



PISSIS VOLCANO EXPEDITION (6,795 MASL)

DESTINATION: Catamarca – Route of the Six-Thousanders

THEME/TYPE: Adventure tourism – Trekking in the Andes – High-altitude mountaineering.

OVERVIEW: The Route of the Six-Thousanders is a 200 km journey through the Andes Mountains, connecting Fiambalá in the province of Catamarca with the San Francisco Pass on the Chilean border. The trail crosses high-altitude landscapes with colorful mountains, valleys inhabited by vicuñas and guanacos, and several peaks exceeding 6,000 meters. The main challenge of this route is the Nevado del Pissis, a volcano standing at 6,793 meters.

This 15-day expedition begins with an acclimatization phase at the Cortaderas Mountain Hotel and the La Gruta shelter near the San Francisco Pass. During this stage, we undertake hikes and ascents of progressively higher peaks to help the body adapt to the environment. We then head toward the base of the Pissis Volcano, crossing landscapes of multicolored lagoons, glaciers, and saltflats. Upon arrival, we set up high-altitude camps in preparation for the summit attempt.

DATES: December 8–22, 2025

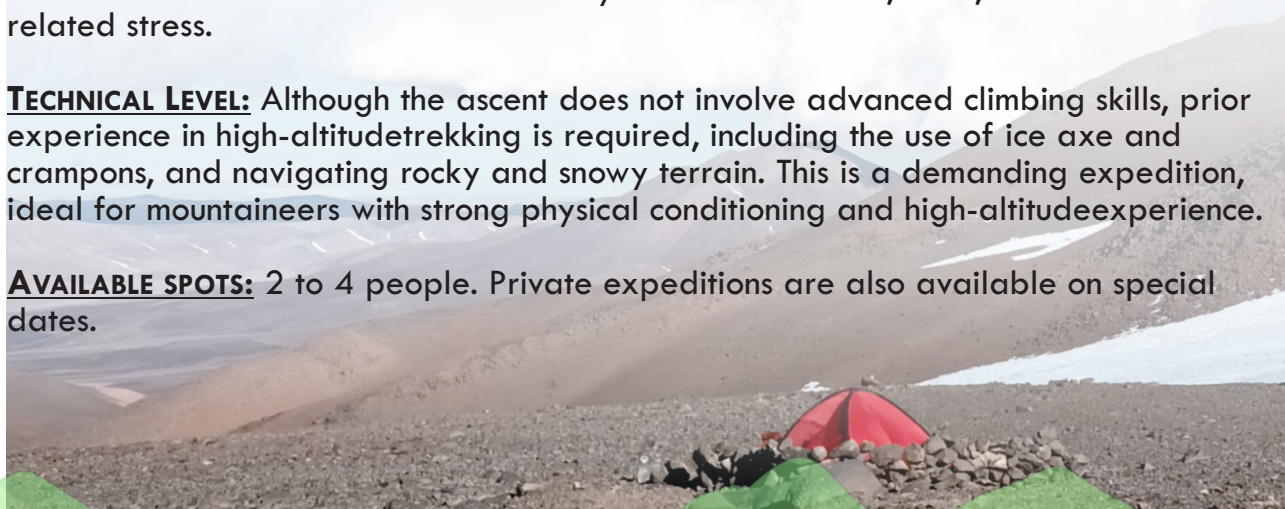
MEETING AND END POINT: Fiambalá – Catamarca

DIFFICULTY: VERY DEMANDING. Climbing Pissis Volcano is a physically and technically challenging endeavor that requires solid preparation and previous mountaineering experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL: The extreme altitude (6,793 meters) and the harsh conditions of the Atacama Desert make acclimatization essential. Participants must be ready for long days of hiking, climbing, and camping at high elevations, which demands excellent cardiovascular endurance and the ability to withstand cold, wind, and altitude-related stress.

TECHNICAL LEVEL: Although the ascent does not involve advanced climbing skills, prior experience in high-altitude trekking is required, including the use of ice axe and crampons, and navigating rocky and snowy terrain. This is a demanding expedition, ideal for mountaineers with strong physical conditioning and high-altitude experience.

AVAILABLE SPOTS: 2 to 4 people. Private expeditions are also available on special dates.



