

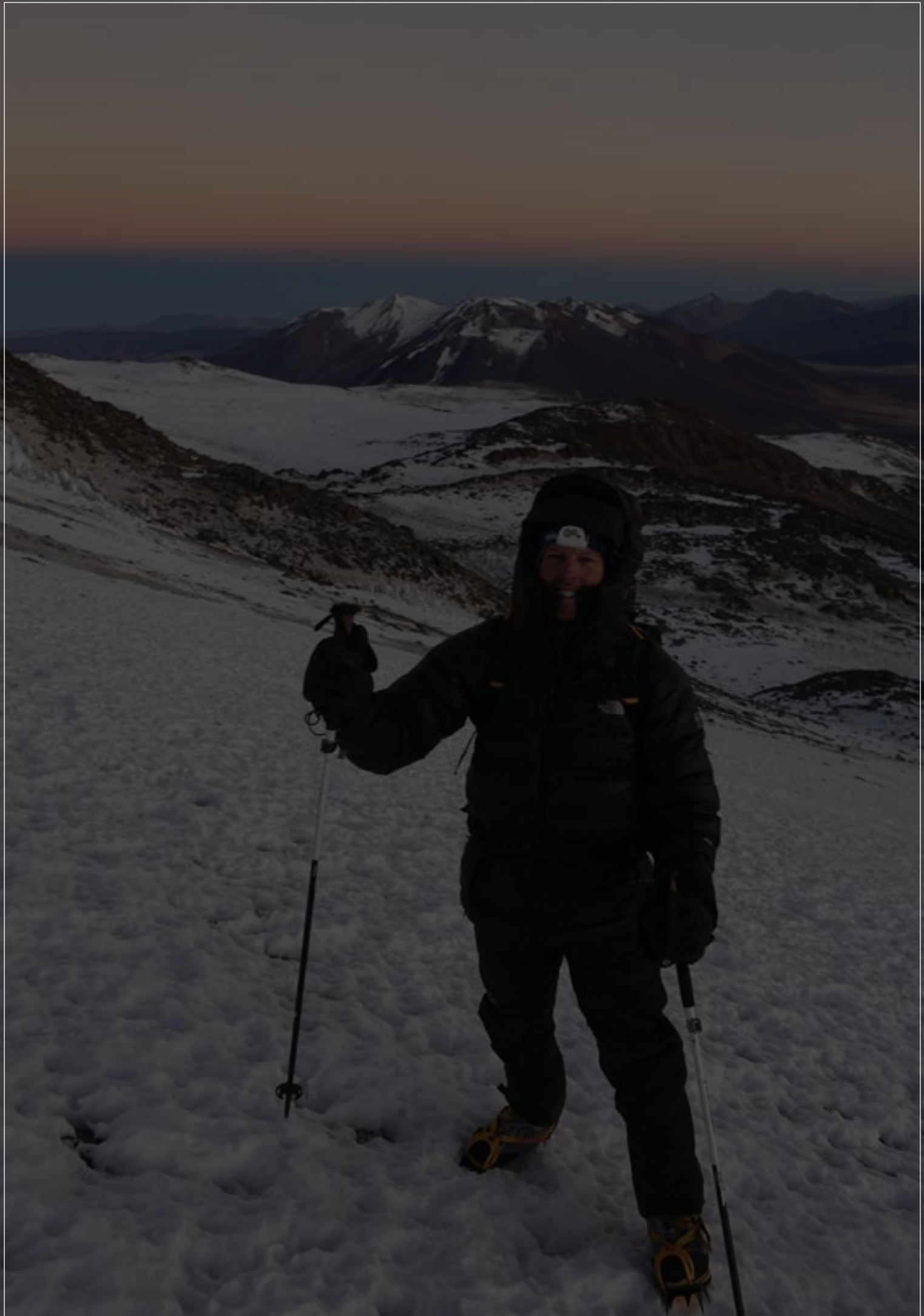


OJOS DEL SALADO

6,893M / 22,615FT



2026 EXPEDITION TRIP NOTES





OJOS DEL SALADO EXPEDITION TRIP NOTES

2026 EXPEDITION DETAILS

Dates: February 22 to March 8

Duration: 15 days

Departure: ex Copiapó, Chile

Price: US\$7,990 per person

▲ Discover the amazing landscapes of the Atacama Desert. Photo: Lydia Bradey

This expedition will take us to the indomitable corners of the Atacama Desert. We will travel to the spectacular Laguna Santa Rosa, taking time to acclimatise, relaxing in thermal baths at the foot of Laguna Verde and finally aiming to reach the summit of the highest volcano on the planet!

