

Ojos del Salado Rapid Ascent

9 Days in Chile / Skill Level: Intermediate



January 14 - 22, 2024

\$7995

*All costs included with the exception of alcohol, in-town meals

Difficulty Level: *Intermediate – Participants should have climbed/trekking at altitude (over 18,000 feet/5,500 meters). No technical climbing experience is necessary. The weather is cold and the mountain is tall. It is imperative that you are in excellent physical shape, and able to hike in rugged terrain for long days. We are happy to detail training programs as needed to get you ready for this expedition.*

Overview

Ojos del Salado is the highest active volcano in the world and towers over the altiplano at a breathtaking 22,615 ft. (6,893m). It's also the second highest mountain in the southern hemisphere, falling just short of nearby Aconcagua's by 200 ft. Ojos del Salado is situated on the border of Chile and Argentina and the name means "Eyes of Salt" and describes the round, salt lagoons that are found on the side of the volcano. These lagoons are home to flamingos who fish for algae and krill in the salt waters. One of them, Laguna Verde, which sits at 14,400 ft. (4,400m) above sea level, is actually a thermal spring fed by the volcanic activity in the area. The crater lake at the top of the Ojos del Salado mountain has an elevation of 20,960 ft (6,390m) and if size is not a criterion it is the highest lake in the world. At 22,615 ft. (6,893m), the volcano feels remote but remains easily accessible. Other peaks of this size typically require weeks to reach but the Alpenglw climbers arrive safely and attempt the Ojos summit all in 9 days.



The expedition begins in Santiago where our guide will pick you up from the airport. We spend one night at a hotel, adjusting to the jet lag and preparing for our expedition. The next morning, we take the 7 am flight to Copiapó - the launching point for our expedition. Copiapó, located in Chile's Atacama Desert, is known for its rich mining history after silver was found at nearby Chañarcillo in the 19th century.

We begin our expedition by exploring the old colonial center where climbers can enjoy the culture, hospitality, and excellent food. After some good eats and sight seeing we take a 3 hour jeep ride to Santa Rosa Lake (11,800 ft / 3,600m). Here we will be able to hike around the salt flats and catch a glimpse of the famous flamingos. We will camp at the huts here for the night.

The acclimatization continues the next day with a 2 hour jeep ride to Laguna Verde (13,800 ft / 4,200m). Here we will set up camp and go for an acclimatization climb of the nearby peak Mulas Muertes (18,900 ft / 5,760m).

The next morning, we take the Jeep 2 hours higher to Atacama basecamp - the launching point for our summit bid. Here we rest and acclimatize even further at an elevation of (16,700 ft / 5,100m).

After rest and acclimatization at base camp, it is time for our summit push. The team wakes at midnight for the ten to twelve hour round trip climb. From the summit, we are rewarded with unparalleled views of the surrounding salt flats and lakes.

After descending, the team heads back to Copiapó and Santiago. The shopping and the opportunity to explore the local Chilean culture as well as the pampering that the team receives makes this an ideal pace to rest and recover from the climb.

By utilizing Hypoxico tents for 1 month prior to departure (this is required & the tent rental fee is included in cost of trip) and finely-tuned logistics, we are able to complete this typically 15 day expedition in a mere 9 days. We have had great success with pre-acclimatization in the highest mountain ranges of the world and strongly suggest this method as a way of staying healthy and strong on would-be long expeditions and ultimately, create a greater chance of summit success.

One or more of Alpenglow's AMGA/IFGMA guides run our trips. The AMGA/IFGMA certification is the highest possible training possible and the guides have traveled and climbed extensively in South America. Their intimate knowledge of the Volcanoes and Andean culture combined with their expertise in the mountains guarantees a memorable experience.

