



EXPEDITION TO SAN FRANCISCO VOLCANO (6,018 M.A.S.L.)

DESTINATION: Catamarca – Route of the Six-Thousanders

THEME/MODALITY: Adventure Tourism – Mountain Trekking – High-Altitude Expeditions

PROPOSAL: Route of the Six-Thousanders, in the Catamarca Andes, offers one of the most breathtaking landscapes in the entire mountain range: a succession of monumental volcanoes, endless salt flats, high-altitude lagoons, and skies that seem from another planet. In this lofty and silent environment rises our objective: San Francisco Volcano, one of the most accessible six-thousanders and a perfect goal for those seeking their first major high-altitude challenge. We offer a 7-day trekking expedition, strategically designed to ensure progressive and safe acclimatization. We ascend peaks of varying altitudes, starting around 3,000 m, continuing with the impressive Falso Morocho (4,500 m), which offers privileged views of Incahuasi and San Francisco, and reaching the 5,285 m summit of Volcán Bertrand. These ascents prepare us physically and mentally to reach the final summit: San Francisco Volcano, with its peak at 6,018 m.a.s.l., an ideal gateway into the world of the Seismiles. An intense, profound, and transformative experience in one of the most remote and awe-inspiring corners of Argentina.

DATES: March 30 to April 5, 2026 - **HOLY WEEK.**

MEETING AND ENDING POINT: Fiambalá – Catamarca.

DIFFICULTY DEMANDING: Participants must be in good physical condition and health. The group walks between 4 and 12 hours per day at a gentle pace, with intermediate stops. Terrain is irregular, with slight, moderate, and steep slopes, and possible snow conditions. Each participant carries a backpack with an average load of 5 to 10 kg. Previous mountain trekking experience is required.

GROUP SIZE: 4 to 8 people.



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ITINERARY

Day	Description of Activities
1 (30/03/26) Meeting in Fiambalá (Catamarca) – 1600 meters above sea level.	4 p.m. Meeting in the town of Fiambalá where we will stay, we will have a talk about the expedition and we will check the group's equipment. •Maximum height reached during the day: 1600 meters above sea level.
2 – (31/03/26) Fiambalá (1600 masl) – Cortaderas (3300 masl).	After breakfast, we'll travel by vehicle along the Ruta de los Seismiles. Along the way, we'll enjoy the magnificent landscapes of the Quebrada de la Angostura and the Chaschuil Valley until we reach Cortaderas (3,300 m a.s.l.), where we'll stay at the Cortaderas Mountain Hotel. In the afternoon, we'll go on an acclimatization and orientation hike in the surrounding area. Dinner and overnight stay. About the drive: •Distance from Fiambalá to Cortaderas: 98 km (one way) - paved road. •Duration: approx. 2 hours. •Maximum altitude reached during the day: 3,300 m.a.s.l.
3 – (01/04/26) Cortaderas (3300 meters above sea level) – Las Grutas Refuge (4100 meters above sea level). Day of rest.	After breakfast, we will travel by vehicle along the six-mile route to the Las Grutas shelter. During the journey we will be able to appreciate the Incahuasi and San Francisco Volcanoes, two of the great six thousand peaks of the Puna. Upon arrival, we will arrange our equipment and have the rest of the day to rest and continue acclimatizing. Walks in the area. Overnight at Las Grutas shelter. Regarding the vehicle journey: •Distance from Cortaderas to Las Grutas Refuge: 85 km. (one way). Asphalt road. •Duration of the tour: 2 hours. •Height where vehicles are left: 4030 meters above sea level.



