



## SWS Mountain Guides

210 East Lake St.

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[www.swsmountainguides.com](http://www.swsmountainguides.com)

Phone: 888.797.6867 / Fax: 877.797.6867

### ACONCAGUA EXPEDITION 22,834 ft. Highest Peak in Western Hemisphere Normal Route



The summit of Aconcagua (22,834 ft.) is the main objective of this 3-week expedition to the southern hemisphere. We will be attempting the regular route, which, while not requiring a high degree of technical expertise, does require a relatively high level of commitment and conditioning due to the nature of the weather and high altitude involved. It is strenuous, and reaching the summit requires a sustained effort that can only be realized through proper training and conditioning.

**What to Expect:** We will be climbing to high elevations (over 20,000 ft.). Your physical conditioning, mental attitude, and flexibility will all be factors in making an exciting, fun, and successful trip. You will be required to carry your share of the group equipment and food while climbing our high camps. We try to keep this weight to a minimum with burros/horses up to base camp. In addition, we are traveling and climbing in a foreign country. While, SWS Mountain Guides make the best possible plans and account for all possibilities, this is adventure travel. Part of the experience is being flexible and making changes to the itinerary as needed to account for local conditions. If you keep this in mind, you will have an exciting and fun-filled expedition to the highest mountain in the South America.

**Trip Cost & Dates:** January 4th -24th, 2023 / January 3<sup>rd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

**Price:** Regular Route: \$5,650 based on 6 clients / \$6,550 based on 4 Clients / \$6,850 based on 3 clients

**Note:** Price includes: \$950.00- \$1,100.00 Aconcagua Permit fees / Price subject to change until booking.

**Route:** Pricing for Normal Route Expedition. Optional routes are available and are decided by the Expedition team before departure. Contact SWS and our guides for options.

#### **The level of Experience Needed:**

**Climbers.** You must have a basic knowledge and recent previous expertise in the practice and use of crampons, ice ax, and winter camping/climbing. It is recommended that climbers have experience trekking or climbing above 14,000 ft. If you have questions about the level of experience needed, please give our office a call, and we can recommend courses or seminars to prepare you for your trip.



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### **Physical Conditioning:**

Expedition Training; Level IV training required 5 times per week for at least 3 days at 40-60 minutes each session, 2 days at 60 -120 minutes each session, in one of the following categories or mixture of each: running, bicycling, swimming, stair master, ski machines, or other aerobic activities. It is also a good idea to include in your workout some flexibility training three times a week (stretching for at least 15 minutes). Plan on adding weekend training hikes and climbs with your loaded pack for overall conditioning, this is a critical part of your overall training. Other activities which will improve your conditioning for the expedition include; weight training for strength, Versa climber, jogging with a light day pack, and running stairs or hills.

**Acclimatization:** Most climbers don't think they need as much time for acclimation as is scheduled during Aconcagua expeditions. We have found through experience that our schedule is optimum for climbing at high altitudes to keep you both healthy and give you the best chance to reach the summit. Please give us a call if you have any questions.

**Equipment:** Please follow the enclosed equipment list. It is vital you bring everything on the list. If you have any questions or would like to know about a possible substitution, please give our office a call.

**General Precautions for International Travel:** You will be sent a complete package of Health Information for travel in South America upon receipt of your deposit. Following the guidelines will the likelihood of keeping you healthy and happy while you are traveling? It is paramount to maintain your health while trekking and climbing.

**Immunizations:** A recommended list of vaccinations for South America will be sent in conjunction with our health information upon receipt of your deposit. If you require this information before making your decision to join the expedition give our office a call. We will be contacting you with any up to date information on Argentina if needed. You can get up to date information at your local Public Health Department along with inexpensive immunizations. If you need immunizations, please get them as soon as possible - some vaccinations are required to be given over a period of time. For your health and safety, it is critical to have your immunizations up to date.

**Passports and other Documentation:** You are required to have a passport with six months before expiration with at least two blank page for Visa / Exit & Entry stamps for travel in Argentina and entrance back into the United States. Not included in the cost of the trip. Please don't forget! Check the equipment list. Airport Exit Taxes may not be included in your airline ticket, check with your airline. But can be between - \$15.00 - \$50.00 depending on your flights.

