



IWLS

International Wilderness Leadership School

Argentina Mountaineering Course Itinerary

This is a flexible trip itinerary that shows the general progression of the trip. Our exact schedule will depend highly on the weather, strength of the group, and time of year.

Day 0: Arrive Mendoza

Day 1-2: We travel from Mendoza to Penitentes to help acclimate for high altitude travel. We'll spend the first day preparing, planning, having a pre-trip meeting, and packing food and equipment for our expedition into the Andes. We talk about expectations for the course from the students and from the instructors.

Day 3 - 5: We'll hike into the Rio Blanco Valley and set up a base camp, from where we'll stage for a series of mountaineering objectives.

Day 6-9: During the first 5 days on the glaciers and snowfields of the high Andes, we'll cover a variety of mountaineering skills including self-arrest, cramponing techniques, crevasse rescue, rope team travel, and more. There are a series of exciting objectives that support a progression of technical skills.

Day 9-12: Students will have leadership opportunities and additional technical development as we ascend the moderate surrounding peaks. Instructors will assess participants' level of involvement in accordance with the IWLS curriculum. We will review Leader of the Day and students will take on more of a leadership role throughout the course.

Day 13-19: Cerro Juncal 20,046' (6,110 m) and Nevado el Plomo 19,915' (6,070 m) will begin to set the back drop to our backcountry classroom. These massive peaks, and their neighbors, contribute to making the area an ideal landscape for high altitude mountaineering. While Cerro Juncal and Plomo are a bit too far to ascend during the 20 day course, there are innumerable peaks ranging from 15,000 to 18,000 feet that offer challenging and varied climbing and summit objectives. Most of these peaks are unnamed.

Day 20: Return to Penitentes and on to Mendoza in the evening. In the last few days of the course we will have final evaluations. Students will be evaluated, by their instructors, on their understanding and completion of the IWLS curriculum in addition to a self-assessment.

