



Aconcagua Expedition Equipment List

The weather on Aconcagua can be volatile and clothing systems need to be capable of meeting the demands of an ever-changing environment. A layering system, which allows articles of clothing to be added or subtracted as the weather changes, has proven most versatile. The clothing items listed below should layer together to provide appropriate insulation in the most demanding conditions. Because it may snow or rain, materials used in clothing should keep you warm even if they are wet. Synthetics such as polypropylene, Capilene, Synchronia, fleece, and pile are best, wool will also work. Cotton, with the exception of a t-shirt for the sun, is unacceptable. It is also a good idea to test out your gear before you arrive in Argentina. Please make sure you have everything you need as it can be very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain most of these items in South America.

Upper Body Layers

Upper body layers are some of the most important components of a good layering system. They should be comfortable, lightweight and breathable. Cotton is unacceptable, except for a sun shirt while hiking on warm days.

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Base Layers	2		One silk weight and one heavy weight top made of synthetic material that can be layered together to increase warmth. A light-colored silk weight is a good idea, because a light color (white/tan/light blue/etc...) will decrease the amount of solar radiation (warmth) that your shirt absorbs. However, your mid-weight base-layers should be darker so that they do absorb the sun's warmth.	-
Tee Shirt	1		To be worn as a sun shirt while hiking at lower elevations. Synthetic fabric is the way to go, and can double as a bandana or extra sun protection under a baseball cap.	-
Medium Weight Top	1		To be worn over the base layers, this should be synthetic or wool. (a soft shell is an acceptable substitute)	-
Down Parka	1		A good down parka will be your best friend on cold nights and summit morning. It should easily fit over all layers. Please don't hesitate to call us before making any major purchases. 1.800.985.4957	-
Outer Wear	1		A jacket made of waterproof / breathable material such as Gore-tex is vital for keeping you warm and dry. It needs to fit over all layers.	-

Lower Body Layers

Lower body layers should be versatile and easy to change into and out of under changing weather conditions.

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Base Layers	2		One silk weight and one heavy weight bottom layer made of synthetic material that can be worn together to increase warmth.	-
Fleece or Synthetic	1		These should be either fleece or synthetic down. If the pants have	-





Pants			side zips, it will make your life a lot easier by allowing you to layer without removing your foot wear. We recommend the Patagonia 'micro-puff pants'	
Shorts or Lightweight pants	1		These are optional, but are nice to wear at lower elevations on the hike to base camp. Cotton is unacceptable; synthetic will dry faster and be more comfortable for long periods of wear.	-
Outer Wear	1		Pants made of waterproof / breathable material such as Gore-Tex are vital for keeping you warm and dry. They need to fit over all layers and should have side zips.	-

Head, Neck, Hands & Feet

Keeping your extremities warm & dry is crucial. We lose a massive percentage of body heat through our heads, and our hands and feet are the most susceptible to inconveniences like frostbite and trench-foot. Developing a system that works for your specific needs takes time; this guide is a good place to start.

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Warm-Hat	2		Should be made of synthetic material or wool, cotton is unacceptable and dangerous.	-
Sun-Hat	1		The sun can be very bright especially with reflection, the more protection your cap offers from the sun the better.	-
Balaclava or Neoprene Face Mask	1		Used to protect the face from wind/snow, and can be a real life-saver under stormy conditions.	-
Goggles	1		Double lens models with vents work best.	-
Sunglasses	2		Dark lenses with good side protection are a must. The sun can be very bright (especially with reflection off of the water/snow/ice) and can cause permanent eye damage. Most of our guides wear Costa Del Mar sunglasses	-
Light Weight Gloves	1		Windstopper fleece works best. Work gloves with a water-proof palm are nice to have along when dexterity is more important than warmth. 'Dura-Therm' or like models (synthetic glove with rubber palm & fingers) work well, just ensure you find the warmest model available.	-
Heavy Weight Gloves	1		Removable shell is a must. These should be warm, water-proof and breathable, with removable liners for easy drying.	-
Expedition Down or Synthetic Mittens			These should have a removable liner and a waterproof shell.	-
Socks	3-4		These should be synthetic or wool. Having a mix of light and heavy weight socks is nice to adjust to variable weather.	-
Light Hiking Boots	1		These should be lightweight and broken in well.	
Mountaineering Boots	1		Plastic boots with a removable liner work best because they are easy to dry out and extremely warm. We recommend the Vasque 'Radiator' because they are among the lightest and warmest on the market.	YES
Gaiters	1		These should fit over your mountaineering boots, and are used to keep water/snow/rocks out. They should be tall and water/abrasion resistant.	-





Technical Hardware

For technical gear we recommend [Black Diamond](#). We run their equipment on every mountain trip we operate, and find it to be among the best in the industry. For tents, sleeping bags, and duffels; we recommend [Kelty](#).

