



Cerro Guillaumet

Patagonia climbing is bigger news these days than ever before and many people want to climb there. But then there are the stories; legendary storms, hundred mile and hour winds that destroy everything, iced up rock and one word tends to sum up a lot of Patagonian climbing – epic.

But it does not have to be this way.

Located in the Fitzroy group Guillaumet is only a couple of summits away from Fitzroy proper. What a difference a few summits make - Fitzroy is an awesome granite tower over 11,000' high; Guillaumet is 3,000' lower and offers a mel-lower Patagonia climbing experience - if the weather cooperates. A cushy basecamp complete with fresh bread and cold beer positions us for a move to a high camp at about 4,500'.

Weather permitting the climb is done as a day out and back from high camp and is characterized by a snowy approach and then fifteen to twenty pitches of fine rock climbing that are somewhat reminiscent of the East Buttress route on Mt. Whitney.

The first ascent of Cerro Guillaumet was on 12 January 1965 by the Argentines Jose Luis Fonrouge and Carlos Comensaña, who climbed in alpine style taking a day and a half to the summit.

The route offers beautiful climbing and excellent panoramic vistas. However the Amy route is the most often repeated route on the peak. The route is entirely on rock and boots can be left at the base. To start the route you leave the Black Rock Bivvy, cross the glacier, gain a big moraine for the middle section to the snow at the base of the route. Climb to the right gaining altitude to avoid cliffs and traverse to the col at the start of the real climbing. If there is not a lot of snow it is possible to get to the base of the route in hiking boots. Generally the summit ridge can be traversed in climbing shoes, but a lot of snow could complicate things here.

Itinerary: Patagonia has changed a lot over the last few years and it is now possible to fly into the town of Calafate readily. There are regular connection from Buenos Aires and within a day of leaving home you are in the wilds of Patagonia. A far cry from the days of the first ascent of Fitzroy when it took days of travel in an ox cart to get Estancia Madsen at the base of the massif.

Day 0 Arrive in El Calafate.

Day 1 First actual day of the trip. We will shuttle to El Chalten the dusty outpost below Fitzroy. Here we will continue to our basecamp at Piedra de Fraile, a small in holding of private land within Los Glacieres National Park.

Day 2 Shuttle gear and equipment to the Black rock Bivvy and get prepped.

Days 3-10 Wait for that elusive weather window. When the weather clears and the barometer goes up, so do we

Day 11 Return to Calafate

Day 12 Return home

Prerequisites

It will be ideal if you have done an SMC trip previously. This will involve climbing at up to 5.10 in rock shoes with a light pack. You need to be comfortable ascending fixed ropes. Speed is all important and if possible we would like to arrange a climb here in the USA prior to leaving to make sure that you have all of your systems down before putting them to use on this major undertaking.

Dates and Prices: Check the brochure and web site. Should minimum participant numbers not be reached you will be given the option of paying our private rate, rescheduling, or cancelling. Price includes guiding, permits, horses and mules for transportation of equipment, camping fees, park entry fees, hotels in Punta Arenas, local transportation, all necessary group climbing gear, tents, kitchen gear and food in the mountains. It does not include in town restaurant meals or transportation to Punta Arenas, personal equipment and gratuities.

If these dates do not fit into your plans please call us to arrange a private trip at dates of your convenience.

Ratios: This is a major technical ascent and we need to keep ratios low. A maximum of two climbers to one guide.

Fonrouge-Comensanna Route

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Descend the same way.

