



AAC Publications

Cerro Ambrosio Este, Southeast Ridge

Chile, Southern Patagonian Icefield

On September 3, 2024, Emil Stefani, Martín Hurtado, and I—all members of the Club Andino Universitario (CAU) mountaineering group—crossed Lago O'Higgins to Punta Nahuelcar, adjacent to the Southern Patagonian Icefield. Once on the glacier, we ferried equipment to the DGA hut (managed by Chile's water authority) and waited one week for a good weather window.

We then crossed to the southern base of the Ambrosio group in the O'Higgins massif, navigating around crevasses to the west. (Ambrosio O'Higgins was the father of Bernardo O'Higgins, a leader of the Chilean independence movement in the early 19th century.) On September 18, we skied to the plateau north of Cerro Hipólito (2,364m), again navigating crevasses. We left our skis there and continued with crampons along the southeast ridge (50°–60°) of Cerro Ambrosio Este, protecting crevasse crossings with stakes. To reach the summit (2,640m, 48°47'31.0"S, 73°13'54.0"W), we climbed a snow mushroom a couple of meters high. We were rewarded with views as far as Cerro Chaltén (Fitz Roy) and Cerro Torre.

We descended the same route, skiing down from about 2,100m. Afterward, we waited another week for good weather before crossing back to Villa O'Higgins. In total, we were away 25 days.

Our climb was the first known ascent of this peak, but nearby Cerro Hipólito and Cerro Ambrosio Oeste were climbed in 2022 and 2023, respectively. Hipólito was summited by Pablo Besser, Elvis Acevedo, and Tomás Torres, and Ambrosio Oeste was climbed by Thor Retzlaff and Matthew Tufts ([see report here](#)).

—Agustín Ferrer, Chile

Images



Emil Stefani and Martín Hurtado crossing the icefield plateau. The Ambrosio chain is in the background on the right.



The mountains of the Cerro O'Higgins massif as seen from the DGA hut. The 1960 first ascent of Cerro O'Higgins followed the glacier directly below O'Higgins itself, whereas the 2022 and 2023 expeditions approached from the plateau to the west (left), passing under the summit of Peak 1,955m.



Cerros Ambrosio Este (right) and Oeste on the Southern Patagonian Icefield. Cerro Ambrosio Oeste was climbed by Matthew Tufts and Thor

Retzlaff in 2023. The peak on the right is Cerro Ambrosio Este, with the 2024 team's route highlighted in orange. The other summits are unnamed.



Emil Stefani and Martín Hurtado below the summit of Cerro Ambrosio Este. Cerro O'Higgins can be seen in the right background.



Cerro Ambrosio Este's southeast edge.



From left to right, Emil Stefani, Martín Hurtado, and Agustín Ferrer atop Cerro Ambrosio Este.

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