

Aconcagua updates 2009/11

*The following updates refer to pages in **Aconcagua: Summit of South America** by Harry Kikstra (Rucksack Readers, 2005, 978-1-898481-51-5): see www.rucsacs.com/books/acn*

P41, last para: Park permits are no longer available in Parque San Martin Park. Apply in person (with passport) at 1143rd Tourist Office in Avenue San Martin and pay at a nearby Western Union transfer office. As of 2011, the price was 3000 pesos (about 750 USD), payable in cash (pesos) to a local office (*Rapipago*) which issues a receipt.

P43, last para: You will also be given a numbered poo bag for use higher up on the mountain. On your way back down, return the bag and contents to the base camp manager. It will be packaged and air lifted out.

P44, 3rd para: *Bencina blanca* (white gas) is readily available from climbing shops in Mendoza or mule outfitters, and propane/butane fuel canisters are available in Mendoza.

Pp44/45: The bus service *Expresso Uspallata* runs (three times daily in 2009) from the central bus station in Mendoza and can drop you at Puente del Inca, Los Penitentes or Puente del Vacas. Tickets (including a reserved seat) are on sale at the central bus station. Large kit bags are fine, but tip the bus station porter a couple of pesos when he labels and receipts your bag.

P48, last bullet: River sandals, crocs or old trainers are handy for crossings. They can be dried on the outside of your rucksack and left at base camp.

P53, currency: Most shops and restaurants will accept US dollars but at a lower rate of exchange. The Cambio may exchange only denominations of \$20, \$50, and \$100 and your passport is required.

P75: Red foxes (*Zorro colorado*) scavenge around Pampa de Leñas camp and are unafraid of people. Don't feed them: they could carry rabies. There is a water tap outside the rangers' huts (stone buildings have replaced the rangers' tent).

P71, para 3 (and photo page 6): The summit cross and visitors book disappear and reappear from time to time.

Author Harry Kikstra thanks Lee Farmer for his updates on which these notes are based.