country transportation

You will be met at the airport upon arrival in Mendoza and taken to the hotel. Scheduled transportation to the mountains and back to Mendoza is also included.



## Passport

You will need a passport valid for at least six months from the date you apply for your visa. If you do not have a passport, the appropriate applications are available at post offices and courthouses. It can take from four to six weeks from the time you file your paperwork to receive your passport. Plan accordingly if you need a passport or a renewal.

## Visa

Citizens of the U.S. and Canada must have an Argentina Reciprocity Form completed and paid for before they will be allowed to enter the country. In most cases you will not be allowed to board your international flight without it. This is in lieu of a visa, which is not required. The process takes approximately 24 hours to complete. If you are traveling from outside the U.S. or Canada check with your nearest embassy for requirements.



## Immunizations

At this time there are no vaccinations required for entering Argentina however, please consult your medical provider or travel clinic for updates and recommendations.



# Itinerary Options

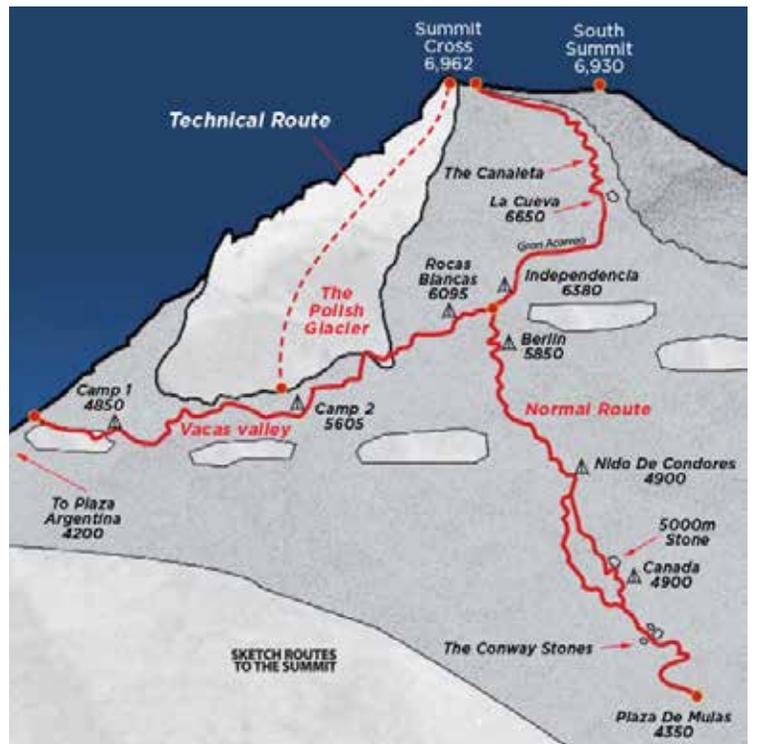
With decades of experience on the mountain we've been able to fine-tune our itineraries to meet the desires and goals of our clients. The one thing common to all is the summit day, which ascends the same route from high camp to peak. We have four different itineraries to choose from, which are outlined below. For complete itineraries please visit our web site or call the office for details.

## Routes

- Normal Route
- Circumnavigation Expedition
- Vallecitos - Aconcagua

## Summit Day

From high camp, the route crosses the Cresta del Viento (Windy Crest). From here we traverse the upper part of the Gran Acarreo, which leads to the Canaleta - the most infamous and challenging part of the summit day. The Canaleta is an approximately 30-degree scree gully that rises 1,300 feet. It requires great patience and stamina, and is often done on crampons. Above the Canaleta, you will find yourself on the Cresta del Guanaco, the ridge that joins the lower South Summit to the higher North Summit. We follow the ridge crest to the 22,841 foot true summit, where an aluminum cross marks the highest point in the Western Hemisphere. Summiting and returning back down to high camp usually takes from 9-12 hours.



