



AAC Publications

Cerro Negro Grande; Volcán Del Toro; Cerro Del Gallo

Chile, Northern Andes, Puna de Atacama

From 2019 to 2023, Alvaro Rojas Rivera and various Chilean partners ascended three previously unclimbed, nontechnical, 5,500m-plus volcanoes in a remote zone of the Atacama. These peaks are about 57km north of Ojos del Salado, near Paso de San Francisco along the Argentine border.

From October 24 to 27, 2019, Rojas and Juan Avalos, Cristóbal Diaz, and Danilo Layana climbed Cerro Negro Grande (5,570m, 26°35'23.32"S, 68°42' 28.60"W), which they had seen earlier from the peak Juncalito. From a base camp at 4,425m, they climbed the northwest slopes.

From December 7 to 11, 2021, Claudia Arratia, Inés Carrasco, Ariel González, Antonio Neira, Jaime Paineo, Alvaro Rojas Rivera, Fernando Toro, Oscar Torres, and Mauricio Urrea traveled to Volcán del Toro (5,935m, 26°36'21.40"S, 68°37'53.32"W), which is marked as Cerro del Mortero on an 1898 map. From a base camp at 4,750m, they climbed the west slopes and reached the top of what was surely the highest untrodden summit in Chile.

The last volcano, Cerro del Gallo (5,615m, 26°37'54.42"S, 68°39'17.59"W), has a nice, pointed summit that was spotted while descending Volcán del Toro. From February 1 to 5, 2023, Rojas and Carlos Etchegaray, Fabián Fadic, Ariel González, Danilo Layana, Jaime Paineo, Juan Soto, and Oscar Torres visited the peak, with a base camp at 4,550m. From there, they reached the summit via the north slopes.

— **Marcelo Scanu, Argentina**

Images



Approaching Cerro Negro Grande (5,570m).



On the slopes of Cerro Negro Grande (5,570m).



Ascending the west slopes of Volcán del Toro (5,935m), what may have been the highest untrodden summit in Chile.



Ascending the north slopes of Cerro del Gallo (5,615m) in fresh snow. Volcán del Toro (5,935m) is in the background.



Ascending the north slopes of Cerro del Gallo (5,615m).

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