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ITINERARY

Day	Description of activities
Day 1 08/12/25	Meeting in the town of Fiambalá at 5:00 p.m. Accommodation, introductory briefing about the expedition, and group gear check.
Day 2 09/12/25	Transfer to Mountain Hotel Cortaderas, located at 3,300 masl. We'll take an acclimatization and orientation hike around the area. - Vehicle transfer: Distance from Fiambalá to Cortaderas: 98 km (one way). Pavedroad. Duration: 2 hours Maximum altitude of the day: 3,800 masl
Day 3 10/12/25	After a good breakfast, we'll hike from Cortaderas to the base of Cerro Pastos Amarillos (4,135 masl) to begin the ascent. It's a moderatetrek, taking 5 to 7 hours. From the summit, we'll enjoys tunning views of the region. Return to Cortaderas for dinner and over night. - Ascentdetails: Total duration: 5 to 7 hours Total distance: 10 km Maximum altitude: 4,135 masl
Day 4 11/12/25	After breakfast, we'll drive to the base of Cerro La Coipa (5,135 masl). The ascent is moderate and will take 4 to 6 hours. From the summit, we'll get a spectacular view of the surroundings. Returnto Cortaderas for dinner and over night. - Vehicle transfer: Distance from Cortaderas to trail head: 32 km (one way). Dirtroad Duration: 1.5 hours Vehicle drop-off altitude: 4,500 masl - Ascentdetails: Total duration: 4 to 6 hours Total distance: 7 km Maximum altitude: 5,135 masl



ITINERARY

Day	Description of activities
Day 5 12/12/25	Rest day and approach to <i>Refugio Las Grutas</i> at the San Francisco Pass. En route, we'll view <i>Volcán Incahuasi</i> and <i>San Francisco</i>, two of the region's great six-thousanders. Upon arrival, we'll organize gear, rest, and continue acclimatization with short hikes. Over night at there fuge. - Vehicle transfer: Distance from Cortaderas to Refugio Las Grutas: 85 km (one way). Paved road Duration: 2 hours Vehicle drop-off altitude: 4,050 masl
Day 6 13/12/25	After breakfast, we'll drive to the base of <i>Volcán Bertrand</i> and begin a calm, gradual ascent. The hike will take 6 to 8 hours. From the summit, we'll have sweeping views of the six-thousanders and Bertrand's enormous 4 km-wide crater. After descending, return to Cortaderas. Dinner and over night. - Vehicle transfer: Distance from Las Grutas to Bertrand's base: 4 km (one way). Mountain track Duration: 30 minutes Vehicle drop-off altitude: 4,400 masl - Ascent details: Total duration: 6 to 8 hours Total distance: 10 km Maximum altitude: 5,285 masl
Day 7 14/12/25	Rest day at Cortaderas Mountain Hotel.

ITINERARY

Day	Description of activities
Day 8 15/12/25	Transfer to <i>Pissis Base Camp</i> “Mar del Plata” (4,600 masl). On the way, we'll enjoy stunning land scapes of lagoons, valleys, and vast mountains. Upon arrival, we'll set up camp and take a short acclimatization walk. Hydration, dinner, and overnight. - Vehicle transfer: Distance from Cortaderas to Pissis Base Camp: 90 km (oneway). Gravel and mountain tracks Duration: 6 to 7 hours Vehicle drop-off altitude: 4,600 masl
Day 9 16/12/25	We'll carry gear to <i>Camp 1</i> (5,350 masl) and return to sleep at <i>Mar del Plata Base Camp</i> (4,600 masl). - Camp 1 approach: Duration: 4 to 6 hours Total distance: 12 km Maximum altitude: 5,350 masl
Day 10 17/12/25	Ascent from <i>Mar del Plata Base Camp</i> (4,600 masl) to <i>Camp 1</i> (5,350 masl). - Camp 1 ascent: Duration: 4 hours Distance: 6 km Maximum altitude: 5,350 masl