## Extensions

### Wine Country

The region around Mendoza is world famous wine country. There are a number of vineyards and wineries that offer tours and tastings, as well as bed and breakfast and spa accommodations. Whether you stay in a vineyard B & B or in Mendoza itself, there are options following your climb.





## Normal Route Itinerary at a Glance

The Normal Route is non-technical and follows the scenic Northwest Ridge of Aconcagua. The first recorded ascent of the route was in 1897, although there is some evidence that the ancient Incas climbed very high on the mountain and may have reached the summit. This route begins at Plaza de Mulas, a vibrant base camp at the head of the Horcones Valley, and makes use of three higher camps to gain the summit.

### Day 1-2

DEPART HOME TO MENDOZA,  
ARGENTINA  
**2,428 feet/740 meters**

### Day 3

LOS PENITENTES  
**8,500 feet/2,590 meters**

### Day 4-5

CONFLUENCIA  
**11,000 feet/3,355 meters -  
Elevation gain 2,500 feet**

### Day 6

PLAZA DE MULAS  
**13,800 feet/4,210 meters -  
Elevation gain 2,800 feet**

### Day 7

REST DAY PLAZA DE MULAS  
**13,800 feet/4,210 meters**

### Day 8

PLAZA DE MULAS  
**13,800 feet/4,210 meters -  
Elevation gain 1,600 feet to  
Camp Canada**

### Day 9

REST DAY PLAZA DE MULAS  
**13,800 feet/4,210 meters**

### Day 10-11

CAMP CANADA  
**16,200 feet/4,940 meters -  
Elevation gain 1,600 feet**

### Day 12

NIDO DE CONDORES  
**17,820 feet/5,430 meters -  
Elevation gain 1,620 feet**

### Day 13-14

HIGH CAMP  
**19,600 feet/5,975 meters -  
Elevation gain 1,780 feet**

### Days 15-17

ACONCAGUA SUMMIT  
**22,841 feet/6,962 meters -  
Elevation gain 3,241 feet**

Three summit days have been  
scheduled into the itinerary.

### Day 18

PLAZA DE MULAS  
**13,800 feet/4,210 meters**

### Day 19

LOS PENITENTES  
**8,500 feet/2,590 meters**

### Days 20

MENDOZA  
**2,428 feet/740 meters**

### Day 21

ARRIVE HOME



“Truly a world class, life affirming experience, something we will fondly remember for the rest of our lives. I can't recommend a MM adventure up Aconcagua highly enough!”

—Peter R.

## Aconcagua Deluxe Itinerary

A Mountain Madness exclusive, the Aconcagua Deluxe takes the best of the many options available to climbers and bundles them together for a seamless and all-inclusive expedition. We take care of our climbers by providing the permit, having porters for group and personal gear, helicopter transportation from basecamp on descent and a stay at a luxury hotel to wind down following the expedition. We handle all the paperwork, carry the loads, and look after your well-being, Mountain Madness-style! Your route for the Deluxe expedition follows the Normal Route.



# Circumnavigation Expedition Itinerary at a Glance

Not to be confused with the Polish Glacier direct route, which is a serious high altitude climb suitable for very experienced climbers only, the Circumnavigation route travels below the Polish Glacier and involves climbing similar to the normal route. There is, however, no glacier travel. What our groups find on the Circumnavigation route is more solitude and an aesthetic route that ascends the eastern aspect of the mountain. From the final camp the route traverses to the Normal Route, joining that route at about 21,000 feet. The return to civilization via the Horcocones Valley is, for many, one of the highlights of the expedition.



