

Argentina and Chile

NORTHERN ANDES, ARGENTINA

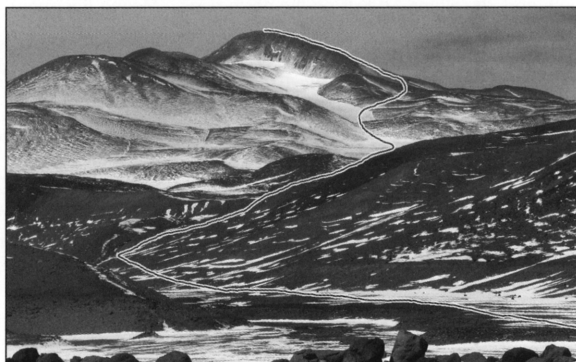
Cerro Mirador del Pissis, Northwest Ridge. On November 22 I soloed a new route on Cerro Mirador del Pissis (5,415m). I left base camp at 9:15 a.m. and after walking the normal access route to Pissis I gained the northwest ridge of Cerro Mirador del Pissis, reaching its summit at 2 p.m. with a superb view of the massive volcano, Pissis. In deteriorating weather I descended to the north, via the only other route on the mountain. I was so hungry that I reached Pissis base camp in only one hour. The next day, in a light snowfall that grew harder by the minute, we descended to Fiambalá in dark clouds.



MARCELO SCANU, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Mt. Pissis, Southwest Face and first winter ascent; Cerro Veladero, West Route and first winter ascent.

On September 16 Guillermo Glass, Rolando Linzing, and I reached the summit of Mt. Pissis (6,882m), the second highest mountain in the Andes, for the first time in winter. We also filmed a documentary in HDV format about the climb, directed by Glass. Our crew of 11 Argentineans followed a new access route from the south, but the vehicles were soon



Cerro Veladero (6,436m), showing the 2006 new route from the west, pioneered on the mountain's first winter ascent. Guillermo Almaraz

stopped by deep snow. We three mountaineers walked and skied on, totally self-sufficient, for about 50km across mainly unexplored land, following the course of the Salado River, to the base of the mountain. Carrying filming equipment, we experienced very windy and cold conditions, which made setting up camp a daily ordeal. We found unfrozen water only twice during the nine-day expedition. Finally, we climbed a new route, near no existing routes, up the massive southwest face of Pissis. Our route ascended 40-45° snow to a col and then a ridge, during a day when the temperature reached almost -40°C.

Also on September 16, after starting from a camp near the vehicles [22km from the start, with camps at 4,220m, 4,602m, 5,075m, and 5,547m], Guillermo Almaraz, Eduardo Namur, and Nicolás Pantaleón made the first winter ascent of Cerro Veladero (6,436m), climbing by a