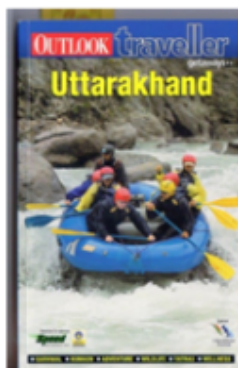




ACONCAGUA CLIMB



ACONCAGUA CLIMB: INTRODUCTION

Cerro Aconcagua, the jagged, humpbacked peak is the tallest mountain in the Western and Southern hemispheres - or anywhere else outside of Asia. Yet, if you follow the popular Normal Route on the north west side, you can potentially make the long slog to the top without using crampons or ropes at all.

With plenty of acclimatization built in, this 18-day itinerary achieves the perfect balance for both acclimatization time and summit success. The trip is ideal for climbers who have already done a few high-altitude trips and want to take their adventurous selves to the highest trekking peak in the world.



FACT SHEET

DURATION OF TREK: 18 Days

REPORTING POINT: Mendoza, Argentina

GRADE OF TREK: Challenging

HEIGHT: 6000 M

ACCOMMODATION

DAY	ACCOMMODATION	MEAL PLAN
DAY 1	MENDOZA HOTEL	NO MEALS
DAY 2	PENITENTES HOTEL	BREAKFAST & DINNER
DAY 3-8	TREKKING TENTS/DORMITORY DOME	ALL INCLUSIVE
DAY 8-15	TREKKING TENTS	ALL INCLUSIVE
DAY 16	TREKKING TENTS/DORMITORY DOME	ALL INCLUSIVE
DAY 17	MENDOZA HOTEL	BREAKFAST & PACKED LUNCH
DAY 18	MENDOZA HOTEL	BREAKFAST



ITINERARY CHART

DAY	START POINT	END POINT	ALT.
DAY 1	MENDOZA	MENDOZA	760 M
DAY 2	MENDOZA	PENITENTES	2720 M
DAY 3	PENITENTES	CONFLUENCIA	3390 M
DAY 4	CONFLUENCIA	CONFLUENCIA (ACCLIMATIZATION DAY)	3390 M
DAY 5	CONFLUENCIA	PLAZA DE MULAS	4250 M
DAY 6	PLAZA DE MULAS -BASE CAMP	PLAZA DE MULAS -BASE CAMP	4250 M
DAY 7	PLAZA DE MULAS -BASE CAMP	PLAZA DE MULAS (LOAD FERRY – CAMP 1)	4250 M
DAY 8	PLAZA DE MULAS -BASE CAMP	PLAZA DE MULAS -BASE CAMP	4250 M
DAY 9	PLAZA DE MULAS	PLAZA CANADA – CAMP 1	5050 M
DAY 10	PLAZA CANADA – CAMP 1	NIDO DE CONDORES – CAMP 2	5560 M
DAY 11	NIDO DE CONDORES – CAMP 2	NIDO DE CONDORES – CAMP 2 (LOAD FERRY)	5560 M
DAY 12	NIDO DE CONDORES – CAMP 2	PLAZA COLERA – CAMP 3	6000 M
DAY 13	PLAZA COLERA – CAMP 3	PLAZA COLERA – CAMP 3 (SUMMIT DAY)	6000 M
DAY 14/15	RESERVE DAYS		
DAY 16	PLAZA COLERA – CAMP 3	PLAZA DE MULAS -BASE CAMP	4250 M
DAY 17	PLAZA DE MULAS -BASE CAMP	MENDOZA	760 M
DAY 18	MENDOZA	MENDOZA AIRPORT	TRIP ENDS!

ACONCAGUA CLIMB: DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY ONE: MENDOZA

(760 M)

Our expedition begins in Mendoza, Argentina. On your arrival at the international airport, you will be received and driven to your Hotel. A group meeting will follow and you will be introduced to your guides and team members.



DAY TWO: MENDOZA - PENITENTES

(2720 M)

After breakfast we will go to get the entrance fee at the Aconcagua Park Office. After organizing our luggage, we will be driven along a picturesque road to the mountain. 3 hours of travel brings us to Villa Los Penitentes, where we stay at a Hotel in the mountains. In the afternoon, we prepare the equipment for transportation to the base camp by mules.

DAY THREE: PENITENTES - CONFLUENCIA

(3390 M)

Today, we drive to Horcones, Aconcagua Park Entrance, where we get our first view of the mountain. After permits are checked at the Ranger station we then head off to Confluencia, at 3390m. Once there, organize your personal gear, drink some tea and enjoy dinner.