## Day 1-2

DEPART HOME TO MENDOZA,  
ARGENTINA  
**2,428 feet/740 meters**

## Day 3

LOS PENITENTES  
**8,500 feet/2,590 meters**

## Day 4-6

PUNTA DE VACAS  
**7,628 feet/2,326 meters**

PLAZA ARGENTINA (BASE CAMP)  
**13,800 feet/4,207 meters -  
Elevation gain 6,173 feet over three days**

## Day 7

REST DAY PLAZA ARGENTINA  
**13,800 feet/4,207 meters**

## Day 8

CAMP I  
**16,400 feet/5,000 meters**  
PLAZA ARGENTINA  
**13,800 feet/4,207 meters -  
Elevation gain 2,600 feet**

## Day 9

REST DAY PLAZA ARGENTINA  
**13,800 feet/4,207 meters**

## Day 10

MOVE TO CAMP I  
**16,400 feet/5,000 meters -  
Elevation gain 2,600 feet**

## Day 11

REST DAY CAMP I  
**16,400 feet/5,000 meters**

## Day 12

CARRY TO CAMP GUANACOS  
**19,350 feet/5,900 meters -  
Elevation gain-2,950 feet**

## Day 13

MOVE TO CAMP GUANACOS  
**19,350 feet/5,900 meters**

## Day 14

REST DAY CAMP GUANACOS  
**19,350 feet/5,900 meters**

## Day 15

MOVE TO HIGH CAMP  
**Approximately 19,400-20,000 feet/5,915-  
6,098 meters (various options) -  
Elevation gain approximately 1,000 feet**

## Day 16-17

ACONCAGUA SUMMIT  
**22,841 feet/6,962 meters**  
Two summit days have been scheduled  
into the itinerary.

## Day 18

PLAZA DE MULAS  
**13,800 feet/4,210 meters**

## Day 19

LOS PENITENTES  
**8,500 feet/2,590 meters**

## Day 20

MENDOZA  
**2,428 feet/740 meters**

## Day 21

ARRIVE HOME



# Vallecitos - Aconcagua Itinerary at a Glance

Want an alternative strategy to the double carries typical of most Aconcagua expeditions? The Vallecitos Expedition climbs three non-technical peaks before moving to the Aconcagua Normal Route. This expedition lets you acclimatize dynamically while ascending peaks in a seldom-visited region near the Aconcagua Massif. The ascents do require basic mountaineering skills, and this challenging expedition is an ideal choice for those with some high altitude, general mountaineering experience such as Kilimanjaro, Mount Elbrus, and the Mexico or Ecuador Volcanoes.

## Day 1-2

DEPART HOME TO MENDOZA, ARGENTINA

**2,428 feet / 740 meters**

## Day 3

VALLECITOS

**8,945 feet / 2726 meters**

## Day 4

CLIMB CERRO LOMA BLANCA

**12,021 feet / 3664 meters**

## Day 5

VEGA SUPERIOR CAMP

**11,316 feet / 3449 meters**

## Day 6

CLIMB CERRO ADOLFO CALLE

**14,000 feet / 4267 meters**

Return to hut

## Day 7

EL SALTO CAMP

**14,065 feet / 4287 meters**

## Day 8

REST DAY AT EL SALTO CAMP

**14,065 feet / 4287 meters**

## Day 9

CERRO VALLECITOS PEAK

**17,912 feet / 5461 meters**

Return to camp

## Day 10

PENITENTES

**8,500 feet / 2590 meters**



## Day 11

CONFLUENCIA

**11,200 feet / 3414 meters**

## Day 12

PLAZA DE MULAS

**13,800 feet / 4,210 meters -  
Elevation gain 2,800 feet**

## Day 13

REST DAY PLAZA DE MULAS

**13,800 feet / 4,210 meters**

## Day 14

CAMP CANADA

**16,200 feet / 4,940 meters -  
Elevation gain 1,600 feet**

## Day 15

NIDO DE CONDORES

**17,820 feet / 5,430 meters -  
Elevation gain 1,620 feet**

## Day 16

MOVE TO HIGH CAMP

**19,600 feet / 5,975 meters -  
Elevation gain 1,780 feet**

**Four Summits & No  
Double Carries on  
Aconcagua!**

## Days 17-19

ACONCAGUA SUMMIT

**22,841 feet / 6,962 meters -  
Elevation gain 3,241 feet**

Three summit days have been scheduled into the itinerary.

