Join Alpine Ascents’ elite guide team as we travel to Aconcagua each winter, offering a variety of routes and support levels. With 30 years of experience guiding Aconcagua, an outstanding success rate, and partnerships with local outfitters, we offer a unique and unparalleled opportunity to take on the highest mountain in the Americas.
Alpine Ascents has been named one of "The Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth" by National Geographic Adventure Magazine. We are proud to be the highest rated Mountain Guide Service.

We come highly recommended by peers in the climbing industry.

"Alpine Ascents International is a leader in the climbing industry and instrumental in setting precedent in the mountaineering community. They are committed to developing safe, self-reliant and environmentally-conscious mountaineers while offering courses and expeditions of unsurpassed quality throughout the world.

Their commitment to the environment and ethical global business practices make Alpine Ascents one of the most respected and well-rounded mountain guiding company's in the industry."

Our Aconcagua Expedition was featured in Men's Journal. Excerpt from a 2018 climber:

"The Alpine Ascents team is amazing. I had many in depth conversations with multiple staff members who always gave me their undivided attention and seemed happy to answer my questions. The Gear Department is phenomenal!

The attention to detail in preparation and on the expedition, is necessary and is a strength of the program. It was well organized including all the details that make a trip smooth. The amount of hiking per day was set up for maximum success. Each guide brought a unique set of skills and experience to the team. All three guides worked very well together. I truly enjoyed their company during our time together."
A CONCAGUA WITH ALPINE ASCENTS GUIDE STAFF

All scheduled trips are led by elite members of our guide staff, each with extensive knowledge of Aconcagua and its challenges. You’ll know the names and backgrounds of your guides beforehand and have the chance to communicate with them directly. While many guide services offer WFR (Wilderness First Responder) training to guides, practical field use is often a missing element. Our guides work in leadership roles from Everest to Antarctica, and as a result bring a wealth of wilderness medical experience to Aconcagua. Whether helping with illness, injury, or altitude issues, our guides are more likely to handle these hurdles early and efficiently, so you can focus on climbing the mountain and enjoying the success of your trip.

Social intelligence and leadership are other major parts of the equation for successful guiding. Having worked with climbers on big peaks around the world, their ability to assist, motivate, and assess your fitness and skills is what enables us to have the highest summit success in the industry. We strive not only to work closely with each climber while on the mountain, but also to educate everyone on a daily basis. Climbers will leave the expedition with a solid foundation in areas like high altitude physiology, Leave No Trace principles, managing cold weather issues, and injury prevention in the mountains.
5-STAR STANDARDS

Alpine Ascents looks to maintain the highest standard of guiding and logistics on Aconcagua. With a full-time office, multiple packing facilities, and direct communication with Base Camps and mule drivers, our local infrastructure is unrivaled in the industry. In Mendoza, our teams lodge at a 5-star hotel, have a full gear check, prepare permits, and travel to the mountain with planned efficiency.

“It was ‘first class’ from the advance information provided, along with the quality of the pre-departure hotel gathering point, the personal attention given by the guide team, quality rented equipment, and food on the expedition. Truly a quality organization and would highly recommend to anyone.”

2018 Aconcagua Climber

© Ben Jones
WHY CLIMB WITH US

Alpine Ascents had an outstanding 100% team success in 2017/18 and 2016/17, with all teams reaching the summit!

Our Honest Approach
We are very clear about the demands of climbing Aconcagua. If you call our office and say “I’ve climbed Kilimanjaro,” we do not simply sign you up. We are frank about the need for a higher level of climbing skill. We go to great lengths to educate and prepare our climbers. Aconcagua is a serious, rigorous climb, and being properly prepared is of primary importance. We look to make each team as strong and as complementary to each other as possible.

Strategic Itineraries on Each Route
On both routes we build in extra days to rest at camps. These acclimatization days are of vital importance to summit success and safety. We review itinerary strategies every season and adjust when necessary.

Gear List
Alpine Ascents carefully looks at the quality of tents and gear. We update our gear regularly and frequently bring brand new tents to the mountain. Gear does not last long on Aconcagua, and it is important to us that it be fresh and well-prepared each season.

