

## Cerro Cuerno de Plata, Second Known Ascent

Chile, Northern Patagonia, Aysén Region

In December 2017, Australian climbers Colin Barton, Callum Hawkins, Paul Plank, Geoff Robb, Annette Skirka, Raymond Alfred Smith, Neil Thomas, and mountain guides Sören Kruse, Carlos Vasquez, and Steffen Welsch made the second known ascent of Cerro Cuerno de Plata (3,725m; sometimes called Cuerno del Plata, Tararua, or Silberhorn). The peak is just southeast of Monte San Valentín (4,058m) and is considered the second- or third-highest summit in Patagonia, alongside Valentín and Cerro San Lorenzo (3,706m). It was first ascended by a New Zealand expedition in 1969 from the south (see AAJ 1971).

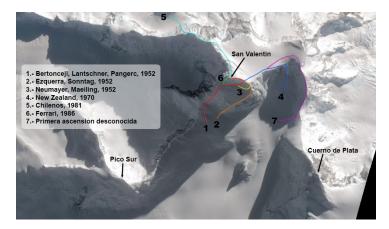
We ascended the south side, passing through a crevasse field, and the maximum steepness was 35°. While the ascent of Cerro Cuerno de Plata is technically straightforward, access to the peak is epic, the landscape on the Northern Patagonian Icefield is just magnificent, and the fact that we had this wilderness all to ourselves was an added bonus. The exposed summit provided a tremendous view of the east face of Monte San Valentín and Lago General Carrera and was a friendly reminder that we have more business there—simply brilliant!

- Steffen Welsch, Germany, and Sören Kruse, Denmark

## **Images**



Cuerno de Plata (center-left) summit and Monte San Valentin (right) from the northeast.



The San Valentin massif, showing Pico Sur, Monte San Valentin with its known routes, and Cuerno de Plata. The only known route on Cuerno de Plata is from the south, first completed in 1969 and repeated for the second time in 2017.



An overview map of the San Valentin massif and upper Exploradores Valley (which lies to the north



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