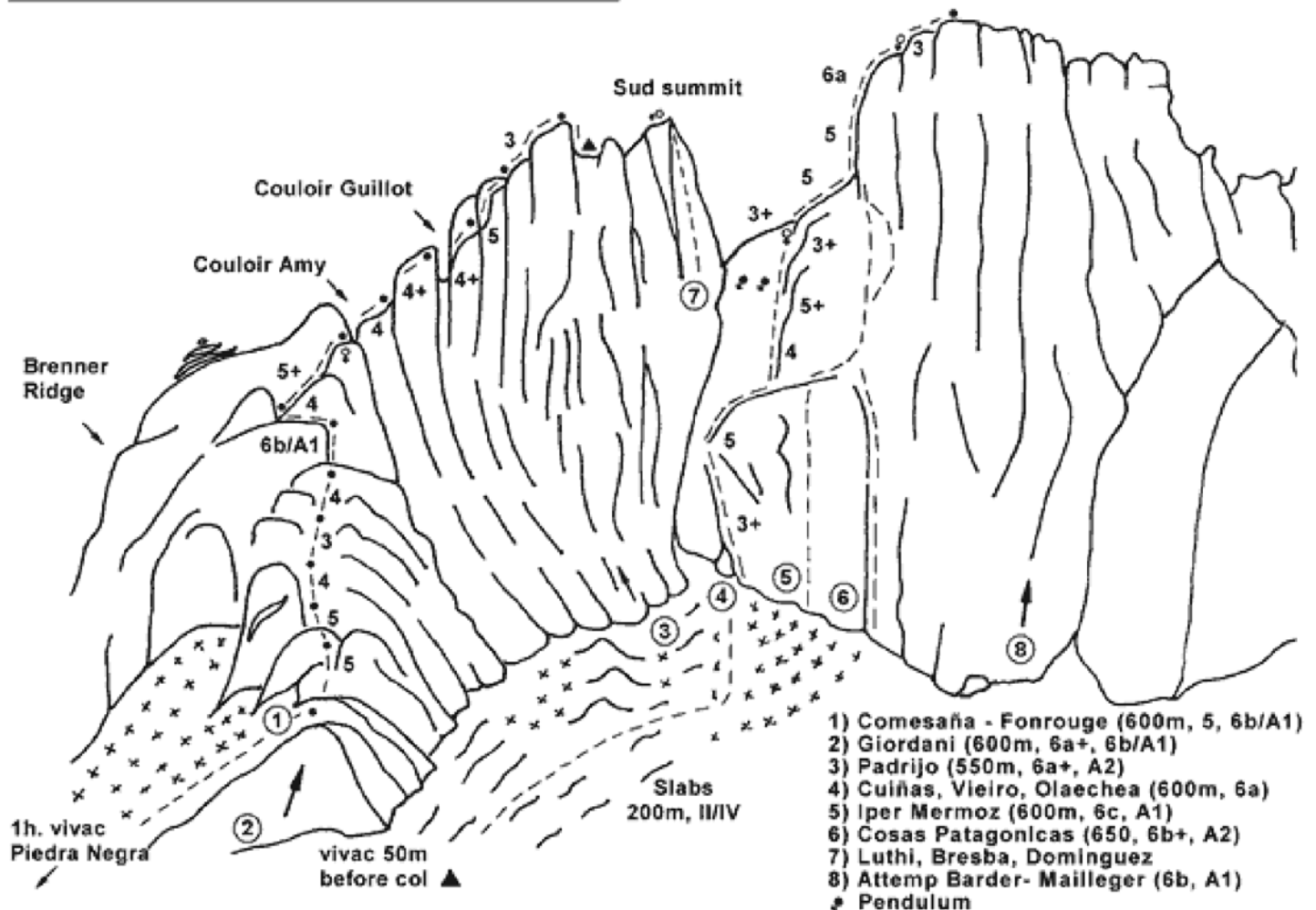
Difficulty 600m 5+, 6b/A1

Ratings (Approximate)

French Yosemite

| | |
|----|-------------|
| 4a | 5.4 |
| 4b | 5.5 |
| 4c | 5.6 |
| 5a | 5.7/5.8 |
| 5b | 5.8/5.9 |
| 5c | 5.9/5.10a |
| 6a | 5.10a/5.10b |
| 6b | 5.10c |
| 6c | 5.11a |

Aq. Guillaumet and Aq. Mermoz, west face



Equipment List for Cerro Guillaumet

This list provides you with suggestions for lightweight, compact equipment. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call and ask our advice.

