

Expedition Plan

Welcome to the February 2005 Aconcagua Expedition Plan. This should contain everything you need to know about our climb of the normal route of the mountain. Please check that you have all the necessary personal equipment. Any items that you do not have, you can hire locally in Mendoza. Let me know what, if anything, you need.

I will organise all transport, group equipment, food, chef, local guide, mules, hotels, etc. If you have favourite snacks or electrolyte drinks for the mountain, please bring these with you, though this is optional. There is also an option to hire a

porter(s) for higher on the mountain. Let me know if desired.

You will also need to complete a booking form with all your details (sent separately). I will also be in touch via email to answer any questions you may have.

I very much look forward to seeing you in Santiago, and here's to our success on South America's highest peak...

Cheers, Chris

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Aconcagua - the Stone Sentinel - Overview

6/2/05 BaseCamp Plaza de Mulas 4,250 m	10/2/05 Camp 1 Canada Camp 5,000 m	11/2/05 Camp 2 Nido de Condores 5,400 m	12/2/05 Camp 3 Berlin Camp 6,000 m	14/2/05 Summit Day Summit 6,962 m



About Aconcagua

Set in the heart of the Andes within Aconcagua Provincial Park on the western edge of the Mendoza Province of Argentina, Aconcagua's North Peak, at 6,962m (22,832ft) is South America's tallest mountain.

Either Ayamaran for "Stone Sentinel" or Quechuan for "White Sentinel", the mountain lies about 12 miles (20 km) east of the Chile-Argentinian border. Whilst it was first climbed in 1897 by a Swiss guide, there is some evidence of Incan passage, though this has yet to be verified.

There is a wide range of climbing possibilities, ranging in difficulty from relatively straightforward to extreme. The majority of people reach the summit via the ruta normal (normal route), which follows the northwest ridge of the mountain. The

second most popular route is via the Polish Glacier. Other routes include south face lines, which present some of the greatest climbing challenges in the world. No route, however, is easy due to the mountain's extreme altitude and weather.

The Normal Route

Following acclimatisation at Puente del Inca (2,700m), about 112 miles (180 km) from Mendoza, the normal route winds its way along the Horcones Valley, usually stopping at Confluencia Camp (3,360m).

Following further acclimatisation camps, the route reaches Plaza de Mulas (4,250m) which serves as base camp. This is the normal stopping point for the equipment-bearing mules, though some do take them to higher camps.

There is then a sequence of higher camps, which groups carry to, and then climb to, the speed of progress depending upon acclimatisation and fitness (7-10 days on average). Summit day is usually attempted from Berlin Camp (6,000m), around 12 -15 hours for the round-trip.

It is also known as the northwest route as part of it follows the northwest ridge.

The Team...

- Ase, Norway
- Chris, England
- Gregor, England
- Sebastian, Argentina
- Troy, USA

Team to be confirmed...

Our Timings...

