



# CHILE BACKCOUNTRY

## SKI ADVENTURE

DURATION: 9 DAYS

LOCATION: CHILE

SKILL LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

ALPENGLOW



# CHILE BACKCOUNTRY SKI ADVENTURE

## Expedition Details

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**LOCATION:** CHILE

**SKILL LEVEL:** INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

**SEASON:** NORTHERN HEMISPHERE: FALL /  
SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE: SPRING

**COST:** \$4,750

### DIFFICULTY LEVEL DESCRIPTION:

Intermediate/Advanced: Our Chile Backcountry Ski Adventure is an intermediate/advanced-level trip. You should be able to climb up to 5500'+ on each touring day and be comfortable linking controlled turns down slopes up to 45 degrees.

### PREREQUISITES:

Excellent physical shape, basic snow climbing experience using ice axe and crampons, 15 days prior touring experience.



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[ALPENGLLOWEXPEDITIONS.COM](https://alpenglowexpeditions.com)

# Expedition Introduction

## Why Ski in Chile?

Chile is an incredible playground for a backcountry skier or rider, offering breathtaking snow-covered volcanoes that rise high above the Chilean forest.

The wide, steep slopes of the Chilean volcanoes will give our teams over 5000' of descent as they soak in the panoramic, postcard-worthy views. These slopes provide a blank canvas for our teams to carve out some of the best runs of their lives. Aside from skiing, Chile's unique culture and landscape create opportunities for lifelong memories.

Imagine volcano corn skiing, natural volcanic mineral hot springs, and farm-fresh Chilean food to finish the day. Chile provides the perfect location to apply your skillset to new places while being lead by our certified guides.

## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Chile is home to the Andes, the world's longest mountain range. Over its 4,500 mile course down the western coast of South America, the terrain varies widely. The range is home to everything from glaciers to grasslands to volcanos.

The first documented skiing in the Andes was in 1887 by British and Norwegian engineers hired by the Chilean Government to outline the Trans-Andean Railroad. The railroad was open in 1910 and recreation skiers began to use the infrastructure to facilitate ski descents. With the stunning mountain scenery and world-class terrain, Chile was primed to become an iconic yet quiet ski mountaineering destination.

Its natural and rugged terrain spoke to early climbers of the Andes. Volcan Osorno was summited by Jean Renou in 1848. The Chilean Army completed the first ascent of Volcan Villarrica in 1883. Llaima was the last of these peaks to be summited in 1909 by Carlos and Augusto Rimbach. This mountain range is rich with climbing, skiing, and natural history which provides an engaging interface between the expedition and the natural and cultural worlds.



## ROUTE CHOICE

We have strategically selected four of Chile's most prized Volcanoes. We will climb and ski Volcan Lonquimay, Volcan Llaima, Volcan Villarica, and Volcan Osorno.

Each volcano has been picked to provide the highest quality of experience from a geographical, cultural, and logistic lens. Beautiful scenery and diverse skiing and riding await you on each one of these volcanic world-class objectives.



## 9-Day Itinerary

The Chile Backcountry Ski Adventure is a well-rounded experience that is the perfect next opportunity to take your backcountry skills to the next level. Our 9-day itinerary allows us to provide a refined balance of touring on epic volcanoes with time to relax and engage with the area due to built-in rest days.

We understand taking time off work can be challenging. Chile provides the perfect venue to reduce inherent time pressure. The highest peak, Volcano Llaima, is at 10,253'/3,125m. The more approachable summit elevation allows us to hit the ground running.

*Our itinerary starts at Canon del Blanco Lodge, home for two days while you dive into ski touring your first two volcanoes: Lonquimay and Laima. From there, we'll head to Pucon for rest and recovery before tagging Villarica.*



After a successful expedition, skiers should feel confident making plans to ski objectives like Mt. Shasta, Ecuador Ring of Fire, or the Mera Peak Ski Expedition.

See more trips at [ALPENGLowEXPEDITIONS.COM](https://ALPENGLowEXPEDITIONS.COM)



## About Alpenglow Expeditions

*Alpenglow creates and fosters a community of climbers prepared to achieve their dreams in the world's greatest mountain ranges.*



### About the Company

Alpenglow Expeditions is an AMGA accredited business, and prides itself on working with guides who uphold and exemplify the highest standard in the profession of mountain guiding.

Led by IFMGA mountain guide Adrian Ballinger, Alpenglow focuses on creating expeditions that reflect our high standards in mountain guiding by providing precision logistics, cutting edge technology, and thoughtful itineraries that combine for successful climbs.