DAY FOUR: CONFLUENCIA (ACCLIMATIZATION TREK TO PLAZA FRANCIA)

(3390 M)

Day for acclimatizing better and increasing your chances to summit. We'll trek for about 5 hours until we arrive to Plaza Francia (4200M) with a view of the impressive Aconcagua South Wall. One of the nicest points of the expedition for a breath-taking first view of Aconcagua that you will never forget. Return to Confluencia for the night.



DAY FIVE: CONFLUENCIA – PLAZA DE MULAS (BASE CAMP)**(4250 M)**

We will begin our second approaching day trekking into Plaza de Mulas, the base camp for our expedition. Early in the morning we start our walk across "Playa Ancha" (meaning wide beach) it's a deserted and always windy valley. We slowly gain altitude walking up to the Horcones Superior Valley. After 8-9 hours hiking across Playa Ancha and climbing up through a very steep path; "Cuesta Brava" (meaning Rugged Slope), we reach Plaza de Mulas, at 4250 m. By the end of the day most of us will feel the altitude.



DAY SIX: PLAZA DE MULAS (REST DAY)

(4250 M)

The first day in Base Camp is always a rest day. This is a good opportunity to familiarize yourself with the Camp, take a shower and explore the area. We get together with the guides, do a medical checkup, reorganize and review the equipment, prepare the loads and organize food for transportation for the next day. This is the time to get to know the climbers from other parts of the world and to meet the people that work in the camps.



DAY SEVEN: PLAZA DE MULAS (LOAD FERRY TO CAMP 1)

(4250 M)

The following morning we will carry some of our equipment and food to Camp 1, called "Plaza Canada"(5050M). We keep our backpacks light and carry as little as possible in order to be able to gradually adapt to the altitude. During the load transportation to camp 1, we reach a level of 5050 m. It is very important to maintain the acclimatisation of our body to altitude. We return to Plaza de Mulas for the night.



DAY EIGHT: PLAZA DE MULAS (REST DAY)

(4250 M)

After a hard day of carrying and climbing, we rest and recover our energy at Base Camp. We want everyone to have the best possible chance to acclimatize and summit.



DAY NINE: PLAZA DE MULAS - PLAZA CANADA

(5050 M)

After breakfast we start our ascent to Camp 1. Walk 5-6 hours on easy terrain to reach Camp 1 (5000 mt). We meet with the supplies that we brought the day before, assemble the camp and then divide load for following days of carry. Rest and dinner.



DAY TEN: PLAZA CANADA - NIDO DE CONDORES

(5560 M)

On this day, we move from Plaza Canada to Camp 2 named “Nido de Cóndores” at 5560m. This is when we start enjoying the real beauty of high altitude, ascending more and more, surrounded by a spectacular view of the Andes.



DAY ELEVEN: NIDO DE CONDORE - NIDO DE CONDORE - LOAD FERRY

(5560 M)

On this day, we carry equipment to Camp 3 called Plaza Colera (6000 m). This routine helps us keep our backpacks as light as possible and fundamentally to continue with our gradual acclimatization to higher altitude. After carrying the equipment up, we return to Camp 2 to sleep.



DAY TWELVE: NIDO DE CONDORES - PLAZA COLERA

(6000 M)

Early in the morning, after breakfast and after disassembling our tents, we start ascending to Camp 3. Plaza Colera sits at the same altitude as the Berlin refuge, strategically situated for its altitude and cover from winds. From there, we have unforgettable views of the highest peaks of the Central Andes. We set up our last high-altitude camp here. The Guide individually reviews each member of the group and gives his final recommendations. We also plan the final strategies for the last day of ascension to ensure success in reaching the summit. We have dinner and rest.



