

Editor.) The peak is in the spur south extending from Cerro Placas, near Lo Valdés.

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Volcán San José, Winter Ascent. A large group made the first winter ascent Volcán San José from September 12 to 17. After leaving Lo Valdés, they placed camps at 2900, 3250, 3900 and 4520 meters. The women climbers were A. Barrientos, M. Chiozza, V. Morales and C. Castillo and the men were C. Gálvez, N. Muñoz, L. Napolitano, F. Varela, C. Cancino, M. España, A. Mancini, C. Fuentes, J. Palma, R. Traub, F. Vito, M. Tapia, D. Rutland, J. Jaña, M. Quiroz, E. Garrido and I. This ascent took place during the most severe winter in the last 50 years.

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Argentina

Mercedario, South Face. An Italian expedition originally had the west face of Mercedario as its objective. They were Alessandro Angelini, Giuseppe Angelotti, Carlo Barbolini, Gianluca Benedetti, Fabrizio Convalle, Bruno Nicolini, Giancarlo Polacci and Emilio Riccomini. The difficulties of the approach were considerable. They left Barreal, the last inhabited place, on January 10 but got to the foot of the south face at 3400 meters only on January 20. They reconnoitered to see if they could cross over the 5200-meter shoulder and descend 1000 meters on the other side to reach the foot of the west face but this would have been too arduous. They then headed for the left side of the icefall of the south face. On January 22 and 23 they carried to Advance Base at 4400 meters a half kilometer from the base of the face. Half of the group established Camp I at 5270 meters on January 26. After a snowstorm, while they moved up to Camp II at 6200 meters on January 28, the other half occupied Camp I. All were established at Camp II on a level spot below the foresummit on January 30. On the 31st Angelini, Barbolini and Benedetti reached the summit (6670 meters, 21,884 feet). There was no time for further summit climbs and the entire party withdrew.

Aconcagua, New Route on the Right Side of the South Face, 1986. Milan Romih and I made a trip to the Plaza de Francia in bad weather from February 9 to 11, 1986. We returned there on February 14. We were held back by bad weather until February 18 when we left the Plaza de Francia at noon. In the very region where we had wanted to climb, a sérac broke, causing an avalanche, and so we changed our route and started up the right side of the south face of Aconcagua. After climbing 200 meters of very rotten rock, we crossed to the left toward the icefall, where it was dripping and wet. We found the French Camp I and followed their route to the top of the southeast buttress