### History of Alpenglow Expeditions

Founded in 2004 by IFGMA mountain guide Adrian Ballinger, Alpenglow Expeditions began as a boutique guide service that focused on high altitude climbing. In those 15 years we've expanded our offerings, both internationally and in the United States. We are now proud to offer courses and expeditions ranging from a climbers first experience on the Tahoe Via Ferrata, to basic backcountry education for those interested in exploring winter landscapes, to climbing the world's highest mountain for those on the Road to Everest.

# About Alpenglow Expeditions

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## Founder — Adrian Ballinger

Adrian Ballinger founded Alpenglow Expeditions in 2004 envisioning a more holistic climbing experience for his clients than the status quo.

Adrian is the only American who has skied two 8,000 meter peaks, was the first person to ski Manaslu, the 8th tallest mountain in the world, and in 2011 became the first person to summit three 8,000 meter peaks in only 3 weeks (Everest twice and Lhotse once).

Adrian holds both an AMGA and IFMGA guide's certifications and has achieved more than 10 summits of 8,000 meter peaks (including 6 summits of Mt. Everest).



## Partner / Chief Guide — Logan Talbott

Logan has been guiding professionally for over a decade in the disciplines of Rock, Alpine and Ski Mountaineering. When not out guiding, Logan spends time in the office helping the team with the day-to-day operations of the business. From one day ascents of El Capitan to big Alpine climbs in the Himalaya, or from ski descents on Denali to backyard ski tours in Lake Tahoe, he can't help but smile when out running around the hills.

Logan is an AMGA/IFMGA mountain guide, an Avalanche course leader with AIARE, as well as a wilderness EMT. In addition to guiding, Logan has extensive experience in mountain rescue, having worked for rescue teams in both Yosemite and Denali National Parks, and volunteering locally for Tahoe Nordic SAR.

## LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, LOCAL PARTNERS

We partner with local logistics companies in each country and region that we operate in. Often we have partnerships that have been with us since the beginning of Alpenglow. Whenever we bring on a new operator we have vetted them thoroughly to insure their reliability and quality. Our local and regional logistics partners are the backbone of our in-country logistics and help us achieve the success that we're known for.



# Who We Are

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## MISSION

**TO INSPIRE ADVENTURERS THROUGH POWERFUL MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCES**

## VISION

**LEVERAGING THE POWER OF THE MOUNTAINS TO CREATE POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE WORLD**

## VALUES

Alpenglow Expeditions facilitates epic mountain adventures. From Via Ferrata to summiting Mount Everest – our innovative climbing techniques, premier logistics, experienced & accredited guides, and smaller, curated teams results in an inspiring, powerful experience for every client.

Our logistical team is focused on quality and detail at every step resulting in a higher level of personal comfort with fewer delays and a better chance at success. As an AMGA accredited business, we surpass industry norms, guaranteeing that our guides are the best of the best, which includes requiring all international guides to have their IFMGA and/or AMGA certifications. Our guides are extensively trained across every route encountered - knowing the mountain inside and out makes for a smart, safe, decision process resulting in efficient, seamless trips. This training also allows our guides to focus on facilitating the best experience for our clients, including educating and teaching while on the mountain. Our guides and logistics ensure professionally managed and enjoyable expeditions, cohesive group dynamics, and an optimal trip for all.

Attention to detail extends to group dynamics and team size as well. We believe that the right people on the right mountain results in a unique and memorable expedition. We spend time understanding each participant, precisely matching them with the rest of the team. Small team size enables us to focus on each team member's goals for the trip, maximizing success and safety, which results in an outstanding curated experience.

Alpenglow Expeditions is a group of passionate adventurers with a love for the high alpine. Our mission is to inspire adventurers through powerful mountain experiences because we know the transformative power they hold. Our clients feel empowered, surprised, delighted, and changed by the possibilities and promises of the mountains.



*After nearly 20 years of guiding expeditions all over the world, including more than a dozen 8,000-meter peak expeditions, we have refined and distilled the acclimatization and climbing process to maximize safety, health, success, and enjoyment.*

## The Alpenglow Difference

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*Alpenglow Expeditions strives to create a holistic climbing experience that pairs education and self-sufficiency with unmatched guiding and logistical support.*

### Full Time Office Staff

We understand that scheduling and booking an international expedition is a large step. Therefore we maintain a full-time office staff to provide peace of mind and support you throughout the process.

### Precise Logistics

Time is a scarce resource in all of our lives. To maximize the value of our time we work with a local logistics team and have relationships with the services we use. Dialed logistics creates a relaxed feel and allows us to pack in four volcanoes in eight days with ample time for rest and travel.