**Please note:** Currently, Argentina now charges a **\$160.00 fee/tax in U.S. funds** to enter their country for US citizens, other international travelers pay as well, fees vary, you can either pay this fee, which is good for 10 years with your passport.

**Baggage Restrictions:** Please check with your airline and point of departure for luggage restrictions. Departures from the US allow you to check two bags (not exceeding 50 lbs per bag) with one additional carry on not to exceed 40 pounds. The equipment on our list is under the weight and size restrictions for domestic airlines are leaving from the U.S. However, please check with your airline or travel agent when making your airline reservations, to avoid excess baggage charges, which can be expensive.

**Meeting Location:** We will be contacting you at least **14 days** before your departure with the name and phone number of the hotel in Mendoza, Argentina, where you will be meeting your guides with instruction on how to get from the airport to the hotel. Depending on the arrival times of your flights, we may meet you at the airport; we will be in contact to discuss the options.

**Deposits:** A \$1,000.00 application fee, along with Expedition Application up to six months or more prior to the expedition departure date. The fee is applied to Expedition fee if accepted to the expedition. If you are not accepted to the expedition, the fee is refundable. The balance of the 50% deposit (less application fee) is required to maintain your reservation 180 days



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before the departure date. With the balance of payment due 90 days before departure. After receipt of your application \$1,000 application fee or your 50% deposit (within 180 days of departure), we will send you a complete expedition information package. The Director of SWS Mountain Guides or the lead Guide on the expedition will contact you with any questions we may have and to help you coordinate your airline arrangements.

**Refunds:** A \$1,000 non-refundable application fee is required to apply for an expedition. If you are not accepted to the expedition your fee will be refunded. A 50% deposit (less \$1,000 application fee) is required with each reservation, and the balance is due 90 days before the expedition. In the event you must cancel your reservation, between 180-90 days before the expedition departure date, a \$1,000.00 cancellation fee is required, and the balance refunded. Between 60 - 45 days before the expedition a 50% cancellation fee is required with the balance refunded. We are sorry, but NO REFUNDS can be made within 45 days before the expedition starting date.

**Trip/Expedition cancellation Insurance:** We strongly recommend that all of our participants purchase Travel Insurance to protect themselves. Travel Insurance is a great way to protect your investment in a trip if you can't make it at the last minute due to work, medical, or family issues. Additional benefits can include: Emergency Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Rescue Services, Lost or stolen luggage, and more depending on the Insurance chosen. Our recommended Travel Insurance provider: [Global Rescue Travel Protection](#)

**Includes:** Information support, professional guides, ground transportation, all lodging, mules and porters (as needed), all meals while climbing (Puente del Inca to Puente del Inca excluding beverages and lunches in Puente del Inca as noted below\*), breakfast in cities, entrance fees to parks, climbing permits, radios, safety equipment, group technical equipment, and group camping equipment including tents, stoves, and fuel.

**Food & Beverages:** All meals are provided while climbing and trekking, dinners and breakfasts while in Puente del Inca, Continental breakfasts while in cities at our hotel. Clients are responsible for additional beverages and meals while in the towns or cities, \*extra beverages and lunches in Puente del Inca, extra drinks while at base camp or on the mountain, this includes beer, soda, bottled water, designer water and alcohol. We will provide water filters for water, along with coffee, tea, and hot drinks. Most all dietary preferences can be accommodated, please make the office aware of any dietary restrictions in advance.

**Not included:** Airfare to and from Mendoza, Argentina, meals in cities, lunches in Puente del Inca, and beverages as noted above\*, Airport Exit Tax (Approx. \$20.00 - \$50.00), laundry, and personal climbing and trekking equipment.

**Group size:** Limited to 6 Expedition climbing members with 2-3 guides

### ITINERARY FOR ACONCAGUA EXPEDITION

January 2023 / 2024

Day 1: Mendoza (2,508ft – 760m)

Arriving in Mendoza / Lodging in Mendoza Hotel. Meeting group in the evening there will be an instructive talk about the Mount Aconcagua Expedition.

