

Ecuador

Cayambe and El Obispo, North Face, 1984. The French Alpine Club's journal *La Montagne* reports that on January 10, 1984 Frenchmen H. Ayasse and P. Chevalier ascended the north side of Cayambe (5789 meters, 18,993 feet) on skis. Another Frenchman, G. de Lataillade, with Ecuadorian O. Morales, on January 1, 1984 climbed the 800-meter-high north face of El Obispo (5319 meters, 17,450 feet), the highest peak in the Altar massif. The snow and rock were of poor quality. They fixed the first 150 meters and failed in their first two attempts. When they finally completed the new route, they had made four bivouacs.

Canónigo, South Face, 1984. Ecuadorians F. Almeida, P. Garcés, L. Naranjo and M. Reinoso, all with much experience in climbing in the Altar group, accomplished a new route on Canónigo (5260 meters, 17,257 feet), which they climbed by its south face with one bivouac in the last week of December 1984.

Chimborazo, South-Southwest Face. Mike Woolridge and I visited the Ecuadorian Andes for two-and-a-half weeks over Christmas. The weather was generally poor. We ascended Illiniza Norte, Carihairazo Este and over December 30 and 31, 1984, a new 5000-foot route on the south-southwest face of Chimborazo (6267 meters, 20,563 feet). We bivouacked shortly below the summit plateau. The climb had no special technical difficulties, slopes up to about 50° with short steep sections through bergschrund walls. In the upper section there was some route finding through successive sérac barriers and some objective danger from sérac fall and avalanche-prone slopes. There was also a steep, fairly easy but loose rock band near the base of the route.

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Cotopaxi, Chimborazo, El Altar. Although our expedition was committed to scientific aims, we did two ascents. On August 26 Nigel Bunn and I climbed Cotopaxi. It is well to avoid the route described in several books as it is heavily crevassed and perhaps impassable. This involves ascending the triangular scree slope above the refuge before climbing diagonally to the right towards Yanasatcha (the big black rock). Instead, contour right for 1½ hours before beginning a direct ascent up the glacier to Yanasatcha. Continue up the large gully to the right of Yanasatcha for 200 meters before climbing a snow slope to the left to reach the crater at its highest point. On September 9 Martin Holley, Bunn and I climbed Chimborazo. Although we did no serious climbing on El Altar, it is a stunning setting and has dozens of new routes for serious consideration. Although all the peaks have been climbed, these have been mostly from outside the Caldera.

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