### Our Guides

Alpenglow's guides are a fundamental part of our operation and your experience. Your trip will be lead by one or more of our AMGA Certified guides who have intimate knowledge of their craft and the terrain. AMGA (American Mountain Guides Association) certification is the highest possible training available to guides, and only the most experienced and dedicated attain it.

### Expedition Doctor on Call

Alpenglow has partnered with multiple doctors to provide phone consultations when needed throughout the expedition.



# The Alpenglow Difference

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## Low Guide to Skier Ratio

In order to provide you with the most individualized and memorable experience possible, we operate at a 1:3 ratio. You can expect to be climbing and skiing with 2 other clients and a certified guide.

## Chilean Cultural Experience

The Chilean Backcountry Skiing Adventure provides the opportunity to climb and ski four different volcanoes with built-in time to enjoy the cultural and natural amenities. From the volcanic mineral-rich hot springs to flavorful Chilean cuisine our trip is sure to be a well-rounded adventure.

## Lodging Quality

Alpenglow strives to provide clean, comfortable lodging on all expeditions. Throughout the trip, skiers in Chile will stay in various lodges and hotels that have been vetted by Alpenglow Expeditions

## Education

Education is at the core of what we do and a fundamental principle in our expedition packages. Throughout the expedition, you will be challenged to expand your leadership and decision-making skills. These skills can become applicable in your daily life and future recreational trips. We want to work with you to provide a personal, educational, and memorable experience.



**Our Chile Backcountry Ski Adventure is an intermediate-level expedition. We have set some baseline requirements to set our teams up for success which are described below.**

- **Team members must be able to link turns in a variety of snow conditions and terrain types up to 45 degrees while maintaining control.**
- **Team members must have basic snow climbing experience utilizing an ice axe and crampons.**



## Route Description + Itinerary

Touch down on Day 1 in Temuco, Chile where you will meet your guides and the expedition team. After introductions, you will drive through temperate forests and plantations toward the snow-covered volcanoes towering above the landscape to our lodging, the Canon del Blanco. The Canon del Blanco is a comfortable mountain lodge that offers accessible thermal pools located in the forest between the Negro and Blanco River. The pools offer a perfect way to relax before and after our volcano-based tours.

Days 2 and 3 we will be based out of the lodge. Within an hour's drive, we will access Llaima and Lonquimay where we'll take advantage of a ski lift to gain most of our altitude. The 2 day carry-over allows us to ski, hot spring, and relax with no travel pressures. After about 10,000 feet of skiing, we can rest and hot spring away any sore muscles and prepare to ski Villarica.

Day 4 is all about relaxing and moving to our next location: Pucon. We will have a slow-paced morning and enjoy a nice breakfast before loading up vehicles for a three to four hour car ride along the scenic frontage roads of central Chile. In Pucon, outdoor culture and food culture meet seamlessly near the base of our next objective, Villarica. Pucon is filled with mouthwatering eats, tantalizing scents, and relaxing hot springs.

A day of travel and rest in Pucon will set us up for success on the next days objective: Villarica.

A beautiful 4,000' climb will take us to the top of Villarica, where we'll be greeted with the smell of sulfur, a sensory reminder of the incredible geothermal and geological forces responsible for these legendary volcanoes we ski and the warm water that aids our recovery. After our third descent, we will enjoy the town of Pucon's unique nightlife and food culture before departing the next day.

Day 6 is a travel day where we enjoy another leisurely morning with breakfast served in Pucon before we load up for another 4-hour scenic drive to Puerto Varas, the "City of Roses". It is a beautiful town situated on the shores of Lago Llanquihue, Chile's second-largest lake. On Day 7, we will decide to continue our recovery as a rest day/weather day, go climb & ski Casa Blanca, or hit the Hot Springs.

Our objective for Day 8 is Volcan Osorno. An hour-long drive will bring us to the trailhead. Volcan Osorno is a highly-coveted descent due to its terrain quality and panoramic views. Its position in the region provides unparalleled views of Lago Llanquihue, Lago Todos Los Santos, and neighboring Volcan Calbuco.

We will ascend for about 4-5 hours until we reach our high point. Be sure to take a deep breath and enjoy it: the last 4,800' of Chilean corn await you. After the final tour, the last thing left to do is celebrate with the team during our goodbye dinner in Puerto Vara. With full bellies and happy hearts, it's time to pack our bags, reflect on incredible turns, views, and food, and say our goodbyes.

On Day 9, a quick 30-minute drive to the Puerto Montt Airport will set you from your travels home to start planning your next adventure.