Alpenglow's small team size and low ratio of two climbers to one guide ensure that the team to remain healthy and strong and able to enjoy the climbing experience

Ojos del Salado Itinerary

Day 1	Leave your home for Chile, arriving into Santiago (1,870 feet/570 meters) in the evening. Our guides will pick you up and bring you to our hotel.
Day 2	After an early breakfast at the hotel, we will fly to Copiapó. From Copiapó we will drive (5 hrs) to Santa Rosa Lake. From here we have the option for a scenic hike near the lake or a visit to the salt flats and flamingo sightseeing. Overnight in campsite (3600m) After touring for half the day, we spend the afternoon preparing for our climb of Ojos del Salado, practicing fixed line techniques, and organizing gear.
Day 3	From our campsite in Santa Rosa, we will take a 2 hr Jeep ride to Laguna Verde (2hrs). Overnight in campsite (4200m) Climb Mulas Muertas in the afternoon (8 to 10hrs roundtrip to 5760m)
Day 4	Today we drive (2 hrs) to basecamp and spend the at 5100m to continue practicing our skills and letting our bodies further acclimatize before our summit push the next day. We spend the afternoon resting, hydrating, eating, and getting to bed early for the summit of Ojos del Salado
Day 5	Summit day (6893m, 12hs roundtrip). After a midnight wake-up call, we begin our climb scrambling a rock ridge to the upper glacier. From there moderate slopes lead to another steep headwall. Often icy, this slope will require all of our climbing techniques to make it to the top. From the summit, we descend to Basecamp for a celebratory evening.
Day 6	Extra weather day
Day 7	Extra weather day
Day 8	Transfer to Copiapó - Today we sleep in, eventually waking to the the smell of fresh coffee. When we are ready, we return to Copiapó for dinner, and we will fly back to Santiago taking our flights scheduled at 10pm. We spend the night in a hotel in Santiago.
Day 9	Today, we pack up and say our farewells.

Client Expectations and Timeline

90+ Days to Departure

Reserve Spot	Make your deposit to confirm registration - if you haven't already, head over to our website and click "Reserve Spot" and select your dates. The rest of the process is as easy as buying a book online. Make sure that you select to add an extension if you wish to extend any expedition.
Q&A	Q&A with Alpenglow - time to ask any question about travel, logistics, training and everything in between.
Application	Complete full application including medical questionnaire & travel information.
Reserve Rentals	Reserve rentals if needed within application. For our climbing schools, we have a small rental inventory of boots, ice axes crampons, helmets and harnesses. These are provided at no cost on a first come first serve basis. Please let us know what you plan on renting as soon as possible.

Within 90 Days to Departure

Complete Payment	Full Payment will be collected at the 90 day mark. Alpenglow will contact you prior to taking final payment and once you confirm we'll simply move your booking into the final stages. For international trips, a wire transaction is the best way to send payment. We also accept credit cards with transaction fee of 3% or you can pay by check.
Book Travel	We recommend reviewing flight options outside of 90 days and confirming with Alpenglow on travel times. Use us to guide you to the best flight schedules to make travel as easy as possible. Once you book your flights don't forget to share with the Alpenglow office so we pick you up on time from the airport.
Training	This is the hard part. The hours of training you put in directly correlates to your success in the mountains. Train hard and be ready for the adventure of a lifetime!
Equipment	Compile all equipment using the equipment list as a guide.
Purchase Insurance	Purchase travel and rescue insurance. We recommend Global Rescue and Travel Guard. Click here to find links to each.

