



## **Cordillera Frontal, Cerro del Salto**

Argentina, Central Andes

**In late March, Ramiro Casas and Glauco Muratti (both Argentina) began a long trek south from the town of Punta de Vacas, west of Mendoza, along the Río Tupungato and then southeast along one of its tributaries, Río Salto, to an area of remote and rarely visited 5,000m peaks in the Cordillera Frontal.** The only previous known ascent in this zone is Pico Vivi Lofti (5,264m; AAJ 2014).

During the first one and a half days, they made two difficult river crossings (Arroyo Chorrillos and Río Tupungato). It took two more days for them to ascend the Quebrada del Salto, eventually making a high camp at 4,600m below the western slopes of their intended peak. On March 26, they ascended a mix of glaciers, scree, and hard snow (40°) up the west side of the peak to the summit. They suggest calling the mountain Cerro del Salto (ca 5,350m; 33°08'13"S, 69°36'49"W). It took them two more days to retrace their route to Punta de Vacas, covering approximately 80km in all. [Editor's Note: Muratti made an earlier attempt to reach Cerro del Salto, in 2020, with Lisandro Arelovich and Ezequiel Dass.]

– **Marcelo Scanu, Argentina**



An overview of the approach from Punta de Vacas along the Río Tupungato and then southeast along one of its tributaries, Río Salto, to reach Cerro del Salto (5,351m; 33°08'13"S 69°36'49"W).

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