ITINERARY

Day	Description of Activities
4 – (02/04/26) Las Grutas (4050 masl) – Falso Morocho (4500 masl) – Las Grutas (4050 masl)	<p>After breakfast, we will begin the ascent to Quitapenas or Falso Morocho Hill, which will help us continue the acclimatization process. The ascent is quite calm, it will take us around three hours and from the summit we will have an excellent view of the area. Return to the Las Grutas shelter, dinner and overnight.</p> <p>Regarding the climb to the hill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Total duration: 4 hours.•Total distance: 8.63 km.•Maximum height reached: 4500 meters above sea level
5 – (03/04/26) Las Grutas Refuge (4100 masl) – Bertrand Volcano Summit Attempt (5285 masl)	<p>After breakfast, we will board our vehicles again to head towards the Bertrand Volcano base. Upon arrival, we will begin the ascent in a calm and gradual manner. The day will take us around six to nine hours. From the summit, we will have the possibility of seeing the great six thousand peaks of the Puna and its enormous crater of more than 4 km in circumference. Later, we will begin the descent towards the vehicles. Return to the Las Grutas shelter. Dinner and overnight</p> <p>Regarding the vehicle journey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Distance from Las Grutas shelter to the base of Bertrand Volcano: 4 km. (one way). Mountain footprint.•Tour duration: 30 minutes.•Height where vehicles are left: 4300 meters above sea level. <p>Regarding the climb to the hill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Total duration: 6 to 9 hours.•Total distance: 10 km.•Maximum height reached: 5285 meters above sea level.



ITINERARY

Day	Description of Activities
6- (04/04/26) Rest day – Las Grutas Shelter	We will dedicate this day to rest and replenish energy for the next day to attempt the summit of the San Francisco Volcano.
7 – (05/04/26) San Francisco Volcano Summit Attempt (6018 masl) – Fiambalá (1600 masl)	<p>Summit day: we will have breakfast very early, approximately at 2 or 3 in the morning. It is almost a full day of walking between the trip to the base of the volcano, the ascent and the descent to Las Grutas. Total approximate hours: 12 hours. The ascent is long and gradual. We will begin to have great views of all the highest hills and volcanoes in the Puna Catamarca, including the Incahuasi Volcano at 6,638 meters above sea level, if weather allow us. If all goes well, we will arrive at the summit around noon. Photos and rest at the summit. Descent to the vehicles and then move back to the Las Grutas shelter. Dinner and overnight.</p> <p>Regarding the vehicle journey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Distance from Las Grutas shelter to the start of the trek: 22 km. (Going). Asphalt road.•Tour duration: 1 hour.•Height where vehicles are left: 5050 meters above sea level. <p>Regarding the climb to the hill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Total duration: 8 to 12 hours.•Total distance: 10 km.•Maximum height reached: 6016 meters above sea level
8 – (6/04/26)	EXTRA DAY FOR WEATHER-RELATED CONTINGENCIES



INFORMATION AND GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE PROMOTION

INCLUDED SERVICES:

- ✓ Internal transfers: Fiambalá – Six-Thousanders Valley – Fiambalá.
- ✓ Accommodations: one (1) night in a hostel in Fiambalá (group rooms, bathroom, shower, bedding, towels); one (1) night at Cortaderas mountain hotel (group dormitory rooms, shared bathroom, shower); five (5) nights in camp. Includes double or triple base mountain tents. WE RECOMMEND: Coordinate and reserve accommodation for your return.(April 5, 2026)
**Important note: Las Grutas shelter, located at Paso San Francisco and mentioned in the itinerary, does not offer bathroom facilities, kitchen, beds, or other amenities. If available, the space may be used for shelter only. Otherwise, we will set up a base camp using high-mountain tents.*
- ✓ Full board in mountain: from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 8.
Breakfast and/or snacks (coffee, tea, milk, sweet and salty cookies, toast and homemade jam), lunch (sandwich, variety of cold cuts and cheeses, fruits, cereal bars), dinner (starter, main course and dessert). If you need a special diet (vegetarian, celiac, etc.), do not forget to detail it, a menu will be prepared according to your needs at no extra cost.
- ✓ General camping logistics: heaters and fuel for the entire expedition, complete mountain kitchen equipment.
- ✓ Professional guides authorized according to the legislation of the Province of Catamarca.
- ✓ Group mountain first aid kit.
- ✓ Medical oxygen for emergencies.
- ✓ VHF communications equipment and satellite messaging (SPOT X) for emergencies.
- ✓ Insurance civil liability and personal accidents.
- ✓ Extra day in the event of weather contingencies.
- ✓ Prior advice.

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED:

- ✗ Transfers from your hometown to Fiambalá.
- ✗ Night accommodation for the day of return.
- ✗ Personal equipment (see list below).
- ✗ Walking rations (we recommend bringing nougat, cereal bars, nuts, alfajores, candies, etc.)
- ✗ Rescue and evacuation expenses.
- ✗ Expenses caused by abandoning the program.