# Map Overview



## Daily Itinerary Overview

**DAY 1** — Welcome to Temuco, Chile, the largest city in Chile’s “Lake District”. After you arrive in the early afternoon and meet the team, you’ll board our vehicle and travel through lush farmland and dense forest in search of snow-capped volcanoes. The 2-hr drive brings you to our new home, the Canon del Blanco Lodge. From here, you’re perfectly situated for the next two days of skiing and riding.

**Activity.** Arrive in Temuco, Chile  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 2,600’/792.5m  
**Lodging.** Canon del Blanco Lodge  
**Meals.** None

**DAY 2** — After breakfast at Canon del Blanco Lodge, you’ll load up for a 1hr drive to the base of Volcan Lonquimay. Your first tour of the trip brings you high above the town of Malalcahuello and the ski resorts located at the base of Lonquimay. In perfect conditions, you’ll be able to skin to the top, but everyone will have an ice axe, ski crampons and boot crampons in case we encounter firm snow. A quick ride up the lift will shorten our tour. At the top, you’ll be standing above more than 4,000’ of perfect spring snow that leads back to the car.

**Activity.** Climb and Ski Lonquimay  
**Distance Covered.** 7.25 miles  
**Moving Hours.** 1hr drive, 5-6hr tour  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** +/- 4,450’/1,356m  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 2,600’/792.5m  
**Lodging.** Canon del Blanco Lodge  
**Meals.** Breakfast & Lunch

**DAY 3** — Across the valley from Lonquimay you’ll see Volcan Llaima, your second objective of the trip. After an early rise and breakfast, you’ll hop in the car for another 1hr drive to the base of the volcano. While your legs will feel heavy to start, this feeling will quickly dissipate as the sun begins to rise, and you find yourself climbing another perfect slope. Llaima is a bit steeper than Lonquimay, and it’s crater rim is covered in ultra-sharp lava rock formed during an eruption in 2009. After you descend more than 5,000’ back to the base, you’ll be racing for the hot springs at Canon del Blanco Lodge.

**Activity.** Climb and Ski Llaima  
**Distance Covered.** 8.5 miles  
**Moving Hours.** 1hr drive, 6-7hr tour  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** +/- 5,100’/1,555m  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 2,600’/792.5m  
**Lodging.** Canon del Blanco Lodge  
**Meals.** Breakfast & Lunch

# Daily Itinerary Overview

**DAY 4** — With nearly 10,000' under your belt, today's leisurely pace will be welcomed. After you rise for a late breakfast at Canon del Blanco Lodge, the team will drive to Pucon, a small mountain town near the base of Volcan Villarica. Known for its outdoor activities, Pucon is home to many hot springs and blends lazy afternoons with a vibrant and social scene in the evening. An afternoon soak and dinner in town will prepare you for tomorrow's tour on Volcan Villarica.

**Activity.** Travel/Rest Day  
**Moving Hours.** 1 hr drive  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 800'/244m  
**Lodging.** Hotel in Pucon  
**Meals.** Breakfast

**DAY 5** — One of the most active volcanoes in Chile, Villarica is the prize of Pucon. A 45 minute drive will bring you to the start of your climb. A bit steeper than the previous two, you'll start your ascent on skins, but will switch to crampons as you near the top. The strong smell of sulfur will let you know you've made it, and you'll quickly switch to skis and boards before your third perfect spring run of the trip. Back in Pucon, you'll have the afternoon to explore before another night in town.

**Activity.** Climb and Ski Villarica  
**Distance Covered.** 5 miles  
**Moving Hours.** 45 min drive, 5hr tour  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** +/- 4,600'/1,402m  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 800'/244m  
**Lodging.** Hotel in Pucon  
**Meals.** Breakfast & Lunch

**DAY 6** — After a leisurely breakfast in Pucon, you'll continue to travel south through the Lake District to the town of Puerto Varas. Located along the shores of Lago Llanquihue, Puerto Varas is a little town with wide streets and grassy lawns. The last objective, Volcan Osorno, stands proudly just across the lake to the east.

**Activity.** Rest Day / Drive to Puerto Varas  
**Moving Hours.** 4 hour drive  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 200'/61m  
**Lodging.** Hotel in Puerto Varas  
**Meals.** Breakfast

**DAY 7** — Today we will decide to continue our recovery as a rest day/weather day, go climb & ski Casa Blanca, or hit the Hot Springs!

**Activity.** Climb and Ski Casa Blanca, or Rest Day  
**Moving Hours.** Varies  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 200'/61m  
**Lodging.** Hotel in Puerto Varas  
**Meals.** Breakfast & Lunch

# Daily Itinerary Overview

**DAY 8** — Your last tour of the trip is arguably the best. Right on the shore of Lake Llanquihue, Volcan Osorno is the prize. After an hour drive to the base, and 4-5hr ascent, you'll have earned every bit of glory you're about to experience. This last descent back to the car marks the completion of your adventure, and it's time to celebrate. You'll head back to Puerto Varas for a grand goodbye dinner.