## Day 20

PLAZA DE MULAS

**13,800 feet / 4,210 meters**

## Day 21

LOS PENITENTES

**8,500 feet / 2,590 meters**

## Days 22

MENDOZA

**2,428 feet / 740 meters**

## Day 23

ARRIVE HOME



# Equipment

Mountain Madness believes that all mountain travel equipment should follow two simple tenets: lightweight and functional. Lightweight equipment increases your chance of success and helps make you more comfortable. Functional equipment determines how warm, dry, and safe you will be, so always choose equipment that is of good quality, is dependable, and is adaptable to a variety of extreme conditions. A complete list of equipment will be sent to participants upon registration.

## Climbing Gear

- Capiline or equivalent T-shirt** for trekking on warmer days
- Ice axe w/leash:** Under 5'7" use 60cm, 5'7"- 6'2" use 65cm, over 6'2" use 70cm
- Plastic expedition boots or comparable double boot of expedition caliber**
- Insulated super-gaiters** if not using hybrid expedition boots. Super-gaiters will provide greater warmth without much extra weight or expense
- Crampons:** Must be fit to plastic boots prior to trip, semi-automatic type recommended
- Adjustable trekking poles**
- Climbing helmet:** Adjustable to accommodate balaclava or hat

## Pack

- 2-4 pair of liner socks:** Polypropylene or Capilene
- Large capacity internal frame pack:** Approx. 5000+ cubic inches / 70+ liters
- Daypack** for the approach hike, possible use on summit day, and carry-on pack. If you plan to use it for your summit pack it must be large enough for your down jacket, miscellaneous clothes, food and water.
- 2 Large (7,500+cu.in.) duffel bags for gear:** Must be durable for use on pack animals
- Small duffel bag/luggage piece:** To store casual clothes and personal travel goods in Mendoza
- Small padlocks:** For duffel bags

## Sleeping Gear

- Down or synthetic sleeping bag:** Rated to -20 F
- 2 Sleeping pads:** 1 full length closed cell foam (mandatory) and a ultra-light full length Therma-Rest for extra warmth and comfort
- Down or synthetic sleeping bag:** Rated to -20 F

## Miscellaneous Equipment

- First-aid kit:** With ibuprofen and any other doctor-recommended medications
- Sunscreen and lip balm:** At least SPF 40
- Headlamp**
- 3 Water bottles:** 1 liter wide-mouth Nalgene (One is a pee bottle, women should also bring a pee funnel.)
- Water purification:** Iodine tablets or Polar-pure crystals
- Toiletry kit:** Be sure to include toilet paper stored in a plastic bag
- Ear plugs**
- Small stainless steel thermos**
- Favorite snack foods:** No more than 2 pounds!
- Paperback books, cards, MP3 player, etc.**
- Camera:** Light weight point & shoot on the mountain (optional)





# Clothing

A variety of clothing is necessary for a climb of Aconcagua, the trek to the peak, and travel to Argentina. Clothing impacts not only your comfort but also your safety. Always be critical of the quality and the proper fit of your clothing. Cotton clothing must be avoided for the climb because it dries very slowly and is a poor insulator when wet. Instead, choose merino wool or synthetic fabrics that “wick” the sweat and moisture away from your skin. Our recommended clothing system has four layers. You will receive a more detailed list upon trip registration.

## Upper Body

- 2 Changes of casual wear for time off of the mountain:**  
Cotton is okay for this
- 2 T-shirts of synthetic or merino wool**
- 2 Long sleeve synthetic or merino wool shirt:** Lightweight, light colored for sunny days
- Soft Shell Jacket with hood**
- Down/synthetic sweater or vest:** “Puffy” jacket for moderate cold temps
- Hard shell jacket with hood:** Waterproof and breathable. Gore-Tex or equivalent is best, roomy enough to fit over multiple layers.
- Expedition down parka with hood:** This is probably your most important piece of clothing at high camp and summit day! It is important that your jacket is 700+ fill down, baffle construction (not sewn through seams) and has a thick insulated hood.