Day	Date	Plan
1	Mon 31 Jan	Team arrival in Santiago, Chile. Reception dinner. Night in 3* Hotel in Santiago
2	Tue 1 Feb	Land transport in the expedition vehicle from Santiago, Chile to Mendoza, Argentina. Reception in Mendoza. Night in 3* Hotel in Mendoza City. Double occupancy basis
3	Wed 2 Feb	Meet the local guide. Check gear; obtain permits and welcome dinner. Night at a 3* Hotel in Mendoza City. Double occupancy basis.
4	Thu 3 Feb	Land transport in the expedition vehicle from Mendoza to Penitentes (2,700m). Check on loading gear on the mules. Night at Ayelen hotel in Penitentes.
5	Fri 4 Feb	First approach day from Penitentes to Confluencia camp (3,360m).
6	Sat 5 Feb	Acclimatization trekking to Plaza Francia, South wall base camp (4,000m) Return to Confluencia.
7	Sun 6 Feb	Approach day from Confluencia to Plaza de Mulas, Base Camp (4,250m)
8	Mon 7 Feb	Rest and acclimatization at Base Camp (4,250m).
9	Tue 8 Feb	Carry of food and gear to Camp 1, Plaza Canada (5,000m). Return to base camp (4,250m).
10	Wed 9 Feb	Rest and acclimatization at Base Camp (4,250m).
11	Thu 10 Feb	Ascent from base camp to Camp 1, Plaza Canada (5,000m).
12	Fri 11 Feb	Ascent from Camp 1 to Camp 2, Nido de Cóndores - Condor's Nest (5,400m).
13	Sat 12 Feb	Ascent from Camp 2 to Camp 3, Berlin (6,000m)
14	Sun 13 Feb	Summit day 1 (6,962m). Or rest day.
15	Mon 14 Feb	Summit day 2 (in case of bad weather conditions).
16	Tue 15 Feb	Summit day 3 (in case of bad weather conditions).
17	Wed 16 Feb	Descent from Camp 3 (6,000m) to Base Camp (4,250m).
18	Thu 17 Feb	Descent from Base Camp (4,250m) to Penitentes.
19	Fri 18 Feb	Land transport from Penitentes to Mendoza in the expedition vehicle. Return any hired equipment.
20	Sat 19 Feb	Free day in Mendoza
21	Sun 20 Feb	Land transport in the expedition vehicle from Mendoza, Argentina to Santiago, Chile.

Extra days on the Namaste Global Expedition beyond 20 Feb can be organised separately.

Cost Summary

US\$2,500 per person

Includes:

- * One (1) night in Tupahue Hotel, Santiago
- * Land transportation from Santiago - Mendoza - Penitentes - Santiago
- * Transfer in-out Penitentes-Horcones (trailhead) by private vehicles.
- * Local Mountain Guide (bilingual, experienced professionals, qualified to operate within Provincial Park Aconcagua)
- * Two (2) nights accommodation at a three-star hotel in Mendoza City (prices based on double occupancy), breakfast included.
- * One (1) night accommodation at Hostería Ayelen in Penitentes, quadruple room, breakfast included.
- * Welcome dinner.
- * Aconcagua Park permit (tax charged by Mendoza government, according to dates)
- * Tame mules to carry the equipment (30 kg/pax) in-out Puente del Inca-Base Camp.
- * Fully equipped dining-room and kitchen and WC tents at base camp.
- * Luggage store-room.
- * Radio for communications between high camps, base camp, Penitentes and Mendoza.
- * Cook. All meals included on the mountain.

Does not include:

- * Personal equipment.
- * Rental of personal equipment
- * Insurance, rescue or other costs due to abandoning of expedition.
- * Personal expenses (tips, laundry, phone, porters ...)
- * Extra nights in a hotel in case of early return to Mendoza



