

EXPEDITION TO ASCEND CERRO EL PLATA (5,960 m / 19,547 ft) – MENDOZA

DESTINATION: Mendoza – Cordón del Plata

THEME: Adventure Tourism – High Mountain Trekking (Andes Mountain Range)

DESCRIPTION: Just steps away from the city of Mendoza and framed by the imposing Cordón del Plata mountain range rises one of the most challenging and attractive peaks in the region: Cerro El Plata. Standing at 5,960 meters (19,547 ft) above sea level, it is the highest peak in the range and an ideal goal for those seeking to gradually and safely enter the world of high-altitude mountaineering, surrounded by unforgettable landscapes. We offer a 7-day expedition designed for your body to naturally acclimate to the altitude through a combination of hikes, preliminary ascents, and camping in unique locations.

During the first three days, we stay in a mountain refuge, from which we make excursions to lower peaks such as La Cadenita (3,000 m / 9,843 ft), Adolfo Calle, and Stepanek (4,000 m / 13,123 ft). This allows us to acclimatize at a relaxed pace, enjoy the surroundings, and gain valuable experience. Next, we ascend to El Salto Camp (4,250 m / 13,944 ft), a natural balcony nestled between ravines and glaciers. From there, we make a final acclimatization trek toward La Hoyada, and the following day, we set out for the main objective: the summit of Cerro El Plata — a demanding but unforgettable experience.

This journey is more than just a climb; it's a profound connection with the mountains, personal growth, and a celebration of life outdoors at its fullest. Ideal as a first major 5,000-meter ascent or as preparation for greater challenges, El Plata invites you to live an authentic experience, in a team, and in direct contact with the Andes.

DATES: January 19 to 25, 2026.

MEETING AND FINISHING POINT: Vallecitos Ski Center, Mendoza

MODALITY: Mountain Trekking



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PHYSICAL DIFFICULTY: High / Demanding – This expedition involves sustained physical effort over several days, with activity periods lasting up to 12 hours. Participants will carry backpacks weighing 15 kg (33 lbs) or more, traversing uneven terrain at high altitude. The program also includes night travel and exposure to potentially adverse or extreme weather conditions. Prior training and excellent overall physical condition are required, along with a positive, resilient attitude-essential for managing fatigue, discomfort, and collaborative challenges in a demanding mountain environment.

TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY: Low / Mild – No prior technical experience or advanced mountaineering skills are required. The itinerary may include off-trail sections, unstable moraine crossings, areas requiring good balance, and possible creek fording. If snow or ice is encountered, the use of crampons and an ice axe may be necessary. These techniques will be taught on-site by the guide team, so no previous knowledge is mandatory.

GROUP SIZE: 4 to 8 participants



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ITINERARY

Day	Activity Description
1 (19/01/2026) Meeting at the Vallecitos Ski Center. Acclimatization hike in the area.	Meeting at Vallecitos Ski Center at 2 PM. We will organize our gear at the refuge and prepare for an acclimatization hike in the area. Return to refuge, dinner, and overnight stay. •Starting altitude: 2,900 m •Max altitude: 3,200 m •Activity duration: 2 hours
2 (20/01/2026) Ascent to Lomas Blancas Mountain (3,650 m) and Arenales (3,400 m)	After a good breakfast, we begin the ascent through Quebrada del Estudiante to attempt summits of Lomas Blancas (3,650 m) and Arenales (3,400 m). From their peaks, we can admire the impressive 4,000 to 5,000-meter peaks of the Cordón del Plata. Return to refuge for dinner and over night. •Starting altitude: 2,900 m •Summit altitude: 3,650 m •Activity duration: 5 to 6 hours
3 (21/01/2026) Ascent to Adolfo Calle Mountain (4,272 m) and Stepanek (4,180 m)	Early morning start for the ascent and summit attempts of Adolfo Calle (4,272 m) and Stepanek (4,180 m), two magnificent 4,000-meter peaks of the Cordón del Plata. The ascent is long and gradual, offering great views if weather allows. Expected summit around noon. Photos, rest, and descent back to refuge for dinner and overnight. •Starting altitude: 2,900 m •Summit altitude: 4,272 m •Activity duration: 6 to 8 hours

