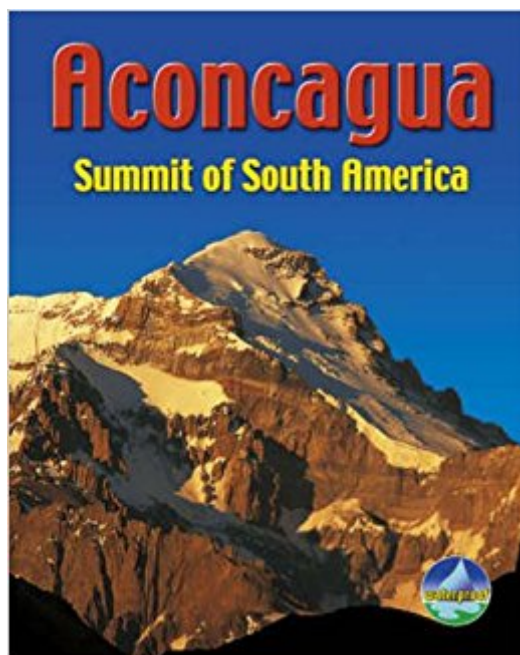


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Aconcagua: Summit Of South America (Rucksack Pocket Summits)



Synopsis

Of the seven continental summits, Aconcagua in Argentina is second only in height to Everest; despite this, it is surprisingly free of snow and ice, and experienced hikers can reach the roof of the Americas without technical expertise. This book explains how to tackle one of the world's highest and toughest treks.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Lightweight, yet packed with practical information, this book will help you all the way to the summit."
Jaime Vinals, a seven-summiteer who has climbed Aconcagua 8 times"

Born in 1970 in the Netherlands, Harry Kikstra lives in Amsterdam. Since gaining a Master's degree in business management, he has combined commercial work with an adventurous life that takes him all over the world. He has been a full-time adventurer, organiser and leader of expeditions since 1999. He loves to travel, and enjoys climbing and photographing mountains everywhere. He has summited Aconcagua twice, in 2000 and 2004, by both the trekking routes described in this book. In June 2005, Harry summited Mt Everest, and in January 2006 Mt Vinson, thus completing his own round of the seven continental summits.

I have been to Aconcagua three times on self-guided expeditions, each time with a copy of R.J. Secor's guide book in hand. Since then, Harry Kikstra has published a series of climbing guides and

is to be commended for writing concise guidebooks that have just enough information in a small, compact package. This is a book that truly can and should be included in the backpack. Mr. Kikstra doesn't include information about what restaurant one should patronize while in Mendoza, nor does he have a list of muleteers or guides with whom you can contract, as does Secor. But Kikstra does provide detail where it is important...his description of the routes is superior. A quibble might be that he should include a table of the Camps and their altitudes along the route, which is otherwise provided by Aconcagua Provincial Park. I appreciate that Kikstra--a European--provides altitudes and distance in feet and miles, not just meters and kilometers. Aconcagua is a most dangerous mountain because it is easily assessible, has a misinformed reputation as being a "walk-up", and is crowded with people who may or may not have good climbing expertise and judgement. Further, as the second highest of the "7-Summits", many people think this will be an easy undertaking, then quickly ascend into the danger-zone without proper acclimation. (This mountain is frequently disrespected by "real" climbers who emphasize its "non-technical" routes...) The first time I went to Aconcagua--in January, 2000--there were 7 deaths, all of which went under-reported in the climbing press. Three Argentine men in their twenties were roped but didn't use running belays on the Polish Glacier; one fell, couldn't arrest, and pulled the other two to their deaths. A Mexican woman alone at Nido De Condores felt sick (cerebral edema) while her partners went higher; they returned to a corpse. A solo and older Japanese gentleman arrived at Plaza De Mulas, entered his tent, and wasn't seen alive again (cerebral edema) without going higher than Base Camp (14,000 ft). A Chilean woman was with a group in a big hurry which didn't take any rest days while pushing for Cambio De Pendiente (Camp Alaska); she was dead a day after I talked to her. Number seven died after we left the mountain. With publicity of mountain climbing disasters playing center stage in the press (see Krakauer's "Into Thin Air"), the Mendoza Provincial Government has since provided more ranger assistance to climbers and even purchased a high-altitude helicopter to mitigate deaths as much as possible. But don't rely on such when the wind is blowing at 80 mph and the temperature drops to 40 below...Bottom line is this...don't do this mountain unless you humbly acknowledge your own limitations, are serious about taking your time and acclimating, and follow the very good advise given in Kikstra's guide. Happy climbing...

I climbed Aconcagua with this book for the 2008/2009 climbing season. That was a season of major tragedy on the mountain and I was personally an eyewitness to 3 of the several deaths that season. Without Harry's guidebook, I could have been one of them, and here's why: The first death I saw was a fall on the Polish Direct. This was my intended route, but partially due to the advice Harry

gave about heeding the conditions of the climb, I chose to go for the Polish Traverse. The day my team changed route is the day a climber fell and was killed on the glacier. Next, at the White Rocks camp, we saw a looming lenticular cloud appear on the mountain. This book gave the ever-so important advice that when this is seen, get the hell down. I went down and the Italian group who was massively publicized. I was one of the last to see the group alive; they elected to go up and I elected to go down at the advice of this book. Could have been a different story if I didn't get this book! So that's my anecdotal testimonial for this book. As far as content goes, you won't find a better guide out there that leaves out the useless stuff and includes what you need to know about climbing the mountain! As a lightweight, waterproof, full color, spiral bound (awesome for tearing out pages you don't need when actually climbing to save weight), book, it's the absolute best there is. I bought and borrowed several other books before climbing Aconcagua and this was the best.

Small little guy, but packs a punch. First off, it's great to have the water proof pages. I'm sure I'll get all sorts of junk on this book, so good to know it will survive. Great gear list, and it gives reasons why you will need each piece, which is a huge help so you can determine what brands/types of gear to get. Good maps and discussion of the routes. Definitely would buy this again for other mountains. My buddy had this book for Kili when we did that last winter, and I was wishing I had one. Would also recommend buying a small journal so you can jot down notes on the climb.

This little pocket reference is as described. Has good enough information and easy to carry. I would have given 5 stars but the prints are little small for me (for those needing reading glasses). Kind of defeats the purpose since my expectation was to take this around especially outdoor reading where carrying a reading glasses can be inconvenient. If you do not have this issue then all should be fine. I like it so much I bought one on Denali. One of my husband's hiking goals.

The pocket guide looks good to me. I will not really know how good it is until I am on the mountain! We are going unguided and putting some trust in this book (as well as many others). It is very informative, if you are climbing Aconcagua this is a must! No cons

I've been to Aconcagua before but didn't have this pocket book with me. Most authors seem to write quantity not quality. This little book is written with a climber in mind and does not sacrifice quality even though it is a small climber friendly guide. How much info do you really need to go up the mountain anyway? This book covers all and is packed with useful information minus any fluff. Do

yourself a favor and head to Argentina with this book rather than any of the library size climbing guides out there.

Great pictures and information. This book is way smaller than I imagined, however.

The most helpful little book I could possibly have found about Aconcagua! It contains just enough about everything - and I should have had it a couple of months ago already!

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