Aconcagua from Horcones Valley

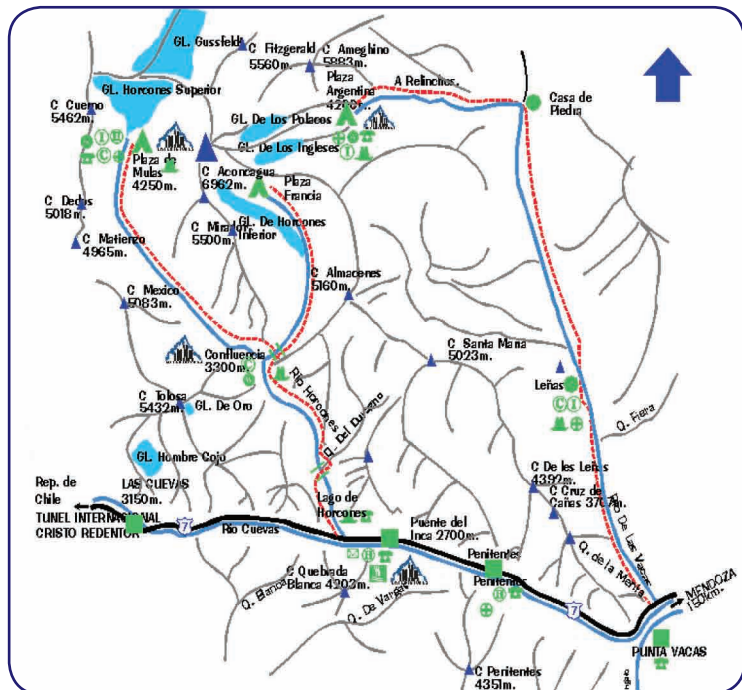


Aconcagua South Face



View from the summit

Aconcagua Provincial Park



Permits

Climbers and trekkers must obtain a permit before a trip to Aconcagua Provincial Park. Two types of permits are issued, climbing and trekking, and the cost varies with the time of year (US \$200 - \$300 per person).

Each and every member of a team must register in person at the office of Direccion de Bosques y Parques Provinciales (Parks and Forests Department) located in Parque San Martin in Mendoza City.

Upon entry into the Park (rangers maintain posts at a number of entry corridors) all climbers and trekkers must show permits, and pick up rubbish bags that must be deposited (full of rubbish) upon exit from the Park. Rules are strictly enforced.



Trekking Routes

A number of trekking opportunities exist in the vicinity of Aconcagua, from single day forays to multi-day mini-expeditions.

A trek up the Horcones Valley to Plaza de Mulas is spectacular. Another popular trek is to go to Plaza Francia, under the awesome south face. The Vacas and Relinchos valleys also provide incredible scenery and long treks in a wilderness environment.

As part of our acclimatisation for Aconcagua, we will complete the trek to Plaza de Mulas over several days, taking time to visit Plaza Francia. Climbing high, sleeping low...

Personal Kit

FOOTWEAR

Socks - Inner / Liner	3
Socks - Outer	3
VBL Socks	1
Trekking Shoes/Boots	1
Double Plastic Boots	1
SuperGaiters	1

UPPER BODY

Polypro/capilene Top - light	1
Polypro/capilene Top - med	1
Fleece Jacket	1
Fleece Vest	1
Gore-tex Shell	1
Down Jacket / Parka	1

LOWER BODY

Capilene Underwear	3
Polypro/capilene Long - light	1
Polypro/capilene Long - med	1
Fleece Trousers	1
Gore-tex Wind Shell Trousers	1

HEAD

Sun Hat	1
Warm Hat	1
Lightweight Balaclava	1

HANDS

Inner Gloves (capilene/fleece)	2
Insulated Ski Gloves / Mittens	1
Goretex Overmitts	1

SLEEPING

Sleeping Bag	1
Compression Stuff Sac	1
Sleeping Pad - foam	1
Thermarest	1
Sleeping pad stuff sac	2

BACKPACK & BAGS

Back Pack (75+ litres)	1
Day Pack (25 litres)	1
Back Pack Liner	1
Stuff Sacs	3

Large Duffel	1
Large Stuff Sac (for storage)	1
Plastic Bags (to line stuff sacs)	1

MISCELLANEOUS

Mountain Sunglasses	1
Goggles (optional)	1
Nose Guard	1
Headlamp	1
Lamp Batteries & Bulb	1
Water Bottle (1 litre)	2
Water Bottle Insulator	2
Thermos flask (1 litre)	1
Lip Balm/Screen	2
Sun Screen - spf30	1
Pocket Knife	1
Toilet Articles	1
Tooth Paste	1
Baby Wipes 20	1
Hand Disinfectant	1
Toilet Paper	2
Watch	1
Lighter	2
Pee Bottle	1
Pee Funnel (for women)	1
Compass	1
Book (for reading/writing)	1

CLIMBING

Mt. Ice Axe 60-70 cm	1
Ski Poles - pair	1
Step-in Crampons	1

MEDICAL

Personal Medical Kit	1
Antibiotic - (1*7days)	14
Diamox -20, 250 mg. tablets	20
Ibuprofen (400mg)	20
Immodium	20

CAMERA & VIDEO

Camera kit	1
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Plus travel clothes, documents and wallet...

