



**MOUNTAIN**  
PROFESSIONALS



# VINSON TRIP INFORMATION PACKET

## TRIP INFORMATION

**Location:** Ellsworth Range, Antarctica Days: 21  
**Summit Height:** 16,050 ft.  
**Trip begins in Punta Arenas, Chile Airport (PUQ)**

## PRICE INCLUDES:

- Mountain Professionals Guides
- All Flights to and from Antarctica (to Union Glacier Camp) via Punta Arenas, Chile
- Flight from Union Glacier Camp to/from Vinson Base Camp
- Support services while in Antarctica
- All Meals in Antarctica
- Weather Reports
- Tents and all group gear on Mountain and Base Camp
- Navigation, Satellite Phones, GPS, Logistics at Union Glacier and Base Camp
- All group climbing gear, ropes, tents, snow protection, radios
- Comprehensive First Aid Kits and Wilderness First Responders
- Dispatches to Mountain Professionals News Page Website

## PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Meals while in Punta Arenas
- Hotel cost in Punta Arenas
- Alcoholic beverages and bottled drinks
- International round-trip airfare to and from Punta Arenas
- Excess baggage charges if applicable
- Evacuation insurance (required for each member, see below)
- All expenses incurred in the event of early departure (evac fees, transport, extra hotel nights, etc)
- Any additional Hotel nights due to delays prior to flying to Antarctica
- Trip cancellation insurance (if applicable)
- Charges incurred as a result of delays with flights that would effect personal flights
- Personal expedition clothing and personal gear



## PROJECTED ITINERARY:

- DAY 1:** Arrive in Punta Arenas, Chile. Packing and Planning for Expedition  
(Note: Our climbers must be in Punta Arenas, Chile two days prior to our Antarctica flight scheduled for January 9. Connections into Punta Arenas often arrive at peculiar times, so it is OK to land early in the evening/morning of January 7, but please do not plan on arriving after noon on the 7th. It is actually preferable for people to arrive on the 6th if there is any question... this due to stress from late or lost luggage by your airline, so we can discuss your arrival plans on an individual basis when looking into air travel.)
- DAY 2:** Team meeting and gear check, Meeting with Antarctica flight company, relaxing in town and sightseeing
- DAY 3:** Flight to Union Glacier Base Camp in Antarctica (5 hours) Possible Flight to Vinson Base Camp (weather dependent)

- DAY 4:** Flight from Union Glacier to the base camp of Vinson Massif (7,000 Feet)
- DAY 5:** Carry to Camp 1 (9,500 Feet), Return to Base Camp
- DAY 6:** Possible Rest Day at Base Camp
- DAY 7:** Climb to Camp 1. Sleep in Camp 1
- DAY 8:** Climb to High Camp 2 (12,500 Feet) leave Cache here and return to C1
- DAY 9:** Rest and acclimatization
- DAY 10:** Move to Camp 2
- DAY 11:** Summit Day
- DAY 12:** Extra day for contingency
- DAY 13:** Extra day for contingency
- DAY 14:** Extra day for contingency
- DAY 15:** Extra day for contingency
- DAY 16:** Return flight from Vinson Base Camp to Union Glacier Camp
- DAY 17:** Planned return flight from Union Glacier Camp to Punta Arenas, Chile
- DAY 18-20:** Extra days allowing for delays in weather for return flight
- DAY 21:** Return flight to your home country from Punta Arenas, Chile

## PACKING INFORMATION:

The best method for transporting your personal gear and clothing is to use 2 lockable and durable duffle bags.

In addition, you should bring a small storage bag which you can leave in Punta Arenas at the hotel concierge for storage of clean city clothes and other items not needed on the expedition. A travel wallet that you can hang around your neck and place inside your shirt is a safe way to carry your money and travel documents. Other tips for this type of travel include the following:

- Carry a photo copy of your passport page and extra passport sized photographs of your self.
- Arrive at the airport with plenty of time to ensure your baggage is within weight limits and is properly checked through all the way to Punta Arenas.
- There is no need for expensive watches or other jewelry that can only draw unwanted !attention to a foreign traveler.



## TRIP INFORMATION:

Climbers must remain flexible in time schedules. Our scheduled Antarctica flight is on January 9, 2017, however flight delays are a possibility. Therefore you must be open to adjusting departure and we will help you arrange additional nights at the hotel. At this point you are in "ready to go" mode and awaiting the call to fly.