Day 2: Mendoza (2,508ft – 760m)

Obtaining of permits. Equipment checks, Final supplies preparation, Time to buy any last-minute items. Lodging in hotel.

Day 3: Mendoza / Penitentes-Puente del Inca (8,992ft – 2725m)

Obtaining of permits. Transfer to Penitentes-Puente Del Inca. Lodging in hotel. Preparation of the loads for the mules



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### **Day 4: Penitentes / Confluencia (10,890ft – 3300m)**

Drive to the entrance of the Park. Trek to Confluencia Camp. You will only carry your daypack, our mules will carry your personal equipment.

### **Day 5: Confluencia / Confluencia (10,890ft – 3300m)**

Acclimatization, Optional Trek to Plaza Francia (13,200ft – 4000m), base of the south face of the Mount Aconcagua, lunch and return to Confluencia.

### **Day 6: Confluencia / Plaza de Mulas (14,058ft – 4260m)**

Trek to Plaza de Mulas Base Camp. Lodging in the base camp. You will only carry your daypack; our mules will carry your personal equipment.

### **Day 7: Plaza de Mulas (14,058ft – 4260m)**

Acclimatization Day / Rest Day. Optional short trek to Horcones glacier.

### **Day 8: Plaza de Mulas (14,058ft – 4260m)**

Acclimatization Day. Checking of equipment for the trek to Camp Canada next day.

### **Day 9: Plaza de Mulas (14,058ft – 4260m)**

Acclimatization trek and transportation of gear to Camp 1 Canada (16,203ft – 4910m). Lunch and return to Base Camp.

### **Day 10: Plaza de Mulas / Camp 1 Canadá (16,203ft – 4910m)**

Climb to Camp 1 Canada. Setting up of tents and resting. You will be carrying personal gear and additional supplies if any. Our porters will carry the tents, cooking equipment, food and group equipment.

### **Day 11: Camp 1 Canadá / Camp 2 Nido de Cóndores (17,325ft – 5250m)**

Climb to Camp 2 Nido de Cóndores. Setting up of tents and resting. Checking of equipment for the ascent. Our porters will carry the tents, cooking equipment, food and group equipment.

### **Day 12: Camp 2 Nido de Cóndores (17,325ft – 5250m)**

Rest and acclimatization day.

### **Day 13: Camp 2 Nido de Cóndores (17,325ft – 5250m)**

Acclimatization trek and transportation of altitude meals and cooking elements to ) Camp 3 Berlín – Cólera (19,470ft– 5900m) Lunch and return to Camp 2 Nido de Cóndores.

### **Day 14: Camp 3 Berlín – Cólera (19,470ft – 5900m)**

Climb to Camp 3 Berlín – Cólera. Setting up of tents and resting. Checking of equipment for the ascent. You will be carrying personal equipment and and additional supplies if any.

### **Day 15: Camp 3 Berlín – Cólera (19,470ft – 5900m) / SUMMIT (22,834ft – 6962m)**

Climb from Camp 3 Berlín – Cólera to the SUMMIT!!! and return to Camp 3.





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Day 16: Camp 3 Berlín – Cólera / Plaza de Mulas base camp (14,058ft – 4260m) Descent to Plaza de Mulas base camp. You will be carrying your personal equipment and additional supplies.

Day 17: Plaza de Mulas base camp / Puente del Inca / Mendoza  
Hike to Puente del Inca - 20-mile hike / Return to Mendoza for celebration dinner / Hotel. You will only carry your daypack; our mules will carry your personal equipment.

Day 18: Extra day for bad weather or other contingencies

Day 19: Extra day for bad weather or other contingencies

Day 20: Extra Day for bad weather or other contingencies

Day 21: Return flights to the United States

**Note:** This is a general itinerary, and we will attempt to follow this approximate schedule. But due to the nature of international travel, please remember to be flexible. We will make decisions based on the best possible way to accomplish our goal of success on the summit of Aconcagua. Expeditions will end upon return to Mendoza. SWS Mountain Guides will not be responsible for extra hotel days in Mendoza or Santiago if the trip ends early due to a quick ascent or abandonment of the climb due to weather, illness, or unforeseen problems



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