Group Kit

SLEEPING

Tents - 2man	3
Kitchen & Pole	1
Tent Repair Kit	1

TRAVEL

Mule equipment	1
Mule Lashing Lines	6

MEDICAL

Trauma Kit	2
Emergency Shelter	1
Emergency Blanket	2

FOOD

Stoves (MSR)	3
Stove Repair Kit	1
Fuel - white gas, 1 gallon	5
Breakfast/Dinner Food Bags	16
Snack Bags	16
Fresh fruit & veg bag	7

CLIMBING

Ropes (9mm, 60m)	1
Slings	6
Karrabiners	6
Spares Bag	1

COMMUNICATION

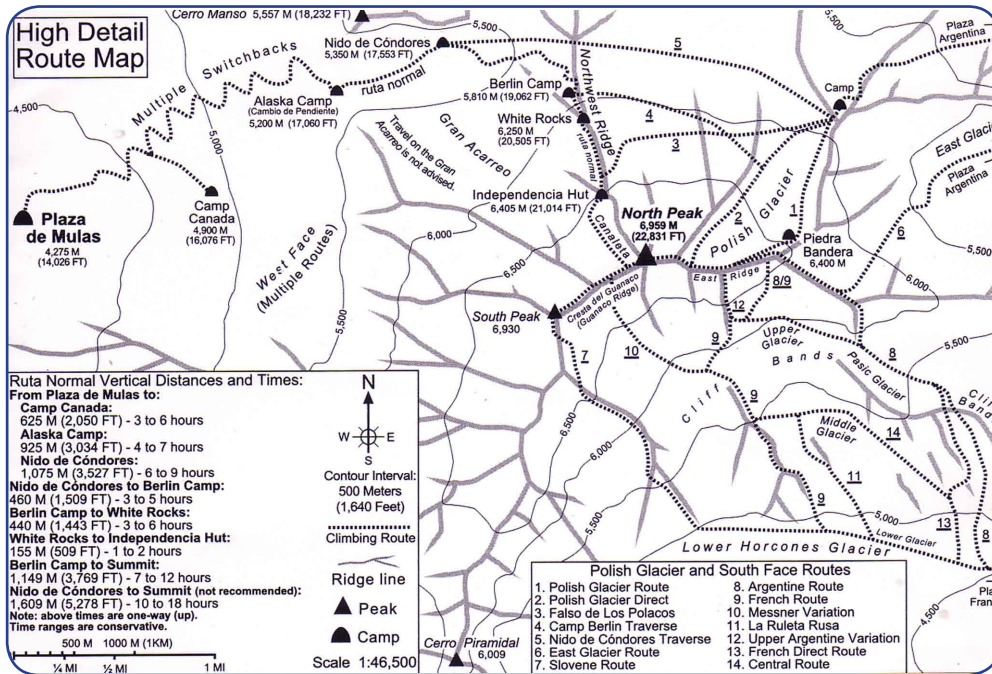
CB Radio	1
Mobile Phones	2
Batteries	3

MISCELLANEOUS

Map	2
Compass	2
Park Permits	4
Minidisc player	1
Speakers	1
AA Batteries	12
Playing Cards	2
Cribbage board	1
Toilet Bags	10
CMC's	3

All group equipment will be finalised in Mendoza and organised locally

The Normal Route (Ruta Normal)



Horcones Valley

This valley (see map on page 3) is used to approach the normal route, as well as the routes on the west and southwest sides of Aconcagua. And the lower part of the valley is used as the initial approach for the south face. From the trailhead at the Ranger Station, the approach to base camp is a total of 14 miles (23 km) and 1,420m of altitude gain. Many parties spend extra nights on the trail, though, as part of their acclimatisation.

New Plaza de Mulas

New Plaza de Mulas is the new base camp for the normal route. Old Plaza de Mulas received a tremendous amount of use and abuse, but the park rangers have wisely moved the camp to a new location. Potable water is available during warm afternoons from small streams immediately north of the camp, and outhouses are in place.

