



## ORIZABA EXPRESS

### Pico de Orizaba, La Malinche - Mexico

#### ITINERARY

() Parentheses designate what meals are included. Everyone is responsible for their own lunch food to allow for personal tastes; we will stop at supermarkets along the way to shop for lunch and snacks. IAG will supply group bottled water for the duration of the trip.

**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. Early in the evening we arrive at the resort at 10,000 feet on the slopes of La Malinche to begin our acclimating. We stay in comfortable cabins with bunk beds and hot showers. (Dinner)

**Day Three:** Today is summit day on La Malinche, one of the best acclimating peaks in Mexico and one of the higher peaks in central Mexico. We will have a leisurely climb of La Malinche and overnight back at the cabins.  
(Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day Four:** 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.  
(Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day Five:** We will take an acclimating day hike up to around 15,500 feet on the slopes of Orizaba and then rest up for our summit attempt. We do not climb to a high camp on Orizaba since it is not necessary, and actually could negatively affect summit chances by sleeping at too high of an altitude and getting less sleep.  
(Breakfast, Dinner)

**Day Six:** 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 colonial city of Puebla for a well-deserved dinner and rest. (Breakfast)

**Day Seven:** 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**