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GENERAL TEAM FOR SUGGESTED PROMOTION

- Special backpack for trekking (60 to 80 liters capacity).
- Warm sleeping bag (-15 degrees comfort, e.g. 800/1000 grams of down- duvet or good synthetic).
- Insulating mat (10 to 15mm).
- Inflatable insulating mat (optional).
- Trekking sticks.

Feet

- 1 pair of double mountaineering boots (plastic or good-quality synthetic single boots — please consult). MANDATORY
- 1 trekking shoes (boots).

First Layer (First skin)

- Changes of underwear.
- Cotton t-shirts (for camping and sleeping).
- T-shirts and/or short-sleeved synthetic T-shirts.
- Long-sleeved synthetic t-shirt.
- Polypropylene or similar pants or leggings (not cotton). To use as warm inner pants.
- Thin polypropylene or similar gloves (not cotton).
- Pairs of thin polypropylene or similar socks (not cotton), in contact with the skin.
- Buff type scarf .

Second Layer (Coat)

- Pairs of Trekking socks (synthetic-thermal).
- Pairs of thick mountain socks.
- Some cotton or wool socks (wool is used for sleeping).
- 1 long trekking pants.
- Short-mesh pants (thermas).
- 2 coats (polar, softshell or similar).
- Down jacket- duvet.
- Fleece gloves.
- Warm hat (fleece).
- Sun cap (with flaps).



Third Layer (windproof and waterproof)

- Waterproof jacket (ultrex or gore tex or similar).
- Trousers cover (gore tex or similar or ski type).
- Third layer gloves or mittens (waterproof and breathable). They can be ski type.
- Mountain gaiters (consult).

Technical Team

-Helmet, crampons, and ice axe for alpine trekking, if necessary, depending on mountain conditions. (This will be assessed and communicated by Aiken's guides a few weeks prior to the ascent).

Personal Items

- Passport, ID.
- Medical insurance, social work.
- Completed medical and personal file, authorization.

Several

- FRONT flashlight with batteries (with spare batteries).
- Personal tableware (deep plate, cutlery and glass jug; plastic ideal).
- Resistant plastic bags for storing clothes.

Health and Hygiene

- Sunglasses with Category 4 UV protection.
- Spare lenses (can be goggles, highly recommended).
- Personal first aid kit (medication with the relevant prescription).
- High sunscreen, Lip balm.
- Soap, shampoo (small to share) and small towel.
- Toilet paper. Handkerchiefs. Baby wipes.



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FINAL PRICE:

- **PRE-SALE RATE: USD 955** – (payment in full via bank transfer or deposit).
Valid until January 31, 2026, inclusive.
- **REGULAR RATE: USD 1,060** – (payment in full via bank transfer or deposit).

PAYMENT METHODS:

Payments are accepted in US dollars (cash) and/or Argentine pesos, based on the blue dollar exchange rate (selling price) published by La Nación on the day of the transaction.

To reserve a spot, a 30% deposit of the total amount is required. The remaining balance may be paid in installments, up to 15 days before the departure date. Bank account details for transfers or deposits will be provided privately once registration is confirmed.

Ask about credit card payment options (surcharge applies).

TO COMPLETE YOUR RESERVATION, YOU MUST:

- Fill out the registration forms provided by the Aiken Outdoor Activities team.
- Complete full payment no later than 15 days before the departure date.
- Send everything to: aikenoutdooractivities@hotmail.com or via WhatsApp: +54 9 3541 521011.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Aiken Outdoor Activities reserves the right to partially or entirely modify the planned program if the health, physical or psychological integrity of one or more participants is at risk, whether due to personal, weather-related, safety, or other relevant factors. In such cases, no refund will be issued.

Additionally, Aiken Outdoor Activities may cancel the trip if the minimum number of participants is not met. In such event, the participant may choose to:

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

No other compensation, reimbursement, or indemnity will apply for this reason.

DEPOSITS & CANCELLATION POLICY

Once the reservation is confirmed and the deposit is paid, it is non-refundable and non-transferable to another trip, date, or program.



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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