

ACONCAGUA POLISH TRAVERSE

The Grand Traverse of the North-East face of Aconcagua, sometimes named 'False Polish' represents the most aesthetic side from where to attempt the summit, farther from the beaten path, and following a gradual progression. We follow the Vacas valley to reach the Plaza Argentina base camp (Eastern side of the mountain). From here we will climb the entire non-technical north face, connecting with the regular route on summit day. Finally, we descend towards Plaza de Mulas to hike out along the Horcones Valley (West side of the mountain) in order to circumnavigate the mountain enjoying the views of this giant from all possible angles.

Best time to go	December through February
Program length	19 DAYS
Activity Level	<p>CHALLENGING</p> <p>The Terrain: 11-15 km (7-10 mi.) a day over fairly hilly terrain offering lots of challenges (boulder fields, snow/ice fields. Routes are along high meadow paths and/or well-maintained cliffside or alpine trails, with a few steep ascents to make you feel invigorated. 6+ ft waves on sea or lakes and up to 40° snow slopes carrying a 34lbs pack approximately.</p> <p>The Traveller: "I hike quite regularly, and I want to have a good workout each day. I don't want to miss the historical and cultural stuff, but I also don't need to be at the spa by 4:00."</p>
What is Included	<p>Services of a Magellanica® host throughout the journey for continual monitoring of your journey by the Magellanica® team. The team is on call 24-hours a day during a trip</p> <p>In addition, a private specialized Magellanica® "Lead Guide" is staffed on each trip to sort out logistical/technical matters and to monitor every step of the journey.</p> <p>Guide/client ratio on summit day: 3/1</p> <p>All special events, private guided tours, private excursions, private outdoor activities and entrance fees</p> <p>All ground transportation</p> <p>3 to 4* accommodations at hotel or boutique lodge</p> <p>Mountain Huts</p> <p>Camping nights</p> <p>Most meals, normally all field meals</p> <p>Specific technical equipment or otherwise specified for paddling, mountaineering, snowshoeing climbing & skiing</p> <p>All group gear: tents and kitchen, first aid, communication devices</p> <p>A Magellanica® suggested packing list to be sent prior to departure</p> <p>Domestic flights and international flights upon request</p> <p>All pack mules. <u>Group gear</u>: tents, first aid kits, communication devices, barometer, altimeter, GPS, technical equipment as needed</p> <p>Porters available to shuttle fuel and tents and kitchens</p>
What is Not included:	<p>Personal gear, please request our suggested equipment/packing list</p> <p>International Flights</p> <p>Domestic flights</p> <p>In-town and/or in transit restaurant meals</p> <p>Alcoholic beverages or otherwise specified</p> <p>Evacuation and early departure costs.</p>

The itinerary

	Day	Activity	Night	Description
Approach & acclimatization	1	Resting	Hotel in Mendoza	Arrive in Mendoza. We will meet you at the airport and drive you to the hotel. Group meeting at hotel. Formal introductions of the group and guides. Review gear with guides. Time to go and rent the appropriate personal gear.
	2	Transfer & resting	Lodge in Penitentes Ski Area	Pick-up climbing permits and last minute supplies. Lunch. Transfer to Penitentes ski area at 2700 m (8,800 ft). Afternoon light hike is optional though recommended.
	3	Hiking	Pampa de Leñas camp	Approach to Base Camp. Mules carry our gear. After a jeep ride to the trail head we will hike for about 4 hours along the Vacas Valley, arriving at Pampa de Leñas Camp and ranger station.
	4	Hiking	Casa de Piedra camp	On our second approach day we continue up the Vacas River to the confluence with the Relinchos creek and our second camp, after 6 hrs. From this spot we'll be able to see the entire East face of Aconcagua with the Polish Glacier.
	5	Hiking	Plaza Argentina Base camp	After crossing the Rio de Las Vacas, we hike 9 miles up the steep, narrow Relinchos Valley to the moraine that marks the Plaza Argentina, our base camp at 13,780'. This camp is located on the stable rock-covered glacier and has well protected campsites. (6-8 hours)
Aconcagua Ascent	6	Resting	Plaza Argentina Base camp	Rest day and acclimatization day at Base Camp.
	7	Ascent	Plaza Argentina Base camp	Carry a load to Camp 1 at 4800 m (16,000 ft). We leave basecamp and head northwest over the moraine of the Relinchos Glacier. After negotiating a traverse through a field of Penitentes (ice and snow daggers formed by the sun), we cross a small stream and arrive at the site of Camp I (16,000') beneath some large rocks. (4-6 hours) We cache food and gear, enjoy a leisurely lunch and begin the descent back to Plaza Argentina base camp.
	8	Ascent	Plaza Argentina Basecamp	Rest day at basecamp
	9	Resting	Camp 1	Move to Camp 1
	10	Hiking	Camp 1	Rest day at Camp 1
	11	Ascent	Camp 1	We'll climb past the Ameghino Col (17,650 ft.) to Camp 2 at the base of the Polish Glacier at 19,350 ft., approximately 6 hours from Camp I. Here we cache gear and return back down to Camp 1.
	12	Ascent	Camp 2	Move to camp 2.
	13	Resting	Camp 2	Rest day at camp
	14	Ascent	Camp 3	Move to Camp 3. The Polish Traverse crosses north and west on slopes up to 35 degrees and joins the Normal Route at Independencia 6,200m (20,300'). Camp 3 can vary in its location.
	15	Summit bid	Camp 3	Summit day! We will have 3 days to try reaching the Summit at 6962 m (22,800 ft)

16	Descent	Pza. de Mulas Hotel	Descend down the Regular Route all the way to Plaza de Mulas Base Camp. We will enjoy dinner and spend the night at the Plaza de Mulas Mountain Hotel at 4300 m (14,000 ft).
17	Hike out	Penitentes Hotel	Descend along the Horcones Valley, with impressive views of Aconcagua's South Face. Mules carry our gear. Night and dinner in Penitentes.
18	Transfer & Resting	Hotel in Mendoza	Transfer to Mendoza. Celebration dinner and wine tasting in a gourmet restaurant.
19	Flight	Home	Transfer to the airport, fly home. END OF OUR SERVICES.

Note: This is a proposed itinerary and is subject to change due to weather conditions, mountain conditions, group characteristics and unforeseen circumstances. When planning your travel dates, please give yourself a couple of extra days for this reason. **Magellanica®** will not be responsible for any extra costs for missed flights, extra ground transportation costs or extra hotel nights due to delays in returning to Mendoza or any medical or non-medical evacuation.