



As this is an expedition to one of the highest peaks in the western hemisphere, the itinerary is not set in stone. Trip leaders may change the itinerary to suit the condition of the route and the group. Unless otherwise noted, all meals are included.

#### **DAYS 1-4 MAKING PREPARATIONS**

**Day 01** Depart United States for an overnight flight.

**Day 02** Arrive in Santiago Chile, a Mountain Link representative will meet you outside of the customs area to take you to the hotel. Depending on your arrival time, you may have time to relax before the evening orientation and equipment check with your guides and fellow climbers. (Meals not included)

#### **DAYS 3-5 TREK TO BASE CAMP**

**Day 03** Climbing permits need to be acquired in the morning only if they have not already been obtained. After all the last minute preparations have been made in the city the team departs for the Colorado Valley, the travel time is approximately one and half hours. We arrive at the trailhead; Cajon del Maipo where the mules are loaded while the team prepares for the three-hour trek to the first camp **Banhos Azules (8,200ft)**. Climbers are expected to carry 20-30 lbs. in their packs on the trek to base camp. Mules carry the additional group and personal gear. (B, L, D)

**Day 04** To beat the heat we depart early for our second day of the trek. The goal for today is to reach our second camp **Vega de los Flojos (10,827 ft.)**. (B, L, D). Throughout both the trek and climb, accommodations are in 2-3 person tents.

**Day 05** Today, we head for our base camp at 14,025 feet. The challenge of the day is the vertical gain and distance the team needs to travel. We ascend at a moderate pace to ensure proper acclimatization for life above and beyond. Base camp is established, and we say "Adios" to the mules. (B, L, D)

**Day 06** Rest day. This day is used for acclimation, relaxation, and usually a solar shower. Be prepared to organize and repack personal and group gear for the upcoming climbing days. We pare down to the bare necessities for the upper mountain. (B, L, D)

**DAYS 7-13 THE CLIMB**

Due to the nature of the climb the schedule is subject to change based on group strength and weather conditions. The lead guide makes these schedule decisions as the expedition progresses.

- Day 07** Today we carry loads to Camp One located at 16,000 feet. The route to Camp One travels along a receding glacier in a valley between Tupungato and her beautiful Andean sister peaks. The most challenging part of this route can be a final scree or snow slope of approximately 600 vertical feet. (B, L, D)
- Day 08** We travel to Camp One to stay for the evening. (B, L, D)
- Day 09** Today, supplies and equipment are carried to Camp Two, which is located at 18,200 feet. It is from here that we depart for our summit bid in two days. After dropping off our loads, we descend to Camp One. (B, L, D)
- Day 10** Rest day at Camp One. This is an opportunity to acclimate, hydrate, and reorganize loads and personal gear. We pare down gear again for high camp. (B, D)
- Day 11** After an early start, the route to Camp Two gradually ascends to a camp below the summit ridge. If the weather is cooperative, we have spectacular views of the route above and the surrounding Andes. We establish camp and prepare for an early morning summit attempt. (B, D)
- Day 12** This may be summit day. After an early alpine start, we begin our climb. Then, we face the Canaleta, a 1,000-foot-long couloir that leads to the summit ridge. The Canaleta is a fairly steep chute of loose rock that can be challenging. At this altitude we have breathtaking views of the surrounding Andean giants. We gain the ridge for one last traverse to the summit. After enjoying the incredible vistas, celebrating, and taking some photos, we descend and return to Camp Two for the night. (B, D)
- Day 13** Tired but proud we take on the arduous task of breaking down camp and descending to base camp. (B, D)



**DAYS 14-15 THE TREK OUT**

**Day 14** Our sights are set on the homeward journey. From here on out we have mule support once again. We load up our mule packs and begin the trek out to our waiting transportation that will take us back to Santiago and a much needed shower. (B, L, D)

**Day 15** The day is spent sightseeing in Santiago. Fly out late that night.

**Day 16** Team members arrive to United States with perfect weather.

**Days 17-18** Extra days are built into the itinerary as insurance against bad weather. If we get lucky and they are not needed, the trip concludes on the 16th day.

*\*Itinerary is subject to change*

*\*\*B: Breakfast; L: Lunch; D: Dinner: Initials note where meals are included. Snack lunches occur on the mountain. They are not organized as meals.*