



Climbs on the Volcán Antofalla Massif

Argentina. Northern Andes

A large Argentinean expedition was active on the Antofalla massif, a mountainous high desert north of Catamarca, from January 9–20, 2017. The group consisted of Julieta Balza, Gerardo Casaldi, Sergio Cerutti, Javier Echenique, Adrián Gandino, Martín Giraudó, Emilio González Turu, Gastón Vitry, and Christian Vitry. They approached by a mining road and then off trail.

On January 12, the entire group ascended the previously unclimbed Cerro Negro (4,905m). The next day Casaldi and Echenique made the second ascent of Cerro Colorado de Antofalla (5,775m), while other members ascended an unclimbed 5,450m peak, naming it Cerro Gringo Cerutti. On the 15th, the group erected a high camp (5,600m), and the next day Balza, Casaldi, Echenique, Gandino, Giraudó, Turu, and Christian Vitry reached the top of sacred Antofalla (6,409m), a peak first climbed by the Incas, who erected an open-air rock temple. From the summit, they traversed to the unclimbed Pico Peñas Coloradas (6,320m). On the 17th, Echenique and Christian Vitry climbed the west summit of Huamán (6,335m), finding evidence of a previous ascent; Echenique continued to the unclimbed south summit (6,404m).

– Marcelo Scanu, Argentina

Images



An overview map of the Volcán Antofalla Massif, which outlines the ascents made in January 2017.



Volcán Antofalla from basecamp.



On the summit of Volcán Antofalla.

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