Weather in Patagonia can be bad, but not extremely cold. It is not as far south as you might think, at latitude 50, the same as the US/Canada border. So take what you might for a Cascades trip or a Sierra trip in cold, wet windy weather!!!

Essentials

- Internal frame backpack of about 3-4000 cubic inches
- Duffle bag for putting things into for mule transportation
- Sleeping bag. This should be rated to about 25°F. If it bulky put it in a compression stuff sac
- Sleeping pad system. A Ridgerest pad and a Thermarest works best. Bring a Thermarest repair kit.

Hiking Essentials

- Poles, telescoping probe type are best.
- Hiking boots. A lightweight pair with good ankle support is needed. Do not use too light a pair since there will be rough off trail hiking.
- Hiking clothing, shorts and long sleeve shirts.
- Small daypack for day hiking.

Climbing Essentials

- Mountaineering boots. Temperatures are not extreme but the boots must be warm enough. A lightweight pair of plastics or good leather boots is appropriate.
- Ice axe. A general purpose 70cm axe or so.
- Ice hammer. Not essential, but if you have one bring it since it might open up some other climbing opportunities.
- Crampons. An all round mountaineering type rather than a rigid technical crampons that "balls up" is preferable.
- Harness. Harness*. An adjustable leg loop type such as the Black Diamond Bod or Wild Things Espresso will accommodate layering changes.
- Climbing helmet.
- Belay/rappell device
- Four locking carabiners
- Four regular carabiners
- Rock Shoes. These must be comfortable and we recommend the specialized insulated rock shoes made by Boreal and La Sportiva.

Clothing

- 4 pair synthetic liner socks
- 4 pair heavier synthetic or wool blend socks
- Gaiters for both climbing and hiking
- Long underwear top and bottom. 2 pairs. Capilene or some other synthetic is most desirable
- Warm pants. Tights or expedition weight Capilene
- Warm shirt. Expedition Capilene or light Synchilla
- Another fuzzy sweater top such as synchilla
- Pile jacket
- Pile pants or bibs. 200-300 weight.
- Light down jacket; synthetic fill is second choice.
- Best quality Gore-tex rain/wind pants and rain jacket.
- Warm hat

- Balaclava; silk and/or pile
- Visor hat (for sun)
- Bandanna for something for facial and neck sun protection
- Liner gloves 2 pair for one set gets wet
- Shell gloves

Etc.

- Sunglasses, high quality with keeper leash. The type with side shields are recommended. If you wear corrective glasses you might want a second pair.
- Headlamp. With a spare set of batteries.
- Goggles for bad conditions
- Ear plugs for noisy tents
- Personal kit; tooth brush...
- Sunscreen and lip screen. SPF 30+. Make sure the lip stuff
- Waterbottles. At least 2 one quart bottles with wide mouths.
- Eating equipment; bowl, cup, spoon, fork.
- Pocket knife. Swiss army style.
- Personal Medical Kit. The guide will carry a large kit so yours will predominately consist of foot repair items, mild pain killer such as Advil, and bandaids.
- Reading material, cards, games etc.
- Camera. Bring film and a spare battery to record those summit moments.
- Personal toiletries. It is not necessary to smell like a rose each day so do not over do it.
- Passport
- A secure passport/money pouch. Waist one are the best.
- "Around town" clothing that can be left at the hotel. Does not have to be formal wear, but something other than jeans and t-shirts since we will eat out at some good restaurants.
- Pee Bottle. Beats getting out of the tent late at night!!

Food

- We will buy the main food items there, but will bring some items from the USA. We will provide breakfast, dinner and lunch but bring some snack items like cliff bars, power bars, gorp concoctions. A days worth for most people would be 2 bars, 3 ounces of gorp, and perhaps a candy bar. Don't over do it.

Shared Equipment Provided by SMC

- Shelter. We will provide lightweight, storm worthy tents. If you have your favorite, by all means bring it, but we do want to pair people up where possible to reduce weight.
- Cooking equipment and kitchen
- Ropes
- Climbing hardware
- Water purification.
- Group first aid kit.