

Mexico Volcanoes Climb

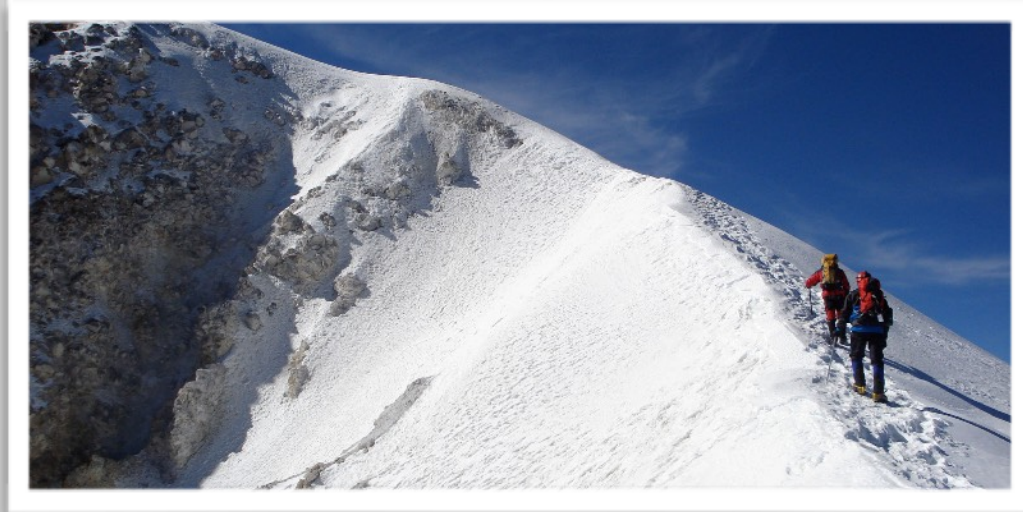


*Climb three of the most important volcanoes in Mexico
9 days - October through February*

**Pico de Orizaba (18,500 ft), Iztacihuatl (17,000 ft)
La Malinche (14,600 ft).**



What You'll Experience:



The Mexico volcanoes represent the most convenient peaks from the US to reach altitudes over 16,000 feet. Pico de Orizaba, at 18,500 feet, is North America's highest peak behind Denali and Canada's Mount Logan. Izztacihuatl at 17,000 feet overlooks Mexico City and is a challenge in itself. La Malinche at 14,600 feet is a perfect acclimating peak, yet it is taller than any peak in the Contiguous United States!

Our expedition to central Mexico to climb these three gems is designed to provide you with the perfect blend of high altitude mountaineering, proper acclimating and a rich cultural experience. This is probably our most popular and fun high altitude expedition, and for good reason.

We begin our adventure in one of the largest cities in the world, Mexico City. With its distinctively "European" feel, Mexico City is full of contrasts with its rich history blending with modern life. From old ancient pyramids to some of the best museums in the world, it is a city brimming with culture. It has also become one of the "foodie" capitols with top chefs from around the world. And, at over 7,000 feet, it is a great place to begin our acclimating.

From Mexico city we travel towards our acclimating peak, La Malinche, with a stop to view Teotihuacan, an ancient city that boasts the 3rd and 4th largest pyramids in the world (We will visit the largest one later in the trip). At La Malinche, we relax in a private cabin for the group located at 10,000 ft before tackling the 14,600 foot peak.

Then it's on to Izztacihuatl, the sleeping woman, where we make our base in a rustic climbers lodge at 13,000 ft. Izzta is located right next to Mexico's 2nd highest peak Popocatepetl which has been closed to climbing since the 1990's due to frequent eruptions. However, smoking Popo gives us a dramatic backdrop to our climb of Izzta. The summit day on Izzta is a long one, but the climb not

technical. We cross a flat glacier with no hazards on the way up the "Arista del Sol" route via "The knees". We do not use a high camp on Izzta since that would require a lot of effort that is just not needed. And sleeping uncomfortably high on the mountain actually decreases your summit chances. The views from Izzta can be spectacular!

Then it's down to the beautiful city of Puebla at 7,000 feet for a well-deserved day of rest to allow the body to recover at a lower altitude. Puebla is a colonial city known for its architecture and cuisine. Rest day activities include visiting traditional markets and nearby Cholula with its pyramid that is the world's largest at its base.

All rested up and fully acclimated, it's time for the main event..Orizaba. Also known in the native Aztec language as Citlaltepetl or "mountain of the stars", Pico de Orizaba rises over 11,000 feet from the surrounding plains. We take an exciting four wheel drive journey to our basecamp at around 14,500 feet.