DAY THIRTEEN: PLAZA COLERA- PLAZA COLERA(SUMMIT DAY)

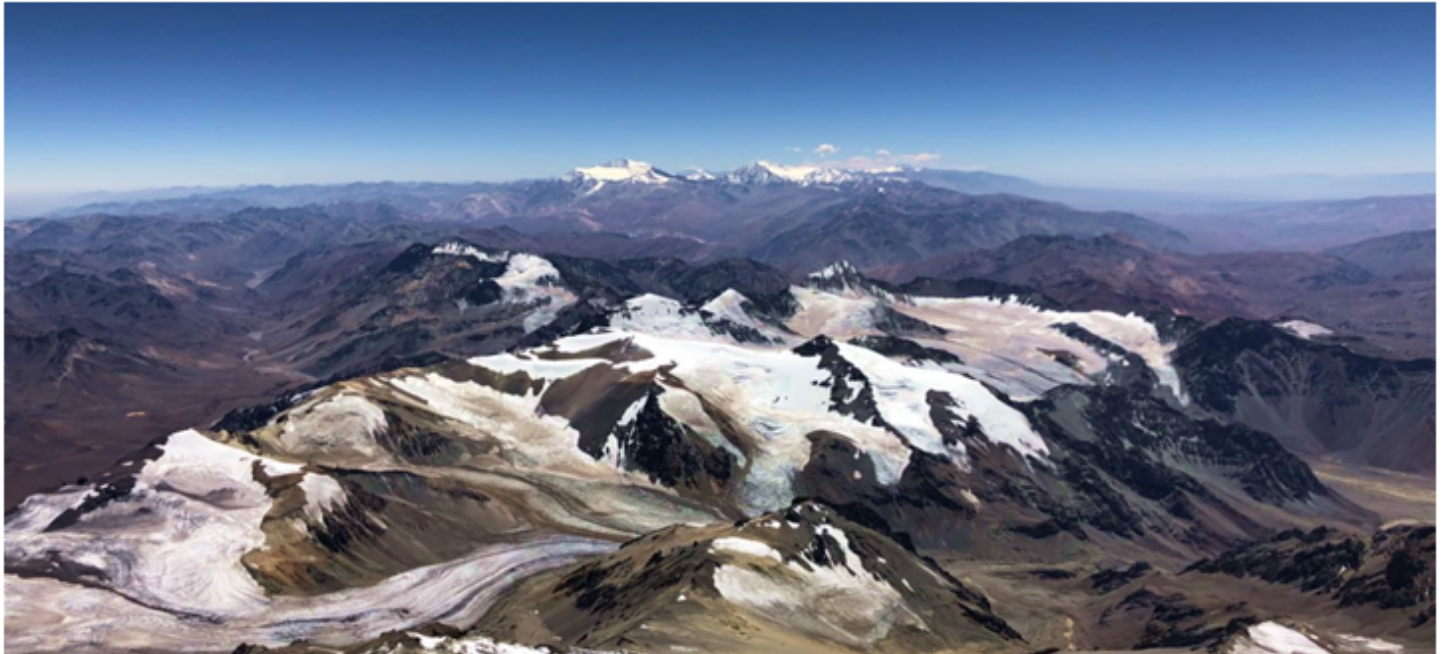
(6000 M)

The day begins at 5:00 am. This is the most demanding day of our expedition. We continue north and join the Normal Route at 6200m. We continue on the Normal Route up to Independence Refuge (6500 m). This is normally where we see the first sun rays of the day. We ascend the "Portezuelo Del Viento" where we can experience strong winds, even on calm days. From here on we pass by the superior part of the Western face and climb "La Canaleta", a 300 m channel that takes us to edge of the summit. From here we go through the Filo del Guanaco, which leads us to the summit. From the "Filo del Guanaco" we can directly observe under our feet the Southern Wall of the Aconcagua, considered one of the largest faces in the world. An indescribable feeling of satisfaction takes over as we reach the summit at **6962 m**, where the prize is waiting for us; a 360° view and the experience of achievement that you only finally understand once you reach it. After sharing these moments of accomplishment and emotion with our expedition mates we then descend to camp 3.



DAY FOURTEEN/ FIFTEEN: RESERVE DAYS

We consider these two days spare days in case of bad weather. If we do not use them, we can stay at Base Camp to rest and enjoy the mountain.



DAY SIXTEEN: RETURN TO PLAZA DE MULAS

(4250 M)

Return from Camp 3 to Base Camp. We will have a special reception and have a celebration dinner.



DAY SEVENTEEN: DESCENT TO PENITENTES AND BACK TO MENDOZA.

We descend from Plaza de Mulas to Penitentes and drive back to Mendoza City.

DAY EIGHTEEN: TRIP ENDS!

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport. End of services.