## Hand Wear

- Liner gloves:** Thin wool or polypropylene
- Warm gloves:** Fleece or wool
- Expedition shell gloves**
- Modular expedition shell mitts:** Outdoor Research Alti Mitts

## Head Gear

- Warm hat:** Wool or synthetic that covers your ears.
- Balaclava and/or Buff head wrap:** Mountain Madness buff!
- Neoprene Face mask** – very important item
- Shade hat or baseball cap**
- Glacier glasses:** 100% UV protection with side shields and a hard-sided storage case (i.e. Julbo or Cebe)\*
- Extra sunglasses:** Also with UV protection in case your primary pair breaks
- Ski goggles:** With UV protection\*

## Lower Body

- 4 Pairs liner socks:** Synthetic or merino wool
- 2-3 Pair light weight trekking socks**
- 4 Pair medium-heavy wool socks:** Check boot fit with liner and wool socks on
- Nylon pants:** For trekking and around camp
- Lightweight long underwear bottoms**
- Fleece pants w/ side zipper or “puff-ball pants”:** Mountain Hardwear Compressor Pant or equivalent is highly recommended
- Soft shell pants**
- Hard shell pants:** Waterproof/ breathable with full side zips, Gore-Tex or equivalent is best
- Down booties:** Optional
- Trail/trekking shoes** for the hike to base camp and use at camp
- Sandals** for river crossings, in camp, and showers

**“Awesome Expedition !!  
From Mendoza to mountain is a cultural  
experience and challenge of a lifetime.  
Mountain Madness and my guides were  
the absolute best. True professionals.  
Thank you.”**  
–Daniel G.

# Training



Most people underestimate how physically challenging a climb of Aconcagua can be. Endurance training as well as core fitness is a must.

Unless you hire a porter or join our Aconcagua Deluxe expedition, everyone is required to carry a share of the group's equipment. Participants should be prepared to carry as much as 40-50 lbs while stocking camps on the mountain.

We suggest you begin your training program at least four to six months prior to departure. Walking up hills and stair climbing are both excellent ways to condition your lower body. Begin slowly, without the weight of a pack, eventually adding weight as you increase your training pace. Take long hikes (5-8 hours) multiple times with a weighted pack.

As your training progresses, carry a weighted pack (30-50 lbs) up and down hills, stairs, or small mountains. To avoid knee stress while training, use full water containers for weight and empty the water prior to your descent. Supplement this with running, cycling, swimming, racquet sports, etc. for additional aerobic conditioning. While strength is important, endurance training should be your primary focus - remember your summit day could be at least 12 hours at high altitude! It is strongly suggested that you have a full medical checkup at least two month prior to departure, and to speak with your doctor regarding immunizations. Awareness of physical problems such as high blood pressure, allergies to medications, and so forth is important for both you and your guide.



*Please call Mountain Madness to discuss your training or any other questions at 1-800-328-5925, or email us at [info@mountainmadness.com](mailto:info@mountainmadness.com).*





# Questions and Answers

## **Can I take a shower during the expedition?**

Yes, showers are available at base camp.

## **Who are the porters?**

Porters are from the region around Aconcagua and are hired at base camp. They do not stay over with the group and are available to carry loads from camp to camp depending on individual climbers' needs.

## **What happens if someone needs to go down on summit day?**

Cold weather, poor fitness, altitude sickness, and so forth can all prevent success. In general, we keep our team together to the last important day - the summit attempt. However, if someone needs to go down, a guide can go down with that climber. There is also the option to hire an extra guide for the summit attempt.

## **How big will my group be?**

Groups can range from four climbers and a guide, to as many as 12 expedition members total. Porters do not stay at camps with the group, so the number of people climbing may change from day to day. Ratio for the climb is 4:1, but again, there is the option to hire an additional guide on summit day.

## **Who else will be on the trip?**

Your expedition will be comprised of other climbers and the guides. Your team members will be vetted based on previous mountaineering experience, which is required.

