

FAQ's

How much experience do I need to ascend the volcanoes of Mexico?

As long as you are a strong hiker with an adventurous spirit, we encourage you to consider trekking up Mexico's volcanoes with us. Ascents of Iztaccihuatl and El Pico de Orizaba are considered non-technical, but all participants should have experience traveling roped together on a glacier and should be proficient in self-arrest using an ice axe. If you are new to winter mountaineering, skills classes are regularly offered throughout the country, and if you need a recommendation just ask us.

How tough is the trekking?

Typically, the ascent of Ixta from high camp takes four hours, and the hike back down to La Joya is another four hours. But keep in mind that the air is thin at high elevations, and each step can be a lot of work. On El Pico de Orizaba, a typical trip from Piedra Grande to the summit and back is 12 hours. Every participant should be confident in carrying a 45-pound backpack over rough terrain in potentially inclement weather.

Who will be my mountain guides?

Your guides will be introduced to you one month before your trip, and you are welcome to communicate with them as often as necessary. All guides have extensive experience on the volcanoes of Mexico and other alpine ascents around the world. Lead guides are bilingual American mountain guides, and secondary guides are either local Mexican mountain guides, guides from America, or a combination of both. Safety, experience and professionalism are our primary concerns when choosing the perfect guides for your adventure.

Is the water safe to drink?

All water consumed while in Mexico will be purified, bottled water or will be purified from clean sources. Professional mountain guides use safe and effective purification methods for treating glacier and spring water while camping. Nobody has ever been ill while on our trips!

Can I bring food from home?

Yes! We encourage you to bring some of your favorite snacks from home, including energy bars and other trail snacks. However, please be informed that fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts and processed meats are not allowed into Mexico.