COSTING WILL DEPEND ON THE FINAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE TRIP

NO. OF PERSONS	PRICE PER PERSON
04 - 06 CLIMBERS	USD 5,190
07 - 10 CLIMBERS	USD 4,200
11 - 12 CLIMBERS	USD 3,790

ACONCAGUA CLIMB: COST BREAKDOWN

COST INCLUDES

ALL TRAVEL FROM MENDOZA AIRPORT & BACK
ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR STAYING AND CAMPING WHILE ON TRIP
ACCOMMODATION ON TWIN SHARING BASIS IN TENTS / HOTEL OR IN A DORMITORY AT CONFLUENCIA & BASE CAMP
ALL MEALS AS MENTIONED IN ITINERARY & SAFE DRINKING WATER
ALL GROUP CLIMBING GEAR (ROPES, ANCHORS, SLINGS, ETC.)
INDIVIDUAL CLIMBING GEAR – HIRED (ICE AXE, CRAMPONS & HARNESS ONLY)
PORTERAGE UPTO 30KG/PERSON UPTO BASE CAMP
1 PORTER FOR EVERY 4 PEOPLE (TO CARRY UP TO A TOTAL 20 KILOS) TO THE HIGHER CAMPS. THIS PORTER WILL BE IN CHARGE TO CARRY THE TEAM WASTE, TRASH AND THE DOUBLE TENTS – MORE DETAILS BELOW

COST EXCLUDES

AIRFARE TO MENDOZA & BACK

SLEEPING BAG

PEAK FEE - BUDGET APPROX. USD 1000

BOTTLED WATER

ITEMS OF PERSONAL CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

EXPENSES OF ANY PERSONAL NATURE (LAUNDRY/PHONE CALLS/ALCOHOL/CIGARETTES/ CAMERA FEE/ETC.)

ANY COSTS ARISING OUT OF UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS BAD WEATHER/LANDSLIDES/ROAD CONDITIONS/ANY OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL

TIPS AND GRATUITIES (WE RECOMMEND 5-10% OF YOUR TRIP COST – TO BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE TEAM) – PERSONAL CHOICE

TRAVEL & CANCELLATION INSURANCE

RESCUE COSTS OR OTHER COSTS DUE TO THE ABANDONMENT OF THE EXPEDITION. (RIDING MULE, PACK MULE, INDIVIDUAL TRANSFERS, HELICOPTER FLIGHT, EXTRA NIGHTS, MEALS, EXTRA COSTS FOR CHANGES IN YOUR FLIGHT TICKET, PERSONAL PORTER SERVICE, ETC. - IT IS RECOMMENDED TO TAKE OUT INSURANCE TO COVER THESE EXPENSES).

EXTRA NIGHTS IN HOTEL IN CASE OF EARLY RETURN TO THE CITY OR IN CASE YOU DON'T USE THE "SPARE DAYS" AND DECIDE TO COME BACK TO MENDOZA.

MEALS AND DRINKS NOT SPECIFIED IN THE ITINERARY. E.G.: LUNCHES AND DINNERS IN MENDOZA OR USPALLATA.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL BOOKINGS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF SPACE ON THE TREK. WE BOOK SPACE ON A 100% ADVANCE.

ACONCAGUA CLIMB: PORTERAGE

PORTERAGE ON THE TRIP IS DIVIDED IN 4 PARTS:

1- FROM HORCONES VALLEY PARK'S ENTRANCE TO PLAZA DE MULAS'S BASE CAMP

You will have to carry your small personal backpack with water (at least 3 liters), snacks, hat, sunglasses, an extra jacket, sunscreen, buff, gloves, etc.

2- AT PLAZA DE MULAS' BASE CAMP AND BEFORE YOU DEFINITELY MOVE TO CAMP01

Before you ascend to CAMP 01, all participants should segment their luggage again and take out only their high-altitude gear - we will use it from base camp to the Summit.

We meet this gear at Base Camp E.g.: ice axe, crampons, double plastic boots, etc.

3- FROM PLAZA MULAS' BASE CAMP TO CAMP03

You will be required to carry – without exception your personal “High Altitude Gear” + an equal share of the COMMON EQUIPMENT (Food, fuel, stoves and cooks, utensils). Each member will have to carry as "common equipment" the maximum of 10 kilos. So, including the personal equipment, the total backpack weight to carry will be approx 15 to 20kg.

REGULAR PORTER SERVICE

In our services, we included 1 porter every 4 persons (to carry up to 20kilos) This porter will be in charge to carry the team waste, trash, and the double tents.

The intention is to lighten the loads to be carried, prioritizing to double tents, personal waste, and the garbage it will be generated in the high camps, also, if they are available extra kilos they will help as well in lightening the rest of the things you necessarily must carry plus your personal gear, what we called "common equipment: food, fuel, stoves, kitchen sets".