## **Can you accommodate dietary restrictions?**

Yes, we commonly have climbers with dietary restrictions. Depending on the restriction we may ask you to bring food to supplement the expedition food, but we will be happy to work with you and provide a menu that accommodates any restrictions.



## **Who does the cooking and camp set up?**

The group works together to set up camp while on the upper mountain, which mostly consists of putting up tents. The guides melt snow for water and will do the cooking.

## **Is the ascent of Aconcagua a climb or a trek?**

Aconcagua is a climbing expedition. Although the climbing is not technical, the altitude and variety of terrain requires experience with basic mountaineering skills. Also, unlike a trek, participants might help set up their tents, and pack and carry their own gear if they don't hire a porter.

## **Is there any technical climbing on the route?**

There is no technical climbing on the Normal Route or the Circumnavigation Expedition.

## **What type of boots will I need to have?**

For the hike into basecamp you will use a standard hiking boot with plenty of ankle support. Up high we recommend climbing boots designed for high altitude and cold temperatures such as La Sportiva Olympus Mons or Spantik boots.



# Questions and Answers

## **Is oxygen available?**

We do not carry oxygen for climbers' use and it is not typically used to climb Aconcagua. Emergency oxygen is available in rescue caches at base camp and at points on the mountain.

## **Do I need rescue insurance?**

Although we do not require rescue insurance, Mountain Madness strongly recommends climbers purchase a policy. A variety of policies and options are available and the prices are reasonable for the coverage provided.

## **Are helicopters available?**

Helicopters are available at base camp, weather dependent. They are used to fly supplies into base camp as well as provide transportation for emergencies. When there is space available, climbers can pay for a ride out to the trailhead. This is expensive and your gear will still have to be carried out by mule.

## **What happens if I get sick and have to turn back?**

Throughout the time we are on the mountain, the staff will monitor your health. If you decide that you are not going to continue, or we feel that you are not well enough to proceed, there are several options. Our normal schedule of carrying gear from one camp to the next with rest days in between usually allows for a staff member to descend to a lower camp with someone not feeling well, without altering the schedule for the other team members. A guide can also be called from base camp to help. In the case of sickness requiring evacuation, we will use all of our resources to ensure a timely descent to medical facilities.

**“Mountain Madness once again exceeded my expectations. The expedition couldn't have been better organized and executed. I had such a great time that the summit became an added bonus, not the focal point.”**

—Sara V.



## **Do we get a refund if we do not reach the summit due to weather?**

No. But, we do everything possible to give you the best opportunity to summit. Experienced guides and a proven schedule of climb high/sleep low interspersed with rest days creates a setting that allows most climbers the chance for a summit. Mountain Madness utilizes modern and accurate forecasting and receives updates regularly throughout the expedition and will maximize stretches of good weather. However, Aconcagua is a huge mountain and like all big mountains, the weather can be extreme. High winds, cold temperatures, and poor visibility can at times make life difficult and climbing impossible. We will always base our decisions about a summit attempt on safety and the ability of the team to get to the summit and back. We offer you a professionally planned and expertly led expedition, but cannot guarantee a summit.

# Dates and Prices



## Aconcagua Normal Route

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### Dates

November 24-December 14, 2017  
December 15-January 4, 2018  
January 5-25, 2018  
January 5-25, 2018 (All women's trip)  
January 26-February 15, 2018  
February 16-March 8, 2018

### Cost

\$5,000



## Aconcagua Polish Traverse: Circumnavigation Expedition

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### Dates

January 26-February 15, 2018  
February 16-March 8, 2018  
*Custom dates available*

### Cost

\$5,250



## Aconcagua Deluxe

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### Dates

November 24-December 14, 2017  
December 15-January 4, 2018  
January 5-25, 2018  
January 26-February 15, 2018  
February 16-March 8, 2018

### Cost

\$10,500



## Vallecitos/Aconcagua Expedition

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*Contact our office for Vallecitos Combo dates and prices.*

\*all prices subject to change



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