

Trip Proposal for **Mexico's Volcanoes**

Iztaccihuatl (17,343 ft.) & Citlaltepetl (18,684 ft.)

Description: Travel to rural Mexico to hike up two of the highest peaks in North America. This is the ultimate adventure for strong hikers interested in mountaineering or anyone looking to set their own personal altitude record. Both volcanoes offer the challenge and reward that can only be found on big peaks where the oxygen is thin and the views are outstanding. Although both volcanoes are non-technical climbs, basic glacier travel skills are necessary, as groups travel roped together on the Ayoloco Glacier of Iztaccihuatl (aka "Ixta) and the Jamapa Glacier on Citlaltepetl (aka "El Pico de Orizaba). Ascending Mexico's volcanoes is the next step for anyone who has enjoyed Mt. Whitney, Mt. Elbert, Mt. Rainier or other 14ers in the continental United States, and is looking for a challenging outdoor adventure in a warm and welcoming country.

Trip Length: 10 days for both volcanoes; 6 days for Ixta only

Dates: The best time of year to climb Mexico's volcanoes is November through January. Coordinating the trip(s) with Mexican holidays is preferred, so travelers can experience the vibrant cultural traditions of Mexico. Some of those days include Dia de los Muertos (Nov. 1), Dia de la Revolucion (Nov. 20), Dia de la Virgen de Guadalupe (Dec. 12), and New Year's Eve (Dec. 31).

Ideal Dates: Nov. 1 – 10; Nov. 12 – 21; Nov. 29 – Dec. 8; Dec. 10 – Dec. 19; Dec. 27 – Jan. 5; Jan 7 – 16

Basic Itinerary for Mexico's Volcanoes

Day 1: Fly to Mexico City and travel to the town of Amecameca, a beautiful town with two of Mexico's most prominent volcanoes as its backdrop

Day 2: Hike to La Joya Valley and camp at the base of Ixta

Day 3: Acclimatization hikes around La Joya

Day 4: Hike to high camp at the base of the Ayoloco Glacier

Day 5: Summit attempt of Iztaccihuatl; and return to Amecameca

Day 6: Travel to Tlachichuca, a small mountain town at the base of El Pico de Orizaba, the largest peak in Mexico

Day 7: Travel to the base of El Pico de Orizaba and camp near Piedra Grande

Day 8: Acclimatization hikes around Piedra Grande or move to higher camp

Day 9: Summit attempt of El Pico de Orizaba; and return to Tlachichuca

Day 10: Return to Mexico City and fly home