

Mount Aconcagua, Argentina

Dec 29, 2014 – Jan 15, 2015



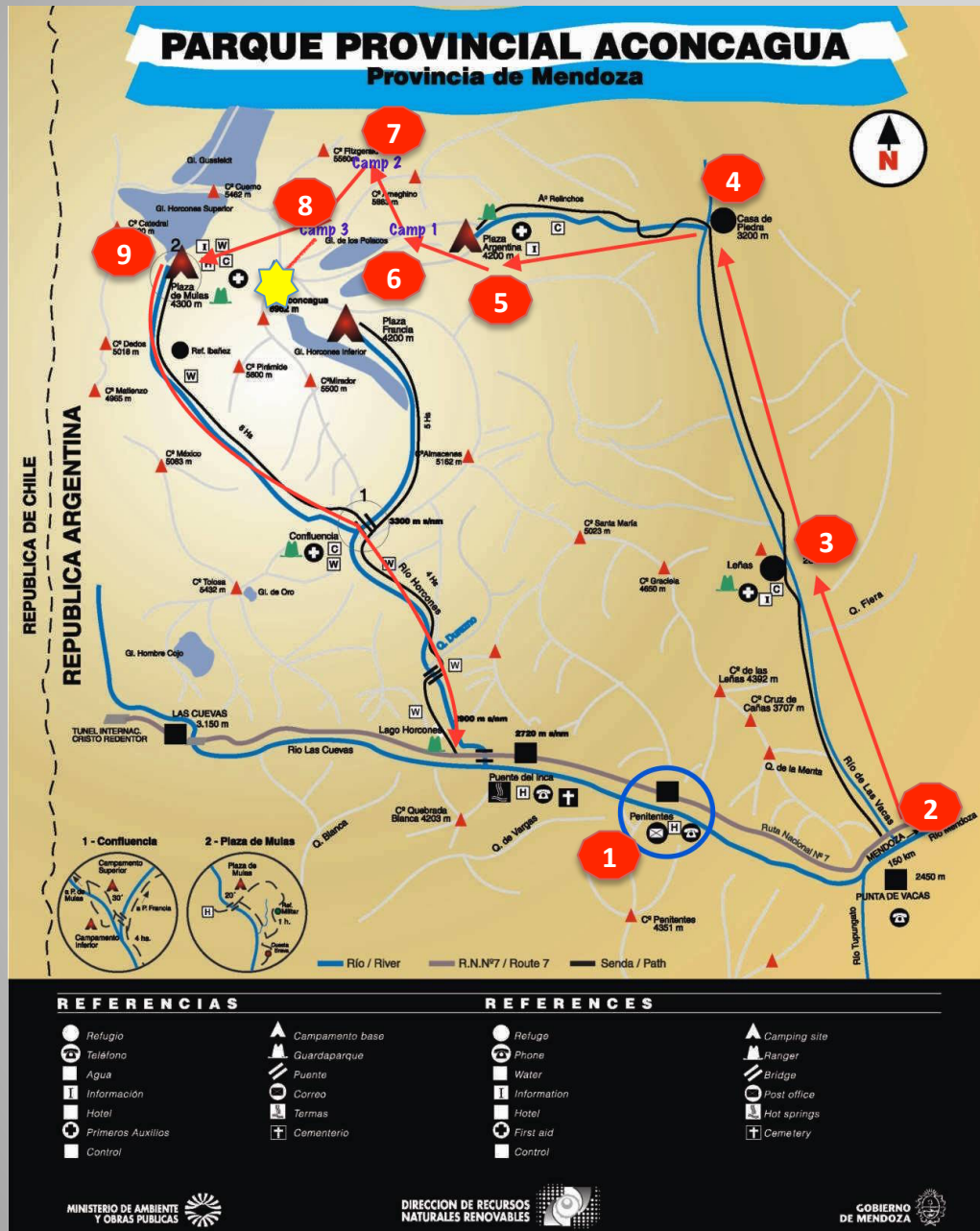
Mount Aconcagua

- Located in the Andes mountain range, province of Mendoza, Argentina
- The mountain and its surroundings are part of the Aconcagua Provincial Park
- Highest mountain outside of Asia, 22,847 ft (6,962 meters)
 - Ranked 189 tallest in the world

Source: Wikipedia



The Polish Traverse



	Location/Camp	Feet	Meters
1	Penitentes	8,858	2,700
2	Punta de Vacas	8,858	2,700
3	Punta de Lenas	9,678	2,950
4	Casa de Piedres	10,630	3,240
5	Plaza Argentina	13,780	4,200
6	Camp 1	16,404	5,000
7	Camp 2	18,044	5,500
8	Camp 3	19,685	6,000
★	Summit	22,841	6,962
9	Plaza de Mulas	13,944	4,250



Mendoza



Guide Aidan Loehr leading the gear check

- Meet the guides and teammates
- Exchange Dollars for Pesos
- Gear Check
- Get climbing permits
- Drive to Penitentes



Penitentes

- Stayed for one night
- Split gear into 3 piles
 - Daypack for first three days of hiking
 - Gear for mules to carry to arrive at camp each night
 - Gear for mules to carry to base camp (Plaza Argentina)
- Started climb the next day



Days 1-3, Penitentes to Base Camp

- Very mild temperature – mid 70's but breezy
- Easy hiking, 7-8 miles with 1,000 ft elevation gain each day for days 1-2
- 3,000 ft gain on day 3



Mules and Mulateers

- Mule service significantly helped to move gear



Campsites

- 1-2 hours to set up or tear down a campsite
 - Tents were anchored with rocks – very important with high winds
 - Build rock walls
 - No common food tent – mostly ate outside or in guides tent



Waiting for dinner



Campsites



Casa de Piedres, 10,630 ft

Base Camp – Plaza Argentina (13,780 ft)



- Internet available
- \$5 Coke and other food
- Showers
- Medical Examination
- Sort gear for summit and mules to Plaza de Mulas



Base Camp Food

- Local guide services provided exceptional food



Base Camp to Camp 1

- Climb high, sleep low; cache gear & move days



Climbing



Photos: Kim Olson

Climbing

Photo: Kim Olson



Campsites



Camp 1, 16,404 ft



Dinner



Penitentes



Water Sources



Camp 2 – 18,404 ft

Camp 1 - 16,404 ft



Looking Down on Camp 1



Tent Life

- Tight quarters – very noisy with wind



Tent Life

- Wind destroyed this tent



Campsites – Camp 2 (18,044 ft)



High Camp, Camp 3 (19,685 ft)



Summit Attempt

- Up around 4am, quick breakfast, climbing with headlamp



Summit Attempt



Independencia Hut, 21,400 ft

Base Camp - Plaza de Mulas – 5,200 ft down



Plaza de Mulas, 14,400 ft

Base Camp - Plaza de Mulas



Plaza de Mulas - Sunset



Plaza de Mulas - Hiking Out

- Last day out was long, 15+ miles, *amazing colors*







Last Miles

- Bridge was built and used in Brad Pitt movie, *Seven Years in Tibet*