ITINERARY

Day	Activity Description
4 (22/01/2026) Ascent to El Salto Camp (4,200 meters above sea level)	Breakfast. Today we approach the high-altitude camp: El Salto (4,200 m.a.s.l.). Upon arrival, we'll set up camp, enjoy dinner, and spend the night. • Starting Elevation: 2,900 m.a.s.l. • Maximum Elevation: 4,200 m.a.s.l. • Activity Duration: 6–7 hours
5 (23/01/2026) Rest day and acclimatization hike around the area.	Quiet day to recover energy before the demanding summit attempt. In the morning we rested, and in the afternoon we did an acclimatization hike to La Hoyada Camp (4,500 meters above sea level). Then we returned to El Salto Camp to rest and prepare. Night in a tent. • Starting altitude: 4,200 meters above sea level. • Maximum altitude: 4,500 meters above sea level • Activity duration: 3 hours



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ITINERARY

Day	Activity Description
6 (24/01/2026) Summit attempt day – El Plata Mountain (5,960 meters above sea level)	Early start around 3 or 4 AM to take advantage of best conditions. A demanding and long day with intense ascent to the summit and return to El Salto Camp. Estimated 10 to 12 hours of continuous activity requiring effort and focus. Return to camp, dinner, and overnight. •Starting altitude: 4,200 m •Max altitude: 5,460 m •Estimated duration: 10 to 12 hours
7 (25/01/2026) Descent to the refuge area.	After breaking camp, descent to the refuge zone, concluding our services.



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GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS OF THE ASCENT

INCLUDED SERVICES:

- ✓ Three (3) nights in a mountain refuge.
- ✓ Three (3) nights in shared high mountaintents.
- ✓ Full board in the mountains, from afternoon snack on Day 1 to lunch on Day 7. *Breakfasts and/or snacks (coffee, tea, milk, sweet and salty cookies), trail rations (sandwiches, fruit, cereal bars), dinners (e.g., soups, pasta, dessert). Please inform us in advance if you require special dietary needs (vegetarian, gluten-free, etc.) for a tailored menu at no extra cost.*
- ✓ General camp logistics: heaters and fuel for the entire expedition, complete mountain kitchen equipment.
- ✓ Portage of common equipment (kitchen gear, group food, tents).
- ✓ Professional guides certified under Mendoza Province legislation (EMETUR Res. No. 65 / Mendoza Protected Areas System).
- ✓ Liability and personal accident insurance.
- ✓ Group first aid kit for mountain emergencies.
- ✓ VHF communication equipment and satellite messenger (SPOT X) for emergencies.
- ✓ Extra day in case of weather contingencies.
- ✓ Pre-expedition advisory.

NOT INCLUDED:

- ✗ Transfers (if you do not have private transport to the meeting point, inquire about transfer services from Potrerillos to Vallecitos).
- ✗ Personal equipment (see list below).
- ✗ Trail snacks (recommended to bring energy bars, nuts, candy, etc.).
- ✗ Rescue and evacuation costs.
- ✗ Personal equipment porters (available upon request for additional fee).
- ✗ Costs due to program abandonment.
- ✗ Any service not explicitly listed as included.



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.



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FINAL PRICE:

- **PRE-SALE RATE: USD 895.-** (full payment via bank transfer or deposit). Valid until November 15, 2025 (inclusive).
- **REGULAR RATE: USD 995.-** (full payment via bank transfer or deposit).

PAYMENT METHODS:

Payments accepted in cash USD and/or Argentine pesos, according to the "blue dollar" Exchange rate published in La Nación on the day of payment.

To reserve your spot, a 30% deposit is required. The remaining balance can be paid in installments up to 15 days before departure.

Bank details will be provided privately once registration is confirmed.

Financing via credit card available (extra fees apply).

TO COMPLETE THE RESERVATION, YOU MUST:

- Fill out the registration forms provided by Aiken Outdoor Activities.
- Make full payment at least 15 days prior to departure.
- Send all information to aikenoutdooractivities@hotmail.com or WhatsApp +54 9 3541 521011.

GENERAL TERMS OF RATES:

The Aiken Outdoor Activities team reserves the right to partially or fully modify the planned program if it considers that the health, physical, or psychological integrity of one or more participants is at risk, whether due to personal, climatic, security, or other relevant reasons. In such cases, payments made will not be refunded.

Aiken Outdoor Activities may also cancel the expedition if the minimum required number of participants is not met. In such case, participants may choose between:

- Participating in the next available expedition (subject to dates), or
- Requesting a full refund (100%) of the amount paid.

No other reimbursements, compensations, or indemnities will be granted for this reason.

CANCELLATIONS:

Once the reservation and deposit are confirmed and paid, it is non-refundable and non-transferable to other departures, dates, or programs.

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