While strenuous, the Orizaba climb is technical with ice axe and crampons but never too difficult. We choose either the North Face Jamapa Glacier Route or the South Face Route depending on conditions. After our summit attempt, it's back to the city of Puebla for a celebratory dinner and then back to the Mexico City airport the next day.

Our Mexico trips are led by our own American guides who have extensive experience in Mexico. We provide private ground transportation throughout the trip with our local Mexico logistics company. And while in town we choose comfortable 3-4 star accommodations.

A fantastic way to get some high altitude climbing experience while experiencing the rich culture of Mexico!

Where You'll Go:

Day One:

Arrival in Mexico City. We spend the night in a 4-star hotel near the Zocolo in the heart of the city's historic district. Everyone is responsible for their own airport transfers, which is very easy (we will provide you information on airport transfers). If you arrive early enough, there is much to see within walking distance of the hotel such as the National Cathedral, the ancient Aztec temple, and the presidential palace with the famous Diego Rivera murals. For those arriving before dinner time, you will meet your guide for dinner this evening.

Day Two:

We will have a breakfast meeting at the hotel, meet our local driver, and leave Mexico City by private van transportation for La Malinche. On the way, we will visit the famous pyramids of Teotihuacan and the Pyramide del Sol, the world's 3rd largest pyramid and then have lunch in a 100 year-old restaurant located in a cave at the edge of the pyramids. Late in the afternoon, we drive at a beautiful country hacienda near La Malinche that has been converted into a luxury hotel.

Day Three:

Today is summit day on La Malinche, one of the best acclimating peaks in Mexico. We will have a morning climb of La Malinche (14,600 ft) which is a gradual hike with just a little talus at the top. Afterwards, we drive over to the slopes of Iztaccihuatl where we will spend the evening at a rustic resort with a great restaurant located at a trout hatchery.

(Breakfast)

Day Four:

Today we take an easy acclimating hike higher up on the slopes of Itza to about 15,000 ft. We spend the night in a climbers lodge with dorm style bunk beds located at about 13,000 ft and rest up for our summit attempt.

(Breakfast, Dinner)

Day Five:

Summit day on Iztaccihuatl. We wake up very early for our summit attempt and climb the "knees" route up to the Arista del Sol and on the summit. It is a long day, but rewarding and very scenic with views of the smoking volcano Popo across the way. The climb involves steep scree climbing, just a little scrambling and perhaps some use of crampons near the top depending on conditions. After descending from the summit we drive in the late afternoon to the colonial city of Puebla and check into a 4-star hotel near the main square of this beautiful city known for its fine cuisine and architecture.

(Breakfast)

Day Six:

A well deserved rest day in Puebla. Activities will include a short drive to nearby Cholula to visit the largest pyramid in the world, a traditional Mexican market or just walking around downtown Puebla. In the evening we will sample some of Puebla's fine food, the birthplace of Mole Poblano.

(Breakfast)

Day Seven:

In the morning we drive over to the small town of Tlachichuca to switch to 4 wheel drive vehicles for our next objective, Pico de Orizaba. We will stay at or near the hut at Piedra Grande base camp at 14,000 feet in either the hut or in tents if the hut is crowded. We may also choose the South Face route due to conditions.

(Breakfast, Dinner)



Day Eight:

Our acclimating complete and all rested up, we awake to another very early alpine start for our Orizaba summit attempt. The climb involves moderate (up to 38 degrees) terrain, and crevasse-free glacier travel with ice axe and crampons. At the top of North America's third highest peak (18,491 feet) we are rewarded with spectacular views of central Mexico. A strenuous, yet very rewarding climb! We then descend all the way back to Tlachichuca and then drive back to a 4-star hotel in the city of Puebla for a well-deserved dinner and rest. (Breakfast)

Day Nine:

Travel back to Mexico City airport for afternoon flights home. We will drop you off at the terminal at the airport or in central Mexico City if you plan to stay longer. Please do not schedule any flights before 1 pm.

Itinerary subject to change

What You'll Need:

Your Previous Experience

Participants on the Orizaba climb should have some previous ice axe and crampon experience, but it is not required. You should be in very good to excellent physical condition with the ability to move at high altitudes for at least 12 hours.

Steep, off-trail hiking experience on uneven terrain is mandatory.



Your Gear For The Mexico Volcanoes Trilogy

All of the gear below (with the exception of the optional items of course) is MANDATORY! If you show up without any of the items you will be asked to purchase them before you can join the tour. It is imperative for your safety and enjoyment – and the safety and enjoyment of the others – that you have all the gear on the list. Please see our online gear list for more detail.