Mules
Our professional teams of Arrieros (muleteers) have dedicated their lives to raising mules and horses, and have earned their living for over three decades by the transportation of cargo.
Food
Guides purchase food in Mendoza and prepare your meals on the mountain. We also have substantial meals cooked by local staff while at Base Camp. We take great care when making menu plans and food choices. Most outfitters use freeze-dried food during the climb, but we opt for freshly cooked meals. Food planning has always been a fun exercise for our guides, who are not given a fixed food list, but shop themselves and prepare personalized meals for the group.

Waste Removal
Alpine Ascents hires porters on the Vacas Valley Route (whenever possible) to come to each camp and carry out waste so climbers do not have to carry waste throughout the climb.

Oversight
Along with detailing expectations with our local partner, we send a lead guide from Alpine Ascents on every trip overseeing the expedition. We handpick expert local guides to assist on most climbs, or we send additional Alpine Ascents guides to be part of our Aconcagua guide staff. Our teams of 10 will have three guides.

Porters Available Upon Request
Porters on the Vacas Valley Route and Normal Route can be pre-booked or hired on the spot.

Extended Itinerary
An extended itinerary includes extra days that allow us to acclimatize properly, wait out bad weather, and have time to enjoy the charming city of Mendoza. We can also assist (for those booking with our travel agent) in adjusting flights.
Full-Service Base Camp: Wi-Fi & & Communications
In addition to our lead guide, we have a Base Camp guide (local outfitter) to coordinate incoming and outgoing expeditions for both routes. Since 2016 we have provided Wi-Fi (for an additional cost) at Base Camp. Our manager can handle specific needs of clients, communicate between teams at various points on the mountain, and generally lend a hand wherever necessary. With our local outfitter, we maintain Base Camps that serve as communication centers for climbers and guides with the use of two-way radios, while also assisting climbers who descend early. Each Base Camp has a medical team provided by Aconcagua National Park.

Local Staff
We usually have both local and US staff in Mendoza to assist with early departures or climber care as needed. While it may seem minor, having this assistance can greatly curtail difficult situations, including missing gear, lost luggage, additional hotel reservations, and personalized transport. Many guide services do not have the level of support we offer, and leaving the mountain early or at trip conclusion can be complicated.

Assessment of Itinerary and Camp Locations
Every season we pour over feedback, evaluations, and first-hand experience to obsessively refine our expeditions.

History of Success
We have led more expeditions than any other guide service, and have had many teams with 100% success.

Leave No Trace (LNT) Practices
LNT is always an important practice for Alpine Ascents. We are proud to have initiated a waste-removal system on our climbs. LNT ethics are taught and utilized throughout the trip.
THE TWO ROUTES OF ACONCAGUA

Both routes on Aconcagua are non-technical, but that does not mean they are easy. Far from it; most who have limited experience, such as climbing Kilimanjaro, quickly realize this climb is in another league.

Is crampon experience needed? It is certainly important, as heavy snow or ice on the route would require crampon use. While crampons were rarely used in 2017/18, they were frequently used in the 2016/17 season. It is best to have crampon experience beforehand; high up on Aconcagua is not the best time for first use.
This is the tried and true route that we have offered since 1990 (private porter support is available). Quieter, more aesthetically pleasing, and offering a chance to traverse the mountain, this route employs three camps above Base Camp, and offers ample rest and extra days — Aconcagua at its finest. Approximate pack weight is 45-50 lbs.

This beautiful route offers a rare climbing opportunity, as we encounter few climbers and spend quiet evenings in the rich mountain wilderness. For the 3-day trek to and from Base Camp, our gear is carried by mules. As we ascend, we establish a series of progressively higher camps through the Vacas Valley. We then descend via a more direct route, with our gear transported around the mountain to meet the team.

MORE ABOUT THE VACAS VALLEY ROUTE
Click to continue to the Alpine Ascent’s website for day-by-day route info.
NORMAL ROUTE:
WITH PORTERS FOR GROUP GEAR

This is a shorter and more direct route with porter support to carry group gear (private porter support also available).

This trip includes extra rest days and a well-appointed Base Camp. The route has less moves and carries than the Vacas Valley, coupled with less time at the higher mountain camps, making it a perfect entry into the world of high altitude climbing. Approximate pack weight is 35-40 lbs.