Camp (Plaza) Canada

From Plaza de Mulas, the well-worn trail leads north, climbing the steep slope that is east of the Horcones Glacier. Camp Canada is a flat spot atop a promontory marked by some rock pinnacles, about 0.3 miles to the south of the main trail.

Climbing History

The first significant exploration of the Central Andes took place in 1817, when General Jose de San Martin crossed the range to liberate Chile from the Spanish. In 1832 Charles Darwin took note of Aconcagua (but made no climbing attempts) after he docked the *Beagle* in Valparaiso, Chile while en route to the Galapagos Islands.

But the first serious attempt was by the German Paul Gussfeldt, who made it to 6,560m in 1883. A remarkable feat considering the difficulties of the approach (from the north) and poor equipment available at that time. The first person to reach the summit of Aconcagua was a Swiss guide named Mathias Zurbriggen. As part of a British expedition led by Edmund Fitzgerald, Zurbriggen reached Aconcagua's summit on January 14, 1897, alone, via the northwest ridge of the mountain (roughly paralleling today's *ruta normal*). This expedition approached from the south via the Horcones Valley; and a total of five attempts over six weeks were needed before Zurbriggen finally summited.

The Polish Glacier was climbed in 1934 and the south face in 1954. Comparable to two Eigers, the South Face is huge, almost 3,000m high, defended by bands of loose rock, ice cliffs, and huge avalanches, so it was a huge accomplishment by the French expedition. The first Argentine ascent was made by Nicolas Plantamura in 1934, who now resides in the cemetery for *andeanistas* just east of Penta del Inca.

Remains of a guanaco (relative of the llama) were found just below Aconcagua's summit in 1947 - evidence of Incan passage (possibly to the summit) long before Europeans set foot in the region.

During the 1983-84 season, 346 climbers attempted the mountain. Ten years later, this number had increased to well over 2,000 climbers in one season. Aconcagua's popularity is well deserved.

Nido de Condóres

From Camp Canada, the trail turns right and climbs a steep scree slope with long, shallow switchbacks to Camp Alaska. From here, the trail climbs a short distance to the south before turning left (east) to avoid a field of *penitentes*. There is a hut up and off to the right (south) of the trail, but this tiny shelter is in ruins. The trail continues to Nido de Condóres, a large, flat area with some rocks serving as wind breaks. There is a small pond here, and water can be obtained from it on warm afternoons.

Berlin Camp

The route above Nido de Condóres at first goes east, then turns to the south and ascends the subtle crest of the ridge to the 3 huts that mark the Berlin Camp. This camp is marked as "Plantamura" on some maps, as the first hut is named after the first Argentine to climb Aconcagua. The second, slightly larger hut is now known as Libertad (it was named "Eva Peron" after it was built in 1951). The third and most recently constructed hut was built by some climbers from Berlin in memory of a friend who had died on the mountain. These huts are usually used as cooking areas.

Summit Day

From Berlin Camp, the route heads left and continues up the vague ridge. It passes another campsite known as White Rocks at 6,250m. It then continues up and then slightly to the right to reach the Independencia Hut at 6,400m. Now in ruins, it has served as a bivouac site for descending climbers. From this hut, the route continues up and right, crossing the Cresta del Viento (Windy Crest), and heads across the upper part of the Gran Accarreo to the infamous Canaleta, the most notorious part of the Normal Route.

The Canaleta is a 400m 33-degree chute filled with disagreeably loose rocks. The challenge is overcome not by any technical skill, but rather by the mental and physical stamina necessary to keep moving. The Canaleta ends atop the Cresta del Guanaco, the ridge that connects the lower South Summit with the higher, North Summit of Aconcagua.

The final part of the route follows the crest up to the small, sloping summit plateau, where an aluminium cross marks the top. The descent is then back to Berlin Camp, overnight, then return to Base Camp.