ITINERARY

Day	Description of activities
Day 11 18/12/25	Day 11: Ascent from <i>Camp 1</i> (5,350 masl) to <i>Camp 2</i> (5,800 masl). - Camp 2 ascent: Duration: 4 to 6 hours Distance: 2 km Maximum altitude: 5,800 masl
Day 12 19/12/25	Summit day – <i>Volcán Pissis</i> (6,795 masl). We begin early, pre-dawn, for a demanding ascent. We climb across a large snow field up to 6,500 meters, between a false summit and the main peak. From there, we skirt a rocky hill to reach the Summit ridge. The final ridge is short but steep in places, and after a few more minutes of climbing, we reach the summit. From the top, we enjoy panoramic views of peaks in both Argentina and Chile, and the vast desert valleys below. Return to <i>Camp 2</i> . Dinner and overnight. - Summit day details: Ascent duration: 9 to 10 hours Descent to <i>Camp 2</i>: 3 to 4 hours Total distance: 6 km Maximum altitude: 6,795 masl
Day 13 20/12/25	Descent from <i>Camp 2</i> (5,800 masl) to <i>Mar del Plata Base Camp</i> (4,600 masl), then transfer back to <i>Fiambalá</i> . End of services. - Descent to base camp: Duration: 3 to 4 hours Distance: 10 km - Vehicle transfer: Distance from base camp to <i>Fiambalá</i>: 190 km (one way). Gravel, mountain track, and paved road Duration: 6 to 7 hours
Day 14 21/12/25	Spare day in case of bad weather or unforeseen conditions.
Day 15 22/12/25	Spare day in case of bad weather or unforeseen conditions.

INCLUDED SERVICES:

- ✓ Internal transportation: Fiambalá – Valle de los Seismiles – Fiambalá.
- ✓ Accommodation: One (1) night in a hostel in Fiambalá (shared rooms with bedding, hot shower, towels). Five (5) nights at Hotel de Montaña Cortaderas (shared dorm-style rooms with out bedding, shared bathrooms, hot showers) .Six (6) nights in high-altitude camps (includes double or triple mountaintents).
*RECOMMENDATION: Coordinate and booky our accommodation for there turn in advance.
- ✓ Full board during the expedition: From dinner on Day 1 to lunch on Day 13. (Breakfasts /snacks (coffee, tea, milk, sweet and salty cookies, toast, home made jam). Packedlunches (sandwicheswith a varietyofcoldcuts and cheeses, fruit, cereal bars). Dinners (starter, maincourse, and dessert). * *If you require a special diet (vegetarian, gluten-free, etc.), please let usk now in advance. A suitable menu will be prepared at no additional cost.*
- ✓ General camp logistics: Stoves and fuel for the entire expedition, complete mountain kitchen set.
- ✓ Professional certified guides accordingto Catamarca Province legislation (Ratio: 1 guide per 2 participants).
- ✓ Group mountain first aid kit.
- ✓ Emergency oxygen.
- ✓ VHF communication equipment and satellite messagingdevice (SPOT X) for emergencies.
- ✓ Liability and personal accident insurance.
- ✓ Ascent permit processing.
- ✓ 2 extra days in case of bad weather or special circumstances.
- ✓ Pre-expeditionadvice and support.





NOT INCLUDED:

- ✓ Transportation from your place of origin to Fiambalá.
- ✓ Accommodation for the return day.
- ✓ Personal equipment (see list below).
- ✓ Trail snacks (were commend bringingnougat, cereal bars, nuts, candy, etc.).
- ✓ Rescue and evacuation expenses.
- ✓ Expenses due to abandonment of the expedition or early with drawal.

IMPORTANT NOTES

The company reserves the right to modify the itinerary or suspend activities if weather conditions or any other circumstances justify it, always prioritizing the safety of the group members.

We classify this ascent as "very demanding". No prior technical knowledge is required, as the program does not involve technical difficulties. However, the group will walk between 6 to 8 hours per day over several days, and 12 to 15 hours on the Summit day. Prior experience in mountain ascents is essential.

During the expedition, each participant must carry their own backpack with personal equipment. In the day leading up to the Summit attempt, it will be necessary to carry loads of equipment and food to camps 1 and 2. On Summit day, technical gear (ice axe and crampons) must also be carried when not in use.

The walking times indicated are average estimates that include short breaks and may vary depending on the pace of the group.

This ascent is subject to weather conditions, and poor weather may require us to stop and wait until conditions improve.

Tents will be set up by the participants with guidance from the guide and assistant.

No prior technical experience in the use of ice axe and crampons is required.

Through out the ascent, hearty meals will be provided, adapted to the participants' preferences and energy needs. In addition, energy foods (dried fruits, cereal bars, candy, and sweets) will be distributed during hikes to supplement nutrition.

It is important to note that this program includes only one Summit attempt. The company is not responsible for failure to reach the Summit on the planned day due to physical limitations (e.g., fatigue) or adverse weather, as these factors are unpredictable.

No member of the group may separate or abandon the program under any circumstance. The guide's decisions during the expedition are final and non-negotiable.



PERSONAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE ASCENT

- Trekking back pack (60 to 80 liters).
- Warm sleeping bag (comfort rating -15°C; e.g., 800/1000 grams of high-quality down or synthetic insulation).
- Insulating sleeping pad (10 to 15 mm thick).
- Inflatable sleeping pad (optional).
- Trekking poles.