General Trip Information

Payment

1. A 20% deposit is required for all open enrollment treks and expeditions. Deposits are due upon registration, and can be paid online or by check made out to "Alpenglow Expeditions, LLC". All check payments should be mailed to Alpenglow Expeditions at P.O. Box 3122, Olympic Valley, CA 96146. If wiring payment, please contact us for bank details and be certain that you are covering all fees. Deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable. This is not a flexible policy. Planning our trips takes significant time and has non-refundable costs as well.
2. Balances are due 90 days before the expedition departs from the United States. Payment should be made as described above.
3. The cost of your trip includes your land costs (excluding in-town meals). This includes: double occupancy lodging while in town, meals on the mountain, scheduled transportation while in the countries we are visiting, group camping and climbing equipment, individual technical climbing equipment (boots, ice axes, crampons, helmets, harnesses), and guides.
4. The cost of your trip does not include: flights to/from the city where the expedition begins, airport taxes, visas, in-town meals, immunizations, tips for guides or local staff, travel, rescue, or any other type of insurance, hospitalization or evacuation costs, single supplement charges, excess baggage charges, alcohol, or other personal expenses.
5. The costs of delays or changes to itinerary that are beyond the control of Alpenglow Expeditions or its agents are not included.

Cancellations

1. We reserve the right to cancel any trip at any time. Reasons for cancellation might include (but are not limited to) political instability, natural disasters, or inadequate enrollment. If we cancel a trip prior to its start for low enrollment, we fully refund your payments. If we cancel your trip prior to its start due to political instability, natural disasters, or other reasons of that nature, we will refund all but non-recoverable costs. Changes to a trip itinerary made by our guides for any reason do not constitute a cancellation, and no refunds will be made in this case.
2. If you cancel your trip more than 90 days prior to departure, Alpenglow Expeditions will refund your payment minus the non-refundable deposit. 60-89 days prior, Alpenglow Expeditions will refund 50% of your payment. Fewer than 60 days prior, there are no refunds or credits.
3. On any trip, our guides reserve the right to remove any person, for any reason. These reasons generally stem from a person jeopardizing the safety of themselves or another team member. This includes a person who is not physically able to climb at the level necessary for the chosen route. In all these cases, there are no refunds whatsoever, and the client will be responsible for any additional costs incurred in leaving the trip.

Flights

We recommend using Kayak.com as a primary source for finding low-fare airfares.

****Please confirm your itinerary with Alpenglow Expeditions before you purchase it.****

Insurance

We require that all participants carry rescue insurance, travel insurance, and health insurance. Your policy numbers must be provided to us prior to leaving the USA. Homeowner/Renter's

insurance is also recommended.

- Rescue Insurance- For US citizens, we recommend obtaining rescue insurance through American Alpine Club and upgrading that service via Global Rescue. Visit www.americanalpineclub.org to become a member and obtain the appropriate level of coverage based on the altitude of the peaks you will be climbing with us. Helicopter rescues in foreign countries, while unlikely, can cost up to \$20,000. International climbers have several options as well for rescue insurance. Our recommendation is Global Rescue as we have had great success with them in the past. Your insurance must not have a mountaineering exclusion and must cover up to your trip's highest altitude. This coverage is very important.
- Travel Insurance- We recommend using [Global Rescue's IMG Signature Travel Insurance](#). Coverage should include lost/damaged baggage, unexpected delays, accident/life, and trip cancellation. Trip cancellation will cover you for non-refundable air and land costs should you need to cancel your trip due to an emergency. Since our costs are often not refundable, this coverage is very important as well, and should be purchased as soon as possible after registering for an expedition.
- Health Insurance- All members of our teams are required to have current health insurance. This insurance should cover emergency hospitalization abroad as well as domestically.
- Homeowner/Renter's Insurance- While unusual, thefts can occur while overseas. We recommend a policy to cover these losses.

Medical

All of our expeditions and treks are physically demanding. Regardless of the skill level or experience needed, it is essential that you arrive in good physical shape, and prepared to handle extreme conditions, including cold, heat, and long tiring days. Alpenglw Expeditions, LLC and its guides reserve the right to remove any member of our trips at any time if we do not believe they are ready for the rigors of the trip.

Our guides are certified in wilderness medicine, CPR, and are experienced in client care in remote high altitude locations. However, Alpenglw Expeditions, LLC is not a medical facility and Alpenglw Expeditions, LLC assumes no liability regarding medical care.