The return flight to Punta Arenas from Antarctica, is on a set schedule but can be varying dependent on how the timing works while on the climbing schedule. After the climb, we will get on the first flight back to Chile. ALE will assist our team in arranging a hotel.

Please note that we suggest a return flight from Chile to your home departing on January 27th, 2017. However the realities of Antarctica are that there could be delays in returning. The weather in January is typically more stable, but it is a possibility that a delay can happen. So for this reason, we recommend either making a flexible return ticket, or you may consider making your return flight home for several days later than the 27th.

### OUR VINSON EXPEDITIONS FOR THE 2016-2017 SEASON

- Mountain Professionals Guided the largest single group of summits in the history of Vinson 24 climbers in a single day
- Climb the highest peak in Antarctica and one of the Seven Summits
- Perfect training peak to prepare for a future attempt of Everest
- Vinson veteran American staff that have successfully led several previous trips with 100% Summit Success

### HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR TRIP

- Veteran American mountain guides with experience in Antarctica and Vinson, to ensure seamless delivery and safety procedures
- Emphasis is placed on providing high end logistics, staff, equipment and services to a small team of climbers



## TRIP DESCRIPTION

Mt. Vinson is located in the heart of the Sentinels Range. This remote expedition is an incredible journey to the end of the earth, just 750 miles from the South Pole.

First climbed in 1966, Mt. Vinson is the highest mountain in Antarctica and an excellent choice for the mountaineer who has experience with extreme weather conditions and a solid background of previous high altitude climbing. This mountain is a common goal for the 7 summits quest to climb all of the highest summits on each of the seven continents.! Our trip begins in Punta Arenas, Chile. We will take a 6-hour transport flight to the Union Glacier camp on the Antarctic Continent. As soon as weather permits, we will be transported to the Sentinel Mountain Range and the base of the Vinson Massif via Twin Otter Airplane with all the supplies and equipment needed to make a self-sufficient ascent of the mountain.

The route travels via moderate snow and ice slopes of the Branscomb Glacier and is moderate in technical difficulty, however we climb with extreme care to avoid crevasse dangers while on the lower mountain. Our team will travel using glacier travel techniques as a rope team.

We will utilize two camps on the mountain above base camp. Each of these camps will allow us to move our equipment successively higher on the peak to allow us a summit bid from our high camp location at the top of the fixed line headwall.

Our team will be traveling via rope team travel because we are always on glaciated terrain. The route from Base Camp to Camp One (9,500 Feet), is straightforward on moderate slopes that we ascend in our big mountaineering boots and with trekking poles, sometimes pulling sleds on the acclimatization run, to ferry a little gear to camp. We then return to base camp for a rest.

The route from Camp One to Camp Two (12,500 Feet) is on a beautiful ridge that is climbed via a fixed rope for safety. The slope is also moderate at roughly 40 degrees but is strenuous, similar to the headwall on Denali's West Buttress route. We take the day slow and steady, with opportunities for rest breaks.

Camp Two is located on the Shoulder of Mt. Vinson and is an incredible position, with views to Mt. Shinn and the surrounding expanse of Antarctica. From here we climb to the summit (16,050) in a long day on low angle slopes to moderate terrain, with an exciting finish on a narrow ridge to the summit.

The summit day is an amazing climb in the 24 hour sunlight of the Antarctica Summer. Although the summit day is cold, the climbing route is relatively moderate in technical difficulty and team members with good determination and appropriate training will enjoy a successful climb to the summit of Mount Vinson.

We would then return to high camp for an evenings rest and descend to base camp the following day, collecting our things at Camp One along the way. At the first opportunity, we will be picked up at the base camp via the Twin Otter plane and brought back to the Union Glacier base where showers and celebration awaits. A return flight back to Punta Arenas will be the final step to finish off the expedition.

## FOOD:

All the meals during the expedition portion are included in the cost of the trip. The meals during your time in Punta Arenas before and after the trip are at your own expense. Food is generally inexpensive in Chile and there are many excellent places to eat around. We will be staying in a part of town which is very tourist friendly.

