

# 3 The Normal Route

## 3·4 Camp Canada to Nido de Cóndores

**Time (average)** 2-4 hours

**Altitude gained** 500 metres (1640 feet)

**Grade** moderate; altitude and carrying are main challenges

**Terrain** gentle scree

**Summary** trail still clearly defined, passing other possible sites, to reach the 'Condor's Nest'

Leave the camp northwards to pick up the main track. More switchbacks and maybe some snow or penitentes fields will take you past some rocks at 5050 m. Follow the clear trail up the medium steep slope until you reach the part called Cambio de Pendiente ('change of slope') at about 5200 m. You will notice the easier gradient here and the track has fewer switchbacks. This section is sometimes called Plaza Alaska or lower Nido de Cóndores, and offers some reasonable camping spots if the weather holds.

If there is a storm coming and all the good pitches are taken, or because you want to reach a higher altitude, consider keeping up the track to the more sheltered main campsite, Nido de Cóndores ('condor's nest'