PORTERS cannot offer their work, above CAMP 03.If you want a private porter till Camp 3, please budget for an additional US\$1000

4-From CAMP03 (Cólera) to Aconcagua's SUMMIT

Most of your personal equipment+ the common equipment will remain at CAMP 03. The day you push the summit you will return to sleep there. Participants will be required to reach the summit with their small backpack (with the basic elements).

Personal Porter Service:

If you need help with moving your loads, you can hire a personal porter.

If you need personal porters it is recommended to book them in advance to ensure availability.

The porter service includes the transportation to high camps for up to 20 kg. We also offer half porter services, which are up to 10kg.

SECTION	20KG	10KG
FROM BC TO C1 (CANADA)	USD 155	USD 105
FROM C1 TO C2 (NIDO DE CÓNDORES)	USD 200	USD 150
FROM C2 TO C3 (CÓLERA)	USD 300	USD 185
FROM C3 (CÓLERA) TO BASE CAMP	USD 300	USD 185
COMPLETE SERVICE (BC-C1-C2-C3-BC)	USD 1000	USD 625

PLEASE NOTE: The load to be carried is up to 20 kg or 10Kg each porter. The porters then return to Base Camp. The payment is shown in each section. The prices are accumulative. Prices are in US dollars and there is no reimbursement. You can, however, transfer the payment to another person. The porter carries the equipment on the day the group is moving to the next camp. He does not go with you or set up tents or melt snow. He just takes your gear into his backpack and takes to the next camp, leave it there and comes back to base camp.

You should be aware that even if you hire the porter service for your personal equipment, you will not be exempted to carry your own backpack from Camp 3 to summit. Basically, you will transport water, snacks, hat, cap, gloves, sunscreen, camera, sunglasses, goggles, buff, and the bag should have enough space for keeping your duvet jacket in case that at some point in the day do not feel comfortable to use.

DURING THE EXPEDITION

EQUIPMENT TRANSPORTATION

On DAY 01 of the expedition, after checking in at the Hotel and rest for a while, the guide will meet you to check equipment and organize loads of mules for the following days.

You will learn to separate the elements into 4 different groups:

- **Personal equipment for trekking:** It is the equipment that we will use during the trekking until arriving at the base camp. For example: gore-tex jacket, polar jacket, sunglasses, sunscreen, etc.

- **Approach Camp Equipment:** Equipment we will not use during the trekking but will need it at the camp. For example: sleeping bag, insulation, additional coat, etc.





- **High Camps equipment:** it will be the one we use when we leave the base camp in the direction of the Summit. For example: ice axe, crampons, double plastic boots, etc.

- **Bag to leave at the hotel in Mendoza:** Items and clothing that will not be used in the mountains.



It is considered as luggage per person the maximum of 30kgs.

In case you bring a larger volume than the mentioned one, you will have to assume the corresponding expenses that accrue from that difference, in order to be able to hire a suitable transport for the amount of luggage you bring. If you intend to include more than 30kgs we ask you to inform us of your situation with a minimum of 96 hours before arrival.

	 MULES TRANSPORTATION	 CLIENT	 COMMON GEAR PORTER	 PRIVATE PORTER (*)
DAY 1	Mendoza			
DAY 2	Mendoza Penitentes			
DAY 3	Penitentes Confluencia	10kgs from Penitentes to Confluencia. 20kgs from Penitentes to Plaza de Mulas.	Personal Backpack: 2lts of water / Snacks / Cap - Hat / Gloves / Sunscreen / Camera Sunglasses / Buff / Etc.	
DAY 4	Trekking Plaza Francia		Personal Backpack: Light equipment selected for trekking. The rest of the gear stay in Confluencia.	
DAY 5	Confluencia Plaza de Mulas	20kgs from Confluencia to Plaza de Mulas.	Personal Backpack: 2lts of water / Snacks / Cap - Hat / Gloves / Sunscreen / Camera Sunglasses / Buff / Etc.	
DAY 6	Plaza de Mulas			
DAY 7	Carry to Camp 1		Personal equipment for the carry + Common Equipment (Up to 5kgs of food, fuel, heaters, pots, cooking utensils, etc.)	
DAY 8	Plaza de Mulas			
DAY 9	Plaza de Mulas Camp 1		Personal equipment for high camps and common equipment that stay with us. Example: pots, heaters, cooking utensils, etc.	Ascent of double tents. Part of the common equipment.
DAY 10	Camp 2		Personal equipment for high camps and common equipment that we use in Camp 1. Example: pots, heaters, cooking utensils, etc.	Ascent of double tents. Part of the common equipment.
DAY 11	Carry to Camp 3		Personal equipment for the carry + Common equipment: Rest of common equipment - food and fuel that has already been used. (food, fuel, pots, utensils, etc.)	
DAY 12	Camp 3		Personal equipment for high camps and common equipment that we use in Camp 2. Example: pots, heaters, cooking utensils, etc.	Ascent of double tents. Part of the common equipment.
DAY 13	Summit day		Personal Backpack: Light equipment selected for trekking. The rest of the gear stay in Camp 3.	
DAY 14	Reserve Day			
DAY 15	Reserve Day			
DAY 16	Return to Plaza de Mulas		Personal equipment for high camps and common equipment that we use in Camp 3. Example: pots, heaters, cooking utensils, etc.	Descent of Double tents. Descent of part of the common gear. Descent of litter and human waste.
DAY 17	PM to Penitentes and Mendoza.	30kgs from Plaza de Mulas to Penitentes	Personal Backpack: 2lts of water / Snacks / Cap - Hat / Gloves / Sunscreen / Camera Sunglasses / Buff / Etc.	Optional with extra cost: Descent of personal load.
DAY 18	Mendoza			