Booking Conditions

Important, Please read carefully:

Namaste Fun, a division of Namaste Management Consultants Ltd ("The Company"), accepts bookings subject to the following conditions:

1. Your Contract with Namaste

To secure a booking the Company requires a completed booking form and the necessary deposit or full payment for travel at least 28 days prior to departure. Clients booking by telephone, fax or email will be deemed to have read the booking conditions and to have signed the Declaration on the booking form. A booking is accepted and becomes definite only from the date when the Company has confirmed acceptance in writing or by email and issued a Confirmation invoice. It is at this point that a contract between the Company and the client comes into existence. Before your booking is confirmed, the Company reserves the right to alter brochure prices. The Company also reserves the right to decline any booking at their discretion.

The contract is between the Company and the client, being any person travelling or intending to travel on a trip operated by the Company. The contract, including all matters arising from it, is subject to English law and the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts. No employee of the Company other than a director has the authority to vary or omit any of these terms or promise any discount or refund.

2. Payment for your Holiday

The balance of all monies due, including any surcharges applicable at that time, must be paid to the Company or their agent not later than 28 days before departure. In the case of non-payment of the balance by the due date the Company reserves the right to cancel your booking and cancellation charges will apply.

3. If you Change your Booking

An administration fee of £25 per booking plus any additional costs incurred will be charged if a confirmed booking is changed or transferred to a different departure date or trip up to 28 days before departure. Thereafter all changes will be treated as cancellations and subject to the charges below.

4. Transferring of Bookings

If a client is unable to travel, in certain circumstances which the Company considers reasonable, the booking may be transferred to another suitable person, however the trip arrangements should remain the same. If a transfer is allowed an administration charge of £40 per person will be made plus any extra charges levied by suppliers.

5. If you Cancel your Booking

Should the client wish to cancel, cancellation charges will be imposed. These are calculated from the day written notification is received by the Company as a percentage of the total trip price, including surcharges, as shown below:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| a) 28 and more days before departure | deposit |
| b) 14-28 days before departure | 50% |
| c) Less than 14 days | 100% |

It is strongly recommended that full insurance is taken out, which includes cover, under certain circumstances, against the loss of deposit or cancellation charges

6. Delays/Flights

The Company cannot accept any liability for any delay in your flight (or other mode of transportation) to or from the Expedition. Where long flight delays result in lost holiday time, no refunds are given.

7. If we Change your Holiday

While the Company will use its best endeavours to operate the tour as described in the Company brochure, it reserves the right to change any or all of the facilities, services, prices, route and timings. If a major change is necessary or deemed advisable, the Company will inform the client as soon as reasonably possible, if there is time before departure.

If advised of a major change before departure the client will have the choice of accepting the changes (at additional cost if applicable), purchasing another available tour from the Company, or cancelling the tour with a full refund; provided

that the major change is not as a result of situations outside the Company's control (see below). Compensation will be paid as follows:

<i>Period of Notification</i>	<i>Compensation per person</i>
More than 28 days:	Nil
14-28 days	£25
less than 14 days	£50

The Company will not pay compensation if forced to cancel or change your tour because of war, threat of war, riot, civil strife, industrial dispute, terrorist activity, natural or nuclear disaster, fire or adverse weather conditions, epidemics or health risks, technical or maintenance problems with transport, closed or congested airports or ports, changes imposed by re-scheduling or cancellation of flights by airlines, or other similar events beyond the control of the Company

8. If we Cancel your Holiday

The Company reserves the right to cancel a tour in any circumstances but will not cancel a tour less than 28 days before departure except for force majeure or the client's failure to pay the final balance. Unless the client fails to pay the final balance, the Company, upon cancellation, will return all monies paid or offer an alternative tour of comparable standard and will pay compensation on the scale shown in clause 7 above save that no compensation will be paid if cancellation is because of force majeure.

9. Passports, Visas and Vaccinations

Clients are responsible for arranging, and must be in possession of, a valid passport and any visas and vaccination certificates required for the whole of their journey. Information about these matters or related items (climate, clothing, baggage, personal gear etc.) is given in good faith but without responsibility on the part of the Company.

10. Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is mandatory for all clients whilst on a tour organised by the Company. Clients together with their personal property including baggage are at all times solely at their own risk. Clients are wholly responsible for organising their own insurance for the full duration of the trip in respect of at least medical expenses, injury, death, repatriation, cancellation and curtailment, with adequate cover. Clients should ensure there are no exclusion clauses limiting protection for the type of activities included in their trip.

11. Holiday Participation

Clients agree to accept the authority and decisions of the Company's employees and tour guides whilst on tour with the Company. If in the opinion of such person the health or conduct of a client at any time before or after departure appears likely to endanger the safe, comfortable or happy progress of a tour the client may be excluded from all or part of the tour. In the case of ill health the Company may make such arrangements as it sees fit and recover the costs thereof from the client. If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and the Company shall cease to have responsibility to or for them.

The person signing the attached booking form (which incorporates these terms) warrants that he/she has full authority to do so on behalf of all persons whose names appear thereon, and confirms that all such persons are fully aware of and accept these conditions.

12. Surcharges

The Company reserves the right to increase the tour cost to take account of the following items: currency, government action, transportation costs, including fuel, and the cost of all activities whilst on tour.

13. Our Responsibility for your Holiday

Client bookings are accepted on the understanding that they appreciate the possible risks inherent in adventure travel and that they undertake any activities whilst on expedition at their own volition.

a) Where the client does not suffer personal injury, the Company accepts liability should any part of the tour arrangements booked with the Company not be supplied as described in the brochure. In such a case, the Company

will pay reasonable compensation if the clients enjoyment of the tour has been adversely affected but will pay no compensation if there has been no fault on the part of the Company or its suppliers and the reason for failure was the client's fault, the actions of someone unconnected with the tour or could not have been foreseen or avoided by the Company or its suppliers even if all due care had been exercised.

b) Where the client suffers death or personal injury as a result of an activity forming part of the tour arrangements booked with the Company, the Company accepts responsibility unless there has been no fault on the Company's part or its suppliers and the cause was the client's fault, the actions of someone unconnected with the tour or one which neither the Company nor its suppliers could have anticipated or avoided even with the exercise of all due care.

c) The Company's acceptance of liability in clauses (a) and (b) above is subject to assignment by the client to the Company of the client's rights against any agent, supplier or sub-contractor of the Company which is in any way responsible for the unsatisfactory holiday arrangements or the client's death or personal injury.

14. Your Obligations

By signing the Booking Form you undertake and confirm to the Company that your mental and physical condition are sufficient and fit for the purpose of joining in and participating in the holiday that you have booked. The Company reserves the right in its absolute discretion to insist upon the production of a medical certificate at any time prior to the Departure Date.

15. Force Majeure

If by any reason of any event of force majeure we shall be delayed in or prevented from performing the Contract and/or complying with any of the Conditions, the such delay or non-performance shall not be deemed to be a breach of the Contract and/or the Conditions and no loss or damage shall be claimed by the client from the Company by reason thereof.

Should the exercise of rights and obligations under the Contract and/or the Conditions be materially hampered, interrupted or interfered with by any reason of any event of Force Majeure then our obligations shall be suspended during that period. The company will use best endeavours to minimise and reduce any period of suspension occasioned by any of the events aforesaid.

16. Complaints Procedure

If you have a complaint about your holiday you are required to confirm details of any such complaint or problem in writing supported by appropriate evidence relating to that complaint within 28 days of returning from the holiday in question. For the avoidance of doubt we will not accept any liability or deal with any claims that are received by the Company later than 28 days after your return from your holiday.

17. Governing Law and Jurisdiction

The Conditions and the Contract shall be governed by English Law and shall be deemed to have been made in England.

The parties hereby submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the High Court of Justice in England in relation to any dispute arising out of or in connection with the Conditions and/or Contract and hereby agree for the purpose of such dispute that any process may be served at the registered address of the Company.

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