A more popular, more direct, and somewhat easier route, the Normal Route can be climbed in fewer days. This route includes partial porter support. Climbers spend more days acclimatizing at Base Camp, using day hikes and an ascent of Mt. Bonete as a day trip from Base Camp.

MORE ABOUT THE NORMAL ROUTE
Click to continue to the Alpine Ascent's website for day-by-day route info.
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY
From before you book to after your trip is over, we’re here to make sure you’re comfortable and well-supported. Our services include:

**Route Selection**
Which one is right for you? We look forward to matching your background with a suggested route.

**Comprehensive Information**
Climbers receive our famous pre-trip information package with everything you need to know.

**Physical Preparation**
Our website has a specific training regimen designed for Aconcagua and our staff is happy to advise you with individual training recommendations.

**Personal Communication**
Your guide will contact you pre-trip to answer questions and provide personal tips to help you prepare.

**Gear List**
We will send you a comprehensive list and offer our recommendations. We also have a full retail store and rental department.

**Local Support**
In Mendoza, we have local staff to assist with logistics, lodging, and other needs.

**Timing & Transport**
We have a full-time travel agent and scheduled airport pickup. Transport to Base Camp, mules, and return to Mendoza are all included in the pricing.
NORMAL ROUTE PACK WEIGHT: 35-40 LBS

For most climbers, pack weight is about 35-40 lbs for the days we move up the mountain. Porters will assist with group gear, allowing your pack weight to be 35-40 lbs, as opposed to full expedition weight of 55+ lbs. En route to Base Camp we have mule support. On the trek to Base Camp, day hikes around Base Camp, and our climb of nearby Mt. Bonete, pack weight is 20-25 lbs. Porters can be hired as needed on the spot, so no need to pre-arrange porters if you are unsure. However, if you know you want porter support for the entire expedition it is best to pre-arrange. On days when porters are used, your pack weight will be about 15-20 lbs. Porters will carry your gear to the next camp and deposit it there, but will not walk side by side with you as on some other mountains. Past costs for porters:

To Canada $180  |  To Nido de Condores $260  |  To Colera $320

Prerequisite

Probably the most underestimated of the 7 summits, Aconcagua is non-technical but has all the challenges of a big mountain expedition. Being based out of Base Camp (as we do on the Normal Route) affords us less time with a heavy pack and a better chance to develop self-care skills, which only time in the mountains can improve. Before climbing Aconcagua via the Normal Route, we recommend climbers have some crampon experience and have completed a multi-day climb with similar pack weight or equivalent.
VACAS VALLEY ROUTE PACK WEIGHT: 45-50 LBS

For most climbers, pack weight is about 45-50 lbs as we move from camp to camp up the mountain. Since we climb using double carries, our pack weight remains at 40-45 lbs as opposed to 55+ lbs, which would be the full weight of our personal and group gear. Group gear is divided amongst team members. En route to Base Camp we have mule support and a pack weigh of about 20-25 lbs.

Porters
Porters can be hired as needed on the spot, so no need to pre-arrange porters if you are unsure. However, if you know you want porter support for the entire expedition it is best to pre-arrange. On days when porters are used, your pack weight will be about 15-20 lbs. Porters will carry your gear to the next camp and deposit it there, but will not walk side by side with you as on some other mountains. Past costs for porters:
To Camp I $290 x 2  |  To Camp III – Guanacos $390 x 2  |  To Camp IV - Colera $465 x 2
From Camp IV to Plaza de Mulas $320

Prerequisite
Probably the most underestimated of the 7 summits, Aconcagua is non-technical but has all the challenges of a big mountain expedition. Moving camps regularly is usually better suited for those who have completed a climb in the past. Before climbing Aconcagua via the Vacas Valley Route we recommend climbers have crampon experience and have completed a multi-day climb with similar pack weight. Mount Rainier and Mount Baker are two examples of recommended prior climbs.
"All three guides had extensive experience with and knowledge of Aconcagua. They were constantly passing on their “pro-tips” and did so professionally. Having a native Argentinian guide was invaluable."