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Backpack	1		Should have a capacity of at least 5,000 cc, and should be comfortable with 40-60 lbs of weight. The Kelty ' Soar 5200 ' is a lightweight solution in a high-capacity package.	YES
Trekking poles	1		Lightweight and adjustable length work best.	YES
Lightweight Harness	1		Should fit over all layers and be comfortable when wearing a pack. Adjustable leg loops are best.	YES
Crampons	1		Light weight, sturdy, and easily adjustable are best. The Black Diamond ' saber-tooth ' works well.	YES
Ice Axe	1		Should be light weight.	YES
Locking Carabineers	1		Standard aluminum locking carabineers are used on your harness for glacier travel and technical climbing.	Provided
Helmet	1		Should be light weight and rated for rock climbing/ mountaineering.	YES
Large Duffel	1		Used for transporting gear in planes and vehicles on route to trip local. Kelty duffel bags are burly and handle large loads with ease.	-

Sleeping Bag & Pads

Having a good sleep system is essential in the mountains. Down bags are preferred because of the high elevations and dry climate of Aconcagua. They are very warm and pack incredibly small.

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Sleeping bag	1		The bag should have a comfort range rated to -15 Fahrenheit minimum. This is the minimum acceptable temperature rating. If you generally "sleep cold" or have other questions about sleeping warm at night we recommend a -25 Fahrenheit bag. A vapor barrier liner or bivy sack can be used to raise a bags temperature rating by approximately 3 degrees Fahrenheit. Although using a bivy sack or vapor barrier liner can help make a bag marginally warmer it will not make up for a bag that is not adequately warm to begin with. Carrying a bivy sack or vapor barrier liner also creates additional weight and bulk in the pack. Please don't hesitate to call us before making any major purchases. 1.800.985.4957 Kelty bags work well.	YES
Sleeping pads	2		A system of one compact inflatable pad (Thermarest) and one closed cell foam pad works best to insulate when sleeping on snow.	YES

Miscellaneous

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Passport	1		Don't forget!	
Eating Utensils	-		Bowl & Spoon (Lexan or titanium work well), as well as a 14oz mug with a lid for hot drinks.	-
Headlamp	1		We recommend LED headlamps, because they are lightweight,	-





			long-lasting & durable. Bring extra batteries.	
Toilet Paper	1		Bring your own in a Ziploc bag.	-
Iodine	1		A bottle of 'Polar-Pure' Crystals is the most convenient, but 'Potable Agua' works well also.	-
Personal Med-Kit	1		A personal prescription of a broad-spectrum antibiotic like Ciprofloxacin or Erithromycin is REQUIRED . Your kit should also include ALL personal medications, as well as a stash of Ibuprofen, Aspirin, Band-Aids, and Neosporin. A group Med-Kit will be available for everyone, however bringing a personal kit is mandatory. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call us at 1.800.985.4957	-
Blister Kit	1		This should include mole skin/foam and cloth athletic tape for personal use.	-
Lip Balm	1-2		Should have some type of SPF protection.	-
Sunscreen	4-8oz.		Should be SPF 30 or higher and be waterproof.	-
Water Bottles	2		Wide mouth 1-liter Lexan bottles ('Nalgene') work best.	-
Bandana	1		Used for extra sun-protection. Your t-shirt can be used in place of a bandana if you are trying to shave weight (which is a good thing).	-
Lighter	1		"Bic" is best.	-
Stuff Sacks	2-4		For organizing your gear inside of your backpack.	-
Garbage & Ziploc bags	variety		To keep your gear dry inside of your pack. (i.e. line your stuff sack with a garbage bag before you stuff your sleeping bag in there)	-

Optional

Equipment	Quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comments	Rental
Summit Pack	1		Used on summit day, should be between approximately 35L and be light weight (many people use their big pack for this purpose).	-
Hand Warmers	4		A good thing to keep in your pack for those brisk alpine starts.	-
Sleeping Bag Liner	1		For increased warmth.	-
Pee Bottle	1		1-liter wide-mouth Lexan with a SECURE LID . Nice to have when there is really inclement weather outside.	-
Energy/Candy Bars	0-20		Bring bars that taste good!	-
Moist Towelettes	0-20		This will be as close to a shower as you will get, we recommend one wipe a day.	-
Book	1-2		Leave the 15 pound hardcover at home.	-
Journal	1		'Rite in the Rain' or similar water resistant papers work best.	-
Camera	2-4		Digital or Film. If you are buying a digital camera; having a view finder allows you to take photos when it is too bright to see the screen and helps save batteries, also having a camera that is compatible with AA's allows you to bring extra batteries that don't cost an arm and a leg. Bring an extra memory card.	-
Money Pouch	1		A good way to keep your money close at all times.	-





IWLS

International Wilderness Leadership School

Additional Information



We use gear from these select companies on every trip we run! Their gear has proven itself again and again on the highest mountains, roughest water, and steepest ice. We endorse these companies because they make gear that is functional and reliable.



We provide the following: tents, group climbing equipment, expedition first aid kits, cooking equipment, and trip food.

Please don't hesitate to call us with any questions 1.800.985.4957