HISTORY

Situated on the Argentina—Chile border, Nevado Ojos del Salado (6,893m/22,615ft), the “Eyes of the Salty One”, is the highest volcano in the world. It is also the second highest mountain outside the Himalaya, second only to Aconcagua (6,962m/22,841ft) which lies 630km/390 miles to the south in Argentina. Its name comes from the enormous deposits of salt which appear in its snowfields in the form of lagoons.

Conditions on the mountain tend to be very dry due to the influence of the nearby Atacama Desert, but despite this, snow can fall at any time and summit day can be quite windy and exposed. Ojos del Salado also boasts the world’s highest lake, which is a crater lake on the peak’s eastern side at 6,390m/20,965ft.

The peak was first climbed in 1937 by Jan Alfred Szczepanski and Justyn Wojsznis, who were members of a Polish team.

CLIMATE

The Atacama Desert is one of the driest places on Earth, blocked from moisture by the Andes Mountains to East and the Chilean Coast Range to the West, resulting in a rainfall of just 1mm/0.04 inches per year. Some weather stations in the Atacama have never even received rain! In fact, there is some evidence to suggest that the Atacama may not have had any significant rainfall in the 400 year period from the late 1500s to late 1900s. Further studies by a group of British scientists have suggested that some river beds have been dry for 120,000 years. It is so arid that Ojos del Salado is completely free of glaciers.



▲ Ojos del Salado. Photo: Spondylus

EXPEDITION OUTLINE

We will pick you up at the airport in Copiapó and transfer you to the seaside town of Bahía Inglesa, where you'll settle into your hotel before exploring the town and harbour. Back at the hotel, you'll meet with your guide for an equipment check and team briefing before heading out for dinner.

The next day we begin our drive across the high plateau of the Altiplano towards Ojos del Salado. Each day we will trek for a few hours at increasing altitudes to aid our acclimatisation, before setting camp for the night. Highlights include Laguna Santa Rosa, where we delight in watching the Andean flamingos that nest on the lagoon year round, climbing the volcano San Francisco (6,080m/19,948ft), and the turquoise waters of Laguna Verde with its hot springs to ease tired legs.

Suitably rested, we pack up our camp, load the 4x4 truck and drive towards our Base Camp at Atacama Refuge (5,300m/17,400ft). We then hike up to Tejos Refuge (5,825m/19,100ft), which serves to increase our acclimatisation. If the road is in poor condition and vehicles cannot reach the refuge, we may need to carry some of our summit equipment to lighten our loads for the following day's move to Tejos Refuge.

Our long awaited summit day begins with a very early start. The route begins with a gradual climb before ascending the West Ridge up to the crater. From here the final challenge is a rock climb of around 20m/65ft on moderate ground, where fixed rope is used for security. At the top of this section, the summit of this huge volcano awaits us. After pictures and celebrations, we will start our return to our camp. Summit day will be 12 to 14 hours in total.

Our itinerary includes rest days at the appropriate altitudes and contingency days in case of bad weather, allowing us the best possible chance of success.

Following our climb, we dismantle our camp and descend to the Atacama Refuge where we will meet our trucks. We then travel back down to the coastal village of Bahía Inglesa to enjoy a well-deserved rest and a good meal of fresh seafood.

After bidding farewell to our new friends, we transfer to Copiapó Airport (CPO), fly to Santiago to connect with our international flight home or continue travels in South America.

PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE

To climb Ojos del Salado, you need to be physically fit and be capable of moderate exercise for several days duration. Expedition members can expect to be exerting themselves for about 3–5 hours per day.

For the most part, this expedition is vehicle supported, thus most days you will only carry a light daypack, however you should be prepared to carry 15–18kg/30–40lbs incase we need to carry our equipment to Tejos Refuge.

Climbing at altitude affects people differently and most climbers notice a lower performance rate than normal. Our climbing days are mostly short to accommodate this, and vital rest days are usually welcomed! Our graduated acclimatisation programme allows you to progressively consolidate your fitness, but you must arrive on the expedition in good health and with a good level of fitness. Summit day is the most physically demanding of the days and entails a 1,000m/3,300ft ascent at altitude. This rewarding and photogenic day typically takes between 12 and 14 hours.

This expedition is suitable for people with general mountaineering skills. Comprehensive instruction in high altitude camping and climbing techniques will be passed on to you by your guides during the



▲ Climbers celebrate summit success on Ojos del Salado. Photo: Spondylus



▲ Hiking above Laguna Verde. Photo: Lydia Bradey



▲ Sublime lakeside hot pools! Photo: Spondylus

expedition. Importantly, participants should have a positive frame of mind and be willing to operate as part of a team.