At Union Glacier: We enjoy a very well established camp with our flight company. Meals are prepared by a cook staff and served in a heated dining tent with tables and chairs. We will establish a base camp on the mountain and make plenty of hearty meals here and along the way at the higher camps. Our mountain food is cooked by the guide staff and is typical expedition style, but we strive to have good variety and quality meals throughout the mountain experience.

Please have additional small snacks for the actual expedition that you really enjoy on hand during the expedition. Examples are candy bars, fruits and nuts, or salty snacks. Note that anything with a high water content will freeze, it is ok to bring salami, crackers, treats that can be warmed by the stove inside the tent. Plan to bring about 3 pounds or 1.5 kilograms of assorted snack foods. Many, many snacks are available for purchase in Punta Arenas at the large supermarkets.

## BRINGING MONEY:

It is a hard suggestion to make, because personal tastes dictate the amount. However a good general suggestion is to bring \$250 in cash in small U.S. bills. This will be enough to cover, buying presents, beverages, meals and some snacks. There are ATM machines in Punta Arenas, these will dispense Chilean Pesos and give a decent exchange rate automatically within your transaction.

## FIRST AID:

We will be carrying a comprehensive first aid kit. We ask you to carry a small personal kit. Contents could include:

- Personal prescription medications in their original containers
- Over-the-counter Acetaminophen, aspirin, ibuprofen, or other medication for pain
- Throat lozenges
- If you have a history of severe allergic reaction you should consult your doctor about a prescribed Epinephrine auto-injector (also known as an EpiPen)

## COMMUNICATIONS:

While in Punta Arenas: Plenty of telephones and many internet cafes offer every type of communication.

While on the Expedition: We will have a satellite telephone that you can use at a cost of \$3 per minute.

Our team will post dispatches with text and photo descriptions on the Mountain Professionals website under the NEWS tab. Friends and family can follow the adventure there.

## CHARGING:

Please bring spare batteries for electronics. You should think through any cords and chargers you would need as well as a converter for the local plug. Universal kits are available in outdoor/travel stores and in Punta Arenas.

Additionally our team will be carrying a 10-watt solar panel with a universal charger inputs that will accept USB connections or Female end of Car Charger, such as plugging into the cigarette lighter in a car.



## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mountain Professionals Direct Line:

(1) 303.956.9945

**admin@mtnprofessionals.com**

Main Contact: Ryan Waters, Director

Secondary Emergency Contact While on Expedition:

Lore Vazquez Morton, Administration

**Lore@mtnprofessionals.com**

In Punta Arenas:

ALE Logistics Office

Red de Aventura a la Antartica

Arauco 935

Punta Arenas, Chile

+56 61 247735

## USEFUL RESOURCES:

### Trip Insurance:

Rescue Insurance is required by the Antarctica Treaty. Each climber must carry a Rescue insurance policy of a minimum of \$150,000 usd.

We have provided a link via the ALE insurance page, for two potential policy options.

Rescue Insurance only options are available for roughly \$80 usd to cover the expedition. Outside insurance policies to cover trip cancellation, baggage, etc. is a separate option and is a personal decision.

<http://www.adventure-network.com/travel-insurance>

For American residents - we recommend using the Travel Guard Policy at the link above.

## ADDITIONAL PAPERWORK:

We will need the following forms in addition to the Mountain Professionals documents, we will send these along to you:

1. ALE (flight company) - Medical Form, Personal Information Form, Waiver.
2. Also we will need a copy of your passport photo page.
3. We will eventually need a copy of your Rescue Insurance Policy.

This is the general information packet, we will have various discussions to answer additional information for team members prior to the expedition. Please contact us with any questions you may have at any time.







Please wait to make any travel arrangements until we have your spot secured with deposit and you have looked into travel insurance options.

**Please follow this 5 step checklist to complete your trip registration:**

1.  **Signed Policies Document**
2.  **Signed Health Questionnaire**
3.  **Signed Waiver Form**

Please fill out these three documents, scan and return them in an email to [admin@mtnprofessionals.com](mailto:admin@mtnprofessionals.com).  
If you prefer to mail the documents, please use the address below.

4.  **Make \$5,000 U.S. Deposit**
5.  **Final balance of payment of \$39,000 due 60 days prior to trip start**

**Please post payments (payable to Mountain Professionals) to:**

*Mountain Professionals LLC  
PO Box 1468  
Boulder, CO 80306*

Account information will be provided by our administration team.