EQUIPMENT

- Mountaineering Boots –highly insulated leather or plastic double boots.
- Lightweight hiking or approach shoes
- Ice axe
- Harness
- Helmet
- One locking carabiner
- Sleeping bag - rated to 20 degrees or warmer
- Sleeping pad - full length or 3/4 length
- Internal frame day pack 35-40 liters
- Ski poles or collapsible trekking poles

- Nylon stuff sacks for gear organization
- 3-one liter wide-mouth water bottles
- Swiss Army-Type Knife or small pocket knife
- Sunglasses
- Sun block
- Lip protection
- Sunhat
- Headlamp (extra set of batteries)
- Small first aid kit with personal medications & blister kit
- Foam ear plugs
- Toilet paper
- Ski Goggles

OUTER SHELL LAYER

- Waterproof/breathable shell Jacket
- Waterproof/breathable Pants or bibs
- Waterproof highly-insulated gloves
- Lightweight gloves
- Gaiters

TRAVEL GEAR

- City clothes: selection of cotton clothing
- Toiletry Kit
- Large Duffels to put it all in

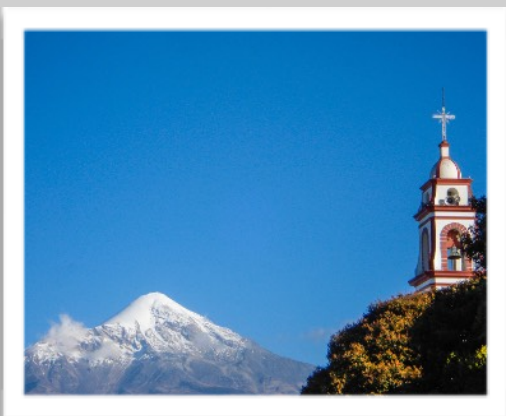
INSULATING LAYERS

- 2-3 Short sleeve synthetic t-shirts
- 2-3 Long sleeve mid weight synthetic top
- Synthetic long underwear bottoms
- Lightweight fleece pullover or jacket
- Down Jacket – Synthetic fill ok
- Synthetic soft shell climbing pants
- 2-3 pairs synthetic socks - No cotton
- 2-3 pairs light Liner Socks
- Bandana or Buff
- Wool or fleece warm hat

OPTIONAL

- Book
- Spanish Translation App or book
- Comfortable shoes/sandals for travel
- Hand Sanitizer
- Pocket Camera

OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS



How You'll Get There:

Travel Requirements

You will need a passport that is valid for at least 6 months after your date of return. US citizens do not need a visa.

Tour Start & Finish

We meet in Mexico City and finish in Mexico City

Arrival & Departure Airports

Mexico City Airport.

Getting from the airport to our hotel

An authorized taxi is used for the transfer to our hotel (not included). It is very simple.

Getting Back To The Airport

We will drop you at the airport in the late morning on the last day of the trip.

Money

Unlike some border states, the Mexican Peso is the only currency accepted in central Mexico.



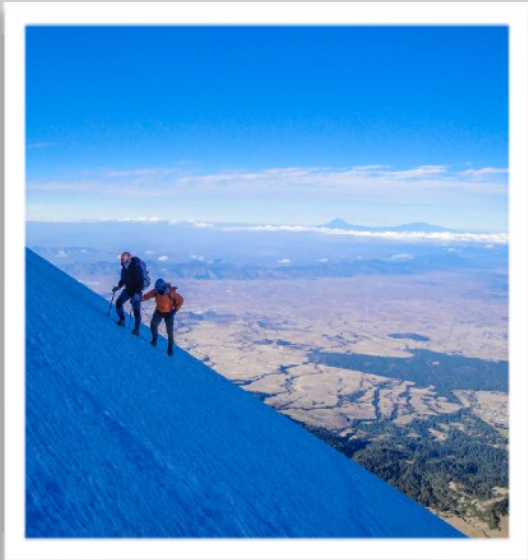
What We Include:

What We Include:

- Private van transportation with a local logistics company within Mexico.
- All lodging:
 - comfortable 3 & 4 star hotels with double occupancy while in Mexico City and Puebla.
 - Tents on Orizaba
 - Rustic dorm style lodge on Izzta
- All meals while on the mountains.
- All park fees

What We Do Not Include:

- Airfare to Mexico City
- Airport transfer upon arrival to Mexico City
- Meals while in towns and cities
- Snacks and alcoholic beverages
- Any costs associated with someone having to leave the trip early
- Rescue insurance/Trip insurance



And This Is How You Sign Up...

Visit the [Mexico Volcanoes Page](#) and click on the 'Book Now' button

or Call (877) 686-2546 with any questions you may have

A 25% deposit is required to register which is fully refundable up to 120 days prior at which time the balance is due. From 90 days to 120 days prior there is a 50% cancellation fee and within 90 days it is non-refundable.