NOTE: The proposed itinerary is subject to changes due to climatic or force majeure contingencies that endanger the safety of the group. The guides reserve the authority to vary the programs at their discretion.

(*) Private Porter: It will be transported up to 20kg or 10kg depending on the contract. The porters always return to Base Camp. The porters will transfer the equipment on the day that the group actually goes to sleep at the next camp. The carrier does not walk simultaneously with the customer, does not accompany it, does not melt snow, or arms or disarms the tents (this service has an additional cost). The porter transports the load in his personal backpack from one camp to another, leaves it there and returns to Base Camp.

ACONCAGUA CLIMB: HOW TECHNICAL?

The Aconcagua Normal Route technically presents steep slides that you can ascend walking and easy snow slopes. It is not necessary to use hands or security ropes. It is not necessary to rock or ice climbing experience.

Some camping experience, trekking and basic knowledge of mountaineering will increase the summit chances. Depending on weather conditions and the snow amount, the use of crampons will be needed. The guide will teach how to use them at Base Camp. On the summit day, we have the most demanding part of the expeditions. There is a snow traverse approximate 300mts before reaching the Canaleta base. This snow used to be frozen so crampons are essential to cross it. The guide will evaluate the group's skills and the snow conditions. If it's necessary he will use a security rope. Less than 10% of the expeditions need rope assistance.

Risks: The altitude and weather are the major difficulties that these routes present. The altitude is responsible for most of the emergency evacuations. This is the reason why we are so careful with acclimatization including on our programs the "climb high, sleep low" principle. We include trekking and carrying of the equipment to high camps. This will keep the backpack weight lighter in order to keep energy for the summit day. On the other hand, if we have bad weather conditions, this issue can be minimized by the good equipment. The first day of the expeditions the guide will check all the gear and if it is necessary he will assist the climber on renting or buying the missing equipment.

Physical: Participants must be in excellent physical condition, able to carry a heavy pack, and have basic mountaineering skills. Aconcagua expedition is strenuous and entails many days at higher altitudes exposed to low oxygen, very cold and high caloric requirement so a physician's approval is strongly recommended. Those climbers who suffer chronic illnesses should talk with their personal doctor.

HOW DO ACONCAGUA & KILI COMPARE?

Aconcagua is taller, farther, harder, longer and colder than Kili. No climbing or mountaineering experience is needed to participate in our guided Aconcagua normal route expeditions. However, you are recommended to do some conditioning. Anyone who is in good health and mentally prepared can take part in our expeditions. Be sure that a good physical preparation and training will increase chances to get to the top. The required equipment is not the same either. The participants should expect 25 - 30°C below freezing point. You better start your training if you want to enjoy the expedition.

ACONCAGUA CLIMB: THE NEXT STEPS

Have any questions? [Email us](#)

Ready to go?

Book your place by filling in this [form](#).

Make your payment [here](#).

Once you fill in your form, we'll get in touch with you with all the necessary details.

PLEASE NOTE:

Filling in the booking form does not guarantee a spot on any trek. You will receive a separate confirmation email once the booking form is submitted.

We look forward to hosting you on your next Adventure!