TEAM SIZE

The team will have a minimum size of 5 members. The number of guides is determined by the team size but the normal ratio of guides to members is 1:3 for climbing Ojos del Salado route.

ITINERARY

Dates: February 22 to March 8, 2026

Following is an ideal itinerary for our 2026 Ojos del Salado Expedition:

Day 1	Arrive Copiapó Airport, transfer to Bahía Inglesa, explore the town and harbour and overnight in hotel.
Day 2	Bahía Inglesa to Valle Chico (3,050m/10,000ft)
Day 3	Valle Chico to Laguna Santa Rosa (3,760m/12,350ft)

Day 4	Trek to Siete Hermanos (4,880m/16,010ft) return to Laguna Santa Rosa
Day 5	Move from Laguna Santa Rosa to Laguna Verde (4,340m/14,240ft)
Day 6	Hike to Cerro Mulas Muertas (5,400m/17,700ft), stay Laguna Verde camp
Day 7	Ascent of San Francisco volcano (6,080m/19,948ft), stay Laguna Verde Camp
Day 8	From Laguna Verde drive to Atacama Refuge (5,300m/17,400ft)
Day 9	Carry to Tejos Refuge (5,825m/19,100ft) and return to Atacama Refuge
Day 10	Rest day
Day 11	From Atacama Refuge climb to Tejos Refuge
Day 12	Summit day (6,893m/22,615ft)
Day 13	Contingency day
Day 14	Tejos Camp to Bahía Inglesa
Day 15	Bahía Inglesa to Copiapó airport and depart for home.



▲ Arid desert plateau stretches out beyond San Francisco. Photo: Lydia Bradey

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

Generally, entry visas are not required for travellers to Chile staying less than three months, but please check with your travel agent for details according to your nationality. The trekking and climbing permits are a separate matter dealt with by the expedition agent.

COMMUNICATIONS

The expedition will be equipped with portable Thuraya satellite phone systems for the duration of the expedition in order to provide reliable email and voice communication for business, media or personal use. Limited satellite phone time can be purchased at the rate of US\$3 per minute. Please contact our office for details.

FOOD

Food is prepared by the guides during the trek in and whilst on the mountain. 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



▲ Advance camp at Atacama Refuge. Photo: Lydia Bradey



▲ Descending off the summit of Ojos del Salado. Photo: Spondylus



▲ A jubilant team on San Francisco. Photo: Lydia Bradey

your needs and how this will work in the 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.

TRAVEL APP & EQUIPMENT LIST

Expedition members will be provided with comprehensive pre-trip support, including access to our travel app. Our platform allows you to have all of the key trip information and expedition documents at your fingertips on your personal device, in an intuitive user-friendly manner.

You will find a comprehensive equipment list within the travel app and our team of equipment experts are also available throughout the build-up to assist with any questions that you may have.

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 adviser and

the Expedition Leader and treated with full confidentiality. Advice on immunisations will be provided at this time. We also require members to have rescue insurance and we will consult with individual team members as to their insurance needs and solutions for coverage.

PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPHS

Expedition members will need to provide three passport photographs for various climbing and trekking permits and a copy of their passport biodata page.

THE EXPEDITION FEE

The cost of the expedition, ex Copiapó, Chile is US\$7,990.

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Adventure Consultants mountain guides
- All expedition organisational requirements
- Airport transfers on scheduled arrival date
- All land transport within Chile ex Copiapó
- 2 nights Hotel Bahía Inglesa, twin share
- All trek and expedition food ex Bahia Inglesa



▲ Upwards to Volcan Mulás Muertas. Photo: Lydia Bradey

- Group equipment: ropes, tents, stoves, cookware etc. and all supplies necessary to make a safe and strong bid for the summit
- Access to satellite phone for outgoing calls
- Climbing permits

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

- Air travel to and from Copiapó Airport
- Meals when in Bahía Inglesa
- Rescue costs or any costs associated with an early departure from the expedition
- Personal travel insurance/trip cancellation insurance/medical evacuation insurance
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Cost of satellite telephone calls
- Gratuities to guides and local staff

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 and Amex) plus a 3% card charge.

DEPOSIT

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

BALANCE

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

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

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



▲ Volcanic rock formations. Photo: Lydia Bradey

- 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.
- 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.

CONTACT US

If you require more information, please contact us at:

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HOW TO JOIN THIS EXPEDITION

If you would like to join the Ojos del Salado Expedition, please complete our online booking form and forward your deposit payment at <https://adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/south-america/ojos-del-salado#DepartureBookingBlock>.



▲ Spectacular sunset at Laguna Santa Rosa. Photo: Lydia Bradey



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.

