



AAC Publications

Cordón Colmillo, Punta Arisca

Chile, Northern Patagonia, Aysén Region

At the beginning of January 2015, a group of 16 students, NOLS instructors Anne Peick, Christian Steidle, Martin Arteaga, and I organized an expedition to the El Engaño Valley, which includes the Cordón Colmillo. To our knowledge this range (northeast of San Valentín) had seen very little exploration (mainly by past NOLS groups).

The summer season in Patagonia was great, but with this valley being so close to the Pacific Ocean it collects all the clouds in the area. We spent most of our 30-day expedition shuttling food up the mountains and trapped in our tents because of rain, snow, and wind.

In late January the weather finally gave us a break and we split in two groups. We climbed two peaks ascended by previous NOLS expeditions: Cerro Colmillo (1,896m) and Cerro Dedicado (1,800m) [see AAJ 2012]. The next day, using the weather window to our advantage, Anne Peick and I returned to Cerro Colmillo with the other group of students. Right after descending, students Zack Dameron and Matt Beehler and I headed for the rocky, unclimbed Punta Arisca (1,795m), northeast of Colmillo. It took us around two hours to reach the summit, after climbing terrain up to 5.5 and an exposed ridge.

Our descent was made by downclimbing and rappelling, and a few hours of glacier travel got us back to camp. The next few days were dedicated to exiting the mountains and crossing the large Rio Engaño. We celebrated our return in early February with an asado Patagónico, thankful for a good trip and with dreams of future projects in the area.

– Pedro Binfa, Chile

Images



The peaks of the Cordón Colmillo, showing (from left to right) a prominent unclimbed peak, Cerro Colmillo (1,896m), Punta Arisca (1,795m), and Cerro Dedicado (1,800m).



Descending Cerro Colmillo with Punta Arisca (1,795m) in the background.



A group descending from Cerro Dedicado (1,800m), the tallest peak on the right.



The climbers ascended the path of least resistance (5.5) up its left skyline.



Zack Dameron, Matt Beehler, and Pedro Binfa on the summit of Punta Arisca (1,795m).



Punta Arisca and Cerro Colmillo as seen from the glacier.

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