



MOUNT SIDLEY

4,285M / 14,058FT



2023/24 EXPEDITION TRIP NOTES





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2023/24 EXPEDITION DETAILS

Dates: Trip 1: December 27 to January 11
Trip 2: January 7–22
Duration: 16 days
Departure: ex Punta Arenas, Chile
Price: US\$69,500 per person

▲ Approaching the summit. Photo: Pachi Ibarra

During the southern summer of 2023/24, Adventure Consultants will operate an expedition to Mount Sidley, Antarctica's highest volcano and one of the Volcanic Seven Summits. If you have a desire to discover the Antarctic interior and stand on the summit of a remote and rarely climbed peak, then this is an exciting opportunity and very likely your best chance of achieving that goal.

HISTORY

Soaring at over 4,000m/13,000ft, Mount Sidley would be a giant on any continent but jutting from the pristine polar ice cap, it cuts an especially imposing figure. With blue ice coating the mountain's upper flanks and humid air creating bizarre and wonderful snow formations along its upper ridge, Mount Sidley stands aloft amongst the five volcanoes of the Executive Committee Range.

Featuring a cauldron-like crater 5km/3mi wide and 1,200m/4,000ft deep, Mount Sidley was first climbed in 1990 by New Zealander Bill Atkinson, with its second summit a full 20 years later. Due to the extreme remoteness of its location, even today many unclimbed routes lay in wait to be claimed by intrepid climbers.

The Canadian company Adventure Network International (ANI) opened up this area to private expeditions and operated regular flights to its summer camp at Patriot Hills from 1985. In 2003/2004 they withdrew their Antarctic operations and Antarctica Logistics & Expeditions (ALE) stepped in. ALE is run by some of the same people that initially started ANI back in the 1980s and they now use a new camp at Union Glacier as their base to operate from in Antarctica.

Mount Sidley is 4,285m/14,058ft high but is not a technically difficult climb although it is an extremely cold ascent with temperatures dropping to -40°C near the summit. Under the leadership of experienced Antarctic guides, climbers of moderate experience can safely undertake the expedition.

While ALE will supply our transport to and from Antarctica, Adventure Consultants will provide all the leadership, guiding staff and team equipment.



▲ Cloud signals high winds above Sidley. Photo: Russ Hepburn

THE ROUTE

There are several different routes on the mountain which will be determined based on the pilot's assessment of safe aircraft landing sites at the time of the expedition. There is approximately 2,225m/7,300ft of elevation gain from base camp to the summit of Mount Sidley. The team will climb alpine-style with intermediate camps established on the mountain and all food and equipment transported by the team itself.

MEETING POINT

The expedition members will gather at Punta Arenas in Chile. Regular daily flights on LATAM Airlines connect with Santiago and other points north. Prior to departure from Punta Arenas for Antarctica there are planning obligations that must be achieved and the food and gear finalised. The gear is then collected for loading onto the aircraft one day prior to departure and all visitors to Antarctica are obliged to attend the expedition briefing the evening before departure. Thus, we recommend arriving on Day One of the expedition.

ACCESS TO THE MOUNTAIN

From Punta Arenas at the tip of Chile, we fly by Ilyushin 76 aircraft to the ALE base at Union Glacier. Here the aircraft makes a wheeled landing on a natural blue-ice runway.

Union Glacier Camp, situated at 80 degrees South is a small collection of tents. These have double walls to withstand Antarctic conditions, with a high-tech nylon covering and durable aluminium frame that opens up like a clam shell. They are tall enough to stand up in and incorporate a wooden floor to provide solid footing and insulation from the snow. Guests will also have access to the camp's dining tent where residents gather to share buffet-style meals.

From Union Glacier, we transfer to a smaller ski-equipped aircraft for a five-hour flight west to the base of the Mount Sidley in the Executive Committee Range.

PREREQUISITE SKILLS

To climb Mount Sidley you need to be physically fit, have strong mental stamina and be capable of strenuous exercise for several days' duration. Expedition members can expect to be exerting themselves for about six to ten hours per day and be capable of carrying a 25kg/55lb pack.

While the route is quite long, it is not a technically difficult climb, so members with modest mountaineering backgrounds can join this expedition so long as they have some overall cold camping experience, solid cramponing skills, and have mastered basic mountaineering skills including crevasse rescue training. Having some experience climbing at moderate altitude (above 4,300m/14,000ft) may be helpful and it is essential to arrive sufficiently 'pack' fit for long days with big loads.



▲ Negotiating snow rime on the summit ridge. Photo: Scott Woolams

TEAM SIZE

The team will have a minimum size of 4 members and 1 guide and a maximum size of 10 members and 2 guides.

You will find the Adventure Consultants Mountain Guides companionable and strong expedition leaders with considerable power and willingness to see you achieve your goals. The number of guides is determined by the team size but the normal ratio of guides to members is 1:5.

ITINERARY

Dates: Trip 1: December 27, 2023 to January 11, 2024
 Trip 2: January 7–22, 2024

Following is an ideal itinerary for our 2023/24 Mount Sidley Expeditions:

Day 1	Meet in Punta Arenas, Chile
Day 2	Weighing and loading of gear
Day 3	Expedition briefing
Day 4	Fly to Union Glacier, Antarctica
Day 5–6	Expedition preparations
Day 7	Fly to Mount Sidley Base Camp

Days 8–13	Climb Mount Sidley
Day 14	Return to Union Glacier
Day 15	Depart for Punta Arenas
Day 16	Expedition ends, depart for home

NOTE: Flights to and from Antarctica are subject to weather. Delays can and often do occur therefore it is important to allow some flexibility with airline travel arrangements at the end of the expedition.

THE ADVANTAGES OF CLIMBING WITH ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to high altitude expedition climbing. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our climbers the best possible chance of success.

We employ strong and specialised Expedition Leaders and support staff, who are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, the best back up and

support available. This includes nutritious and ample quantities of food, comfortable Base Camp facilities, reliable communications systems and the necessary medical back up.

Many of our expedition members come to us because they have seen us in action on a previous trip and decide to opt for our level of service and proven experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make expeditions safe and successful.

VISAS

Expedition members must secure their own visa for multiple-entry into Chile. While Chile claims part of the Antarctic Continent as its sovereignty, it requires that we check through immigration when leaving for and returning from Antarctica; thus a multi-entry visa is required.

HOTELS

Adventure Consultants can make hotel arrangements for you in Punta Arenas, please advise your preferences at the time of booking.

EQUIPMENT LIST & REFERENCE NOTES

Expedition members will be sent a list detailing all the necessary clothing and equipment to be individually provided, contained within a set of Expedition Reference Notes with all the details for the trip. These notes provide extensive information on everything from suggestions of what type of camera to bring to training advice for your expedition preparation.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION & INSURANCE

Expedition members will be provided with a medical questionnaire by the expedition doctor and asked to visit their family physician to receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted only by our Medical Advisor and treated with full confidentiality. We also require members to have rescue insurance and we will consult with individual team members as to your insurance needs and solutions for coverage.

PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPHS

Expedition members will be requested to provide 2 passport photographs and their climbing résumé.



▲ Climbers at High Camp. Photo: Mike Sharp



▲ Climbing Mount Sidley's summit ridge. Photo: ALE



▲ Just arrived at the blue ice runway at Union Glacier! Photo: Guy Cotter

ADD ON OPTIONS

For those expedition members that wish to extend their time in Antarctica we have a number of options available. Trek to the South Pole with our South Pole Ski the Last Degree option, climb Antarctica's highest peak Vinson Massif, spend some time ski touring on Ski Antarctica, stay at our luxury Three Glaciers Camp or simply take a scenic flight to the South Pole.

Whether your interest is towards the technically challenging or you simply want to see more of Antarctica then contact our office—there is endless scope for adventure!

THE EXPEDITION FEE

The cost of the expedition, ex Punta Arenas, Chile, is US\$69,500.

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Flights to and from Union Glacier in Antarctica
- Flights from Union Glacier to Mount Sidley Base Camp and return
- All group climbing equipment
- All expedition organisational requirements
- Tents and food while in Antarctica
- Mountain guides
- Use of the expedition satellite telephone for outgoing calls
- Transport of 23kg of personal equipment
- Dispatch web page updated throughout the trip for friends & family to follow

The expedition fee **does not** include the following:

- Air travel to and from Punta Arenas, Chile
- Hotel accommodation and meals in Punta Arenas
- Chilean visa and airport fees
- Personal insurance—full travel, medical and rescue insurance is required as well as personal trip cancellation insurance (medical evacuation insurance cover of US\$300,000 is required)
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Excess baggage transportation charges of US\$77.00 per kg for any baggage exceeding the personal equipment weight limit
- Expenses incurred due to delay
- Cost of satellite telephone calls whilst on expedition

NOTE: Pricing may change due to increases in airfares and other costs outside the control of Adventure Consultants.

PAYMENTS

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:



▲ Roped up for travel on the summit ridge. Photo: Scott Woolams



▲ Giant snow rime mushrooms line the summit ridge. Photo: Scott Woolams



▲ Climbers haul sleds towards High Camp. Photo: Tre-C Dumais



▲ Mount Sidley Base Camp. Photo: Pachi Ibarra

Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
42 Willis Street, Spark Central
Wellington, New Zealand
For the account of Adventure Consultants Limited

Account Number: 1000-594771-0000
Account Type: US Dollars
Swift Address: BKNZNZ22

NOTE: All bank transfer charges are for the remitter's account.

We can also accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard and Amex) plus a 3% card charge.

DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of US\$5,000 is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

BALANCE

The balance is payable 120 days before the trip departure date.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

An expedition member may cancel their participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 120 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.

- For cancellations made within 120 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the balance payment fee.
- For cancellations within 90 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.
- If cancellation occurs within the 90 day period and full payment has not been received, the full payment will still apply and unpaid monies are due immediately.

We **strongly recommend** you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent if you wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons.

HOW TO JOIN THIS EXPEDITION

If you would like to join one of the Mount Sidley Expedition, please complete our online booking form and forward your deposit payment at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/antarctica/mount-sidley/book-now>.

CONTACT US

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▲The sheer wall of Sidley's Weiss Amphitheatre. Photo: Russ Hepburn



Adventure Consultants is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their 'Revitalise a Village' programmes.

Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA/UIAGM standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.