"I had a wonderful experience – as always – with AAI. The guide team was phenomenal; they were always helpful and their combined experience truly astounding. Their willingness to share their knowledge and stories of past expeditions made for some very entertaining conversations. Despite some tricky logistics and early evacuations of some of our team members, they were able to divide the work load and make all of us feel well taken care of and safe. Their enthusiasm for the mountains and their desire to share their love for the outdoors was both palpable and contagious."
Excellent pre-trip materials, online gear lists with photo descriptions, and a promise of quick responses to all questions. All fees and inclusions are listed on the website. Permit fees are not included in the Alpine Ascents cost. We operate a U.S.-based mountain gear and rental department, so staff is always available for questions during business hours by phone or email.

“We were given so much help and information prior to the trip that I found very helpful. There are not enough words to describe the great support and encouragement that was given to us by your Alpine Staff. All my correspondence with AAI have been professional and responsive. Preparation materials were also very useful.”
SAFETY, COMFORT & COMMUNICATION

Truly showing our expertise as a mountaineering company, we excel in the areas that matter most.

Our extensive medical kit includes bottled oxygen, pulse oximeters, and other advanced equipment that may be necessary when climbing Aconcagua. Each trip is equipped with satellite phones, radios, and cell phones for communication. Satellite phone messages left by the team are uploaded to the Alpine Ascents Cybercast website as audio recordings so family and friends at home can listen and follow along—we’re famous for our cybercasts! Pictures are also posted pre and post trip.

On the trip, we provide high quality 4-season, 3-person mountaineering tents (usually North Face VE25) for each pair of climbers. We also ensure all animals (mules) are properly cared for throughout our journey and beyond.
OUR THREE BASE CAMPS

CONFLUENCIA: 3,990M
An intermediate camp en route to Plaza de Mulas.

PLAZA DE MULAS: 4,350M
Base Camp for the Normal Route of Aconcagua. Climbers usually spend between 3-5 nights here for acclimatization and 1 night on return from the summit.

PLAZA ARGENTINA: 4,190M
Base Camp for the Vacas Valley Route.

Amenities
All camps are fully equipped with dining tents containing tables, chairs, table clothes, silver wear, and electric lights. All camps have secure storage tents, clean toilets, and charging stations for phones and computers. Personal tent platforms are already established, saving considerable time and energy for climbing groups when they arrive.

Communication
All our base and approach camps are connected with a communication system via VHF radio frequency or satellite phone. This allows us to facilitate the smooth movement of gear and to assist those coming off the mountain whether scheduled or unscheduled in a timely manner. Should an emergency occur, we are in close contact with the Park Rangers and the helicopter service to move climbers efficiently to additional services off the mountain.

Medical Facilities
The Provincial Park has medical facilities in both Plaza de Mulas and Plaza Argentina operated by doctors with experience in high altitude and emergency medicine. Alpine Ascents has additional medical equipment which includes: portable oxygen, emergency first aid kits, and pulse oximeters.

Both Plaza de Mulas and Plaza Argentina have these additional amenities:
- **Wi-Fi Throughout**: Internet can be purchased by the hour and accessed by your smart phone or computer.
- **Showers**: Hot showers are available during the day, and are a great way to get the dust off and relax.
Gear List, Rentals & AAI-Provided Gear

Another area in which Alpine Ascents shines is helping you prepare your gear. Alpine Ascents uniquely provides the following services:

Experts - we have full-time, expert gear staff to answer any gear-related question.

Retail Stores - both online and at our Seattle office, we offer a discount to our registered climbers.

Gear List - we provide a detailed list with full descriptions to help make sure you have the right stuff!

Rentals - quality rental gear, cleaned and stored in Seattle. We offer the latest models and brands.

Alpine Ascents-Provided Gear - items such as tents, stoves, cooking equipment, utensils, and sleeping pads are already included and provided.
SEE YOU AT THE TOP

Our high ratio of Alpine Ascents guides to climbers ensures the ability to provide individual support to each and every climber throughout the entire trip. From registration to summit, we look forward to providing you with perfect service. Please see website below for further details.

MORE AT: WWW.ALPINEASCENTS.COM