**Activity.** Climb/Ski Osorno  
**Moving Hours.** 1 hr drive, 5-6hr tour  
**Elevation Gain/Loss.** +/- 4,800'/1,463m  
**Sleeping Elevation.** 200'/61m  
**Lodging.** Hotel in Puerto Varas  
**Meals.** Breakfast & Lunch

**DAY 9** — Depart from Puerto Montt.

**Activity.** Departure Day  
**Moving Hours.** 30-min drive  
**Meals.** Breakfast



# Travel Details

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## VISAS

U.S Citizens need a valid passport to enter Chile. A Tourist Card will be issued for a 90-day stay. This means that U.S Citizens do not need to apply for a visa to visit Chile. Tourist visas will be issued upon arrival.

## GROUND TRANSPORT

We use private vehicles or buses for this expedition. Once you arrive in Chile, all ground transportation is arranged for you including your airport arrival and departure transfers.

## FLIGHTS

Skiers should plan on arriving into Temuco, Chile on Day 1 of the Itinerary and depart from Puerto Montt, Chile in the afternoon on day 9. International travel logistics can be tricky. To make it easier, we suggest you have your passport ready, book a flight with limited layovers, and purchase travel insurance.

*If you do not have a travel agent, we recommend using [kayak.com](http://kayak.com) as a primary source for finding low-fare airfares.*

*Please confirm your itinerary with Alpenglow Expeditions before purchasing.*





## Accommodations

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*All expeditions include double occupancy lodging in town and double occupancy tents on the mountain. No matter where we travel, Alpenglow strives to stay in safe, clean and comfortable accommodations. Our tents are always in good shape and are replaced regularly.*



### IN-TOWN

While the hotels we stay in can change from expedition to expedition, we always arrange clean, comfortable and safe accommodations.

### 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, single supplement rates for this trip are **\$150/night**.





## General Trip Information

### MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

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. Alpenglow 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.

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

### On Mountain Medicine

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

### FOOD

Chile makes it easy to have access to healthy and nutritious food for the duration of the expedition. Breakfasts and some lunches will be provided, and the towns offer a wealth of unique blends of cultural cuisine.

### MOUNTAIN TRAINING

Physical fitness is the primary area you can prepare for when it comes to our expedition in Chile. Any mountain training plan should be at least 12 weeks long and include cardiovascular as well as strength training. For a personalized training schedule, please reach out to Lynette at Billy Goat Swift: [lynette@billygoatswift.com](mailto:lynette@billygoatswift.com).



## INCLUSIONS

The cost of your trip includes your land costs (excluding in-town meals). This includes:

- All lodging according to itinerary, including double occupancy lodging while in town and group lodging in mountain huts.
- Breakfasts in town, all meals while on the mountain
- Group camping and climbing equipment
- All park / climbing permits
- Scheduled in-country transportation
- Airport transfers
- Certified guides
- Covid testing arrangements for re-entry into home country (does not include cost of test)

## INSURANCE

We **require** that all participants carry **rescue insurance** and health insurance. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Your policy numbers must be provided to us prior to leaving the USA.

## EXCLUSIONS

The cost of your trip does not include:

- Flights to/from the city where the expedition begins
- Additional nights in hotel outside of the itinerary
- Airport taxes
- Visas
- In-town dinners
- 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
- Other personal expenses
- Antigen/PCR Covid test cost
- The costs of delays or changes to itinerary that are beyond the control of Alpenglow Expeditions or its agents are not included.

*View our cancellation policy online at:*

*[alpenglowexpeditions.com/cancellation-policy-international-expeditions/](https://alpenglowexpeditions.com/cancellation-policy-international-expeditions/)*





## Expedition of a Lifetime

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*Summit success is only achievable with your hard work and perseverance, and of course the right team of people around you.*

We think of ourselves as your partner in dreaming, planning, climbing and celebrating. Our entire team from Adrian, guides, support personnel and logistics partners are excited to have you along for the expedition of a lifetime.

**ALPENGLOW**  
expeditions

[ALPENGLOWEXPEDITIONS.COM](http://ALPENGLOWEXPEDITIONS.COM)

### BOOKING + INQUIRES

For booking details, questions, or more information please call or email us:

**1 (877) 873-5376**

[info@alpenglows.com](mailto:info@alpenglows.com)



# ALPENGLOW

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All expeditions are directed by Logan Talbott and Adrian Ballinger, AMGA/IFMGA Mountain Guides.

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