FEET

- One pair of double mountaineering boots (can be plastic or high-quality synthetic, single boots—please inquire). MANDATORY
- One pair of trekking shoes (light boots).

FIRST LAYER (Base Layer)

- Changes of under wear.
- Cotton t-shirts (for camp wear and sleeping).
- Synthetic short-sleeve shirts or t-shirts.
- Synthetic long-sleeve shirt.
- Polypropylene or similar pants or leggings (no cotton). To be used as insulating base pants.
- Thin polypropylene or similar gloves (no cotton).
- Thin polypropylene or similar socks (no cotton), in contact with the skin.
- Multifunctional scarf (Buff-type).

SECOND LAYER (Insulation)

- Synthetic/thermal trekking socks.
- Thick mountain socks.
- Some cotton or wool socks (wool socks are good for sleeping).
- One pair of long trekking pants.
- Shorts or tights (for thermal baths).
- Two insulating jackets (fleece, softshell, or similar).
- Down or synthetic insulated jacket.
- Fleece gloves.
- Warm hat (fleece).
- Sun hat with neck flaps.

THIRD LAYER (Wind proof and Waterproof)

- Waterproof jacket (Ultrex, Gore-Tex, or similar).
- Waterproof pants (Gore-Tex or similar, or ski pants).
- Third-layer gloves or mittens (waterproof and breathable, ski-type gloves are fine).
- Mountain gaiters (please inquire).

TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT

- Helmet, crampons, and mountaineering ice axe. MANDATORY

PERSONAL DOCUMENTS

- Passport, ID card, national identity document.
- Health insurance or social security card.
- Completed medical and personal forms, authorizations.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Headlamp with batteries (including spare batteries).
- Personal table ware (deepplate, cutlery, and cup or mug; plastic is ideal).
- Durable plastic bags to store clothing.

HEALTH & HYGIENE

- UV protection sun glasses, category 4.
- Spare glasses (goggles are highly recommended).
- Personal first aid kit (medications with prescriptions).
- High SPF sun screen and lipbalm.
- Soap, small shampoo (for sharing), and small towel.
- Toilet paper, tissues, baby wipes.





FINAL PRICE:

Total, cost equivalent in Argentine pesos to **U\$S 3900 (US dollars)** at the time of payment.
(*Based on the blue dollar selling rate published on Lanacion.com.ar)

PAYMENT METHODS:

To reserve:

30% deposit via bank transfer or deposit. (*Based on the blue dollar selling rate on the date of payment, as published on Lanacion.com.ar)

Remaining balance:

30% must be paid up to 30 days before the departure date via bank transfer or deposit.
(*Based on the blue dollar selling rate on the date of payment, as published on Lanacion.com.ar)

There remaining 40% must be paid in cash at the time of departure. (*Based on the blue dollar selling rate on the date of payment, as published on Lanacion.com.ar)

- You can pay via bank transfer or deposit to:

Bank: Banco Nación

Account Holder: Mailen Fernández

CBU: 0110552030055210882433

Alias: AIKEN.OUTDOOR.ACT

Please ask about credit card financing options (surcharge applies).

TO COMPLETE YOUR RESERVATION, YOU MUST:

- Fill out the registration forms provided by the Aiken Outdoor Activities team.
- Make the payment in full before the start of the trip.
- Send all required documents and proof of payment to aikenoutdooractivities@hotmail.com or via WhatsApp at +54 9 3541 521011.

GENERAL FEE CONDITIONS:

The staff of Aiken Outdoor Activities may modify the program, partially or entirely, if they consider that the health, physical or psychological integrity of one or more participants is at risk, or if weather or safety conditions require it. In such cases, no refunds will be issued for the amount paid.

Aiken reserves the right to cancel the trip if the minimum number of participants is not reached. In that case, the participant may either join the next scheduled trip (depending on availability) or receive a 100% refund of the amount paid. No other compensation or reimbursement will be granted for any reason.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Once the reservation is confirmed and the deposit has been paid, it is non-refundable and non-transferable to another trip.

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AIKEN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Certified Guides in the Province of Catamarca. High Mountain and Trekking.
Professional Mountain and Trekking Guides in the Cordillera. ISAU, EPGAMT.
Active WFR Training and Certification. Wilderness First Responder.



Escuela provincial de guías de
ALTA MONTAÑA Y TREKKING



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