

## **Cerro Gorra Blanca Ascent. 2907mts**

*Chalten, Patagonia, Argentina*

Within the Southern Patagonian Ice Field, we find this white mountain of great beauty, stunning views and classic Patagonian weather. The strong humid winds of the northwest build the characteristic "Ice Fungi" that make this climb a great challenge for those climbers looking for a unique experience.

**Difficulty:** Medium.

**Duration:** 4 days.

**Pax:** 1 or 2 climbers.

**Recommended time:** October to March.

### ***Program:***

the day before the expedition there's a brief meeting with the guide to check equipment and arrange last-minute details.



### ***Day 1: Rio Electrico Valley - La Playita***

We drive 15 kilometers to the Bridge over Rio Electrico, northwest of El Chaltén, which will be our starting point on our way to the base of the Marconi Glacier. The first two hours of walking takes you along a well-marked trail, following the Río Eléctrico, through a forest of Ñire and Lengua trees. At Piedra del Fraile Camp we will leave behind the forest and hike through a glacial valley from where we will have a better view of the Marconi Pass. From this point there will be no more trees to protect us, so we will be exposed to the wind. At the same time the trail becomes more challenging and slower to move. We will contour the Electric Lake by its South margin until reaching Rio Pollone. After crossing the river, we'll hike for an hour to reach La Playita, where we'll place our first camp.

Hiking distance: 12 km (6 hours aprox.).

Elevation gain: 50 meters

### ***Day 2: Marconi Glacier - Paso Marconi***

With the first light of the day we start with the daily routine of our expedition: breakfast, put down camp, get our backpacks ready and then start hiking. Depending on the time of the year and the glacier's conditions we'll have the option to ascend the Marconi Pass itself, or to take the alternative way through De los 14 lagoon. Once on the ice, and depending on conditions, crampons and ropes will be used for safety and to deal with steep slopes of hard snow or ice. This is one of the most technical and hardest days of the expedition, not only because of the elevation gain to cover but also because of the variability of the terrain: rock, ice and snow. The Marconi Glacier funnels the winds

blowing from the Ice Cap usually creating hard conditions of snowy gusts that represent a real physical and mental challenge. At the end of the day we'll set up camp at Marconi Pass located at 1600 meters above sea level. From this spot we'll enjoy both sunset and sunrise over the walls of the Fitz Roy, the Cerro Pier Giorgio and the Ice Cap.

Hiking Distance: 10 Km. (7/9 hs aprox).

Elevation gain: 800 meters.

Camp: Marconi

### ***Day 3: Marconi Glacier - Gorra Blanca***

Early in the morning we take advantage of good conditions in the glacier and start our summit day. We'll be surrounded by the immensity of the Ice Cap and countless crevasses and seracs. We move until reaching the west shoulder which takes us to the summit. Stunning views of the ice field and surroundings are some of the peak. Close to the summit, we deal with tricky formations of ice and snow, product of the strong humid winds coming from the Pacific. From the top we return to the base camp. Depending on conditions we spend the night there or continue to La Playita.

Distance to travel: 22 km. (8/9 hours of walking).

Elevation gain: 1400 mts ascent.

Camp: Paso Marconi

### ***Day 4 Marconi Glacier - El Chalten***

We return to El Chalten from Marconi base camp retrieving our previous tracks.

Distance to travel: 22 km (8 hours of walking).

Descent: 900 meters