

# S<sup>2</sup> MOUNTAINEERING



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## INVITATION

**RE: Aconcagua Expedition (One of the 7 Summits)**

**TO: Prospective Team Members**

**FR: Jeff Reynolds, Expedition Director**

1. **Objective.** Aconcagua via the Normal Route (6,962m/22,841ft.).
2. **Dates.** December/January (17 day itinerary)  
TO BE DETERMINED BY TEAM MEMBERS
3. **Concept.** This is a non-profit, unguided and non-commercial expedition being planned by experienced climbers who think mountaineering should be about a great experience rather than a profit margin. Long before climbing turned into a commercial franchise, climbers who preceded us came together and shared their dreams and passion for the mountains. They would discuss an objective, develop a plan and go with it. We think there should be an alternative to the commercial expedition - that's why we're returning to tradition.
4. **Cost.** Based on the logistics and projected cost of services described below, the cost is **\$2,850.00**. Included in the cost are scheduled hotel accommodations based on multiple occupancy rates, ground transportation, all meals on the mountain, group climbing and cooking gear, peak permit and mule service. Items not included in the cost are your airfare, personal equipment, medical/evacuation and trip insurance, porters, gratuities and early departure services. These are the same services and exceptions offered by commercial services. Members will be expected to make a non-refundable **\$1,000.00 deposit** to reserve a place on the team. The remaining balance of **\$1,850.00 will be due one month prior to departure.**
5. **Difficulty.** The Normal Route on Aconcagua is a moderate, low-angle climb with no permanent snow fields. Although the Normal Route is non-technical, climbers should be familiar with the use of crampons and a mountain axe. The most significant objective hazards are altitude and weather. Each member should be familiar with their tolerance to altitude, personal acclimatization schedule and fitness. Please review the following itinerary and make sure it is within your ability.

6. **Come join us!** If you want to be a part of this great opportunity, please call at (505)670-1441 (e-mail [S2Mounaineering@live.com](mailto:S2Mounaineering@live.com)). We're looking forward to hearing from you.

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### 17 DAY ITINERARY

- Day 1 All members arrive in Mendoza (760m/2,500ft.)
- Day 2 Purchase permits from local authority in Mendoza and transfer by vehicle Punta del Inca (2,725m/8,900ft.).
- Day 3 Advance from Punta del Inca to Confluencia Camp by foot. This will be the first day on the trail (3,500m/11,450ft. approximately 6 hrs).
- Day 4 Acclimitization day. Hike the local area to approximately 13,000ft.
- Day 5 Advance from Confluencia Camp to Plaza de Mulas (4,370m/14,000ft. approximately 7 hrs).
- Day 6 Acclimitization day. Complete a carry to Plaza Canada at 4,910m/6,108ft. and Return to Plaza de Mulas.
- Day 7 Rest/Acclimitization day at Plaza de Mulas.
- Day 8 Advance from Plaza de Mulas to Plaza Canada (4,910/16,108ft. Approximately 6 hours).
- Day 9 Advance from Plaza Canada to Nido de Condores Camp 5,380m/17,600ft. Approximately 7 hrs).
- Day 10 Rest/Acclimitization day at Nido de Condores Camp.
- Day 11 Advance from Nido de Condores Camp to Berlin Camp (5,780/18,900ft. approximately 3 hrs).
- Day 12 First summit attempt to (962m/22,841ft. Approximately 7-10 hrs).
- Day 13 Second summit attempt if required.
- Day 14 Descend to Plaza de Mulas.
- Day 15 Descend to Puente del Inca.
- Day 16 Return to Mendoza by vehicle / Dinner at a local vineyard.
- Day 17 Departures from Mendoza.

### SUGGESTED PERSONAL GEAR

Each member is allowed the standard load of 30k/66pds of weight for transfer by mule.

Ice axe with leash, crampons, adjustable trekking poles, trekking boots, sport sandals, plastic climbing boots, gaiters, 3 pr. of heavy wool or synthetic socks, 3 pr. of liner socks, 2 sets of lightweight underwear (tops & bottoms), 1 set of expedition weight underwear (top & bottom), Mid to heavyweight fleece jacket, expedition weight down parka with hood, down pants (optional), Gore-Tex pants and jacket with hood, baseball cap, wool or fleece cold weather hat, balaclava, neck gaiter, a really good pair of glacier glasses with

side covers, 2 bandanas, 2 pr. of synthetic gloves, 1 pr. of Gore-Tex over mitts with liners, chemical hand & toe warmers, a minimum 6,000 cubic inch back pack, summit pack, sleeping bag rated to -10°F, compression stuff sacks, Therma-Rest sleeping pad, closed cell pad, headlamp, camp knife, cup, spoon, bowl, sunscreen, lip screen, water bottles, water purification tablets or iodine treatment, pee bottle, personal first aid kit, personal toiletries, hand sanitizer, 4 tough plastic bags for liner protection from rain, large duffel bag w/lock, small bag with lock for storage, travel clothes and a camera.

Pepto Bismol, First Aid Muscle Wrap, PDR referenced Radio batteries (8x AA), Vodka and comfort food.

## LOGISTICS PLAN

1. **Medevac Plan.** Medevac is available to Plaza de Mulas by Provincial Park Services. From Plaza de Mulas, medevac via animal service is available to Punta del Inca. In extreme cases, the Park Service can be contacted for Helo-evac.
2. **Communication.** Freq. 142.8MHz FM for Emergency via 4-2WR. Standard communication signal will be determined on site.
3. **Provisions.** Provided by contract services and group leader as required.
4. **Group Gear.** Tents x 4, burners x 4 and fuel, group medical kit, cooking pots, two-way communication, water purification systems, navigation system.
5. **Hotels.** Provided by contract services.
6. **Ground Transportation.** Provided by contract services.