



CERRO EL PLOMO

5,424M / 17,795FT



2025/26 EXPEDITION NOTES





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2025/26 EXPEDITION DETAILS

Dates: Trip 1: November 19–28, 2025
Trip 2: December 24 to January 2, 2026
Trip 3: January 14–23, 2026

Duration: 10 days

Departure: ex Santiago, Chile

Price: US\$4,100 per person

• Celebrating on the summit of Cerro el Plomo. Photo: Jan Arnold

Located at 5,434m/17,795ft, Cerro el Plomo is an impressive mountain that sits to the northeast of Santiago and affords great views of the high mountains of Central Chile and Argentina, such as Aconcagua and Tupungato. On a clear day, Cerro el Plomo is the largest visible peak from the city of Santiago and makes for an achievable acclimatisation climb prior to your Aconcagua expedition.

HISTORY

Cerro el Plomo was first climbed by Europeans at the end of the 19th century, with a summit by Gustav Brandt and Rudolph Lucke in 1896. However, prior to this, the Incas had climbed to Cerro el Plomo's summit periodically throughout the 15th century, leaving traces of their presence on the mountain to be found by early mountaineers and prospectors. This culminated in 1954 with the discovery of a shrine and the body of a child that had been sacrificed by the Incas in honour of the Sun God, Inti.

HOW THE EXPEDITION OPERATES

The expedition starts and ends in Santiago, the capital of Chile and fifth largest city in South America, and it is here we spend our first day.

In Santiago, we have time to finalise our equipment, have a team briefing and undertake a tour of the city. With no shortage of cultural sights and gastronomic delights, this is a city with a lot to offer.

The following day, we enjoy the Chilean scenery with our guide as we make our way to the Valle Nevado. We load up the mules with equipment and start the trek towards Piedra Numerada (3,370m/11,056ft), where we will camp overnight. This is our base for a further night as we enjoy a day hike to gain valuable acclimatisation.

It is then onwards to Base Camp at Federaciones (4,000m/13,100ft) at the foot of El Plomo. From here, we take in the magnificent views of the valley and its hanging glaciers. We spend another day acclimatising here, with an optional ascent of Mount Leonera (4,975m/16,322ft), after which it is up early for the summit attempt.



▲ Catching the morning sun on summit day. Photo: Spondylus

Enroute to the summit, we will have the opportunity to visit the site where the preserved remains of the Incan mummy were discovered in 1954. Once on the summit, we will be rewarded with stunning views of the central Andes and, on a clear day, we may be lucky enough to see Aconcagua to the north.

We descend to Base Camp and prepare for the final day's travel back to Valle Nevado and Santiago.

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ITINERARY

| | |
|-------|---|
| Day 1 | Arrive Santiago |
| Day 2 | Sort equipment, expedition briefing and city tour |
| Day 3 | Drive to Valle Nevado and trek to Piedra Numerada |
| Day 4 | Acclimatise in Piedra Numerada |

| | |
|--------|--|
| Day 5 | Trek to Base Camp Federaciones |
| Day 6 | Acclimatisation day, optional ascent of Mt Leonera |
| Day 7 | Summit attempt |
| Day 8 | Contingency day |
| Day 9 | Return to Santiago |
| Day 10 | Fly to Mendoza or depart for home |

TEAM SIZE

You will find the Adventure Consultants mountain guides companionable and strong expedition leaders with a 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 1:3 for climbing Cerro el Plomo.

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



▲ Views across the Andes from the summit. Photo: Spondylus

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 staff, who are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, with the best backup 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.

FOOD

Food during the mountain phase of the expedition is prepared by the guides. Please indicate any specific dietary requirements you may have on your application form. For special diets such as vegan and gluten/dairy free, we will call you to discuss your needs and how this will work in a group cooking situation. If your dietary requirements are especially strict, you are advised to bring a sufficient supply of your required food types with you to ensure you are provided for.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Expedition members will be provided with a medical questionnaire and asked to visit their family physician to receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted by our medical adviser and the guides only and is treated with full confidentiality. Advice on immunisations will be provided at this time.

VISAS

Generally, entry visas are not required for visitors to Chile staying less than three months, but please check with your travel agent for the latest information according to your nationality.



▲ Hiking towards Base Camp. Photo: Spondylus



DOCUMENTATION & PHOTOGRAPHS

Expedition members will be requested to provide 3 passport photographs and a copy of their passport biodata page.

EQUIPMENT LIST

Expedition members will be sent a list detailing all necessary clothing and equipment to be procured. We will correspond with you prior to the expedition to answer any queries and ensure you have met all the equipment requirements. Having the correct equipment is key to your performance on summit day and to achieving success.

EXPEDITION FEE

The cost of the expedition ex Santiago, Chile is:

US\$6,600 for 1:1 guide to climber ratio
US\$4,100 each for 1:2 or 1:3 guide to climber ratio

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Adventure Consultants qualified local guide(s)
- All expedition organisational requirements
- Airport transfers
- Twin share hotel accommodation (3–4 star) in Santiago
- Half-day Santiago city tour
- All land transport within Chile ex-Santiago
- Camping accommodation (5–6 nights) while attempting the climb
- All meals and snacks ex-Santiago
- Group equipment (radios, tents, stoves etc.) and all supplies necessary to make a safe and strong bid for the summit

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

- Personal clothing and equipment
- Personal travel/trip cancellation/medical evacuation insurance
- Dinners in Santiago
- Bottled beverages
- Personal expenses (alcohol, gifts, laundry etc.)
- Return flights and visas to Santiago, Chile
- Onwards flights to Mendoza if continuing to the Aconcagua expedition
- Excess equipment over the 20kg allowance
- Any rescue costs
- Government and airport taxes



▲ Climbing a snow slope towards the summit. Photo: Spondylus

- Medical vaccinations
- Any costs associated with early departure
- Gratuities

NOTE: The operation of the expedition is subject to minimum team number requirements being met.

All prices subject to change.

PAYMENT DETAILS

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

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, Amex) plus a 3% credit card fee.

DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of US\$1,000 is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

BALANCE

The balance is payable 90 days prior to the expedition start date.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

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

- Cancellations outside of 90 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
- For cancellations made within 90 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the balance payment fee.



▲ Spectacular sunset views across the Andes. Photo: Spondylus

- For cancellations within 60 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

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 our Cerro el Plomo Expeditions, please complete our online application form at <https://adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/south-america/cerro-el-plomo#DepartureBookingBlock> and submit your trip deposit.

CONTACT US

Please contact us if you'd like any further information or assistance in planning your trip:

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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.



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