You are responsible for your own medications, inoculations, and deciding whether you are physically able to participate in an Alpenglw Expeditions trip. You should discuss your participation in this trip, and the dangers involved, with your physician.

Some of the medications you may consider carrying with you include:

1. Tylenol – a simple painkiller for headaches and minor pains.
2. Ibuprofen – mild altitude headaches, along with body aches and pains, are common.
3. A cold and flu remedy of your choice (strong decongestant).
4. Pepto Bismol - for minor stomach upset, best taken in caplet form.
5. Immodium AD – to control diarrhea, when necessary. Again, tablets are preferred.
6. Cough Drops – the air at altitude is very dry, and many climbers develop hacking coughs.
7. A laxative agent of your choice.
8. Dramamine (or equivalent) – an anti-motion sickness agent of your choice as bus/plane rides to our trailheads are often very bumpy.
9. Diamox (Acetazolomide) required – prescription medication often used prophylactically

to prevent altitude sickness. You should have a large enough supply to take 250mg/day (best as scored tablets so you can take 125mg twice a day).

10. Z-pack required – a broad spectrum anti-biotic.

Also be sure to discuss vaccinations with your doctor. Often a travel clinic has the most up-to-date information on which shots are necessary for the country you are visiting. Be sure to mention that most of our trips explore only the highlands and capital cities. This might mean that you need fewer immunizations, and anti-malarials are often not necessary. Determine this with your doctor, and refer to your trip itinerary for the exact locations we will be visiting. At the very least, your tetanus shot should be up-to-date and you should have protection against Hepatitis A.

Aerobic Conditioning

We cannot stress enough the importance of being in excellent aerobic condition before arriving on your trip. Arriving fit will increase your safety on the trip and reduce the risk of medical issues. It will also dramatically increase your enjoyment and learning during your trek or expedition. At the minimum, we recommend an exercise regimen that includes a minimum of 3 one-hour workouts per week (biking, running, swimming) along with a few long days hiking as you get close to your departure date. Please call us if you would like to discuss a specific routine to fit your needs.

Money

The countries we visit can still be challenging places to use a credit card or find an ATM. While you may choose to bring these for backup, we recommend you bring enough cash and traveler's checks for your planned spending. Traveler's checks can be exchanged in most of the countries we travel to, however they often have lower rates of exchange and can be a hassle. American dollars are still the easiest way to carry money. Be sure you carry clean, new bills and have some smaller denominations. Carry your money and important documents in a hidden waist pouch under your clothes.

The amount of money you need varies by how many presents you plan on bringing back! In addition to souvenirs and gifts, plan on spending on airport departure taxes, alcohol and snacks, and tips for local staff and your guides.

Additional Notes

- Single Supplement - If you prefer a single room while we are in hotels, please let us know as soon as possible. There will be an additional cost associated for this.
- Cameras – digital cameras are an excellent option. Be sure to bring enough batteries and memory space for your entire trip. We have found that small pocket cameras are much better than big SLR's for summit days. You need a simple light system, and the new generation of digitals take great photos. If you are a photo buff, definitely bring your big SLR or video camera as well. The treks into our mountains and hanging in basecamp are great times to fulfill your photographic aspirations!
- Be sure to create a data sheet of all of your essential information – passport, credit card or ATM numbers, airline ticket information, visa number (if applicable), etc. This sheet should then be photocopied and scattered amongst your luggage. If any of your documents are stolen, having this information will be essential.
- Rental Equipment - Alpenglow Expeditions offers a limited number of mountaineering boots, crampons, ice axes, helmets, harnesses, carabiners, perlon, and belay devices

for use by our clients. There is no additional charge for using this equipment, but please let us know as soon as possible if you intend to use Alpenglow Expeditions' equipment. Check your expedition's equipment list to see what technical climbing equipment is necessary for your climb or trek. Rental gear from Alpenglow is only available for shipment within the US. Rental gear must be taken home by the renter and shipped back to Alpenglow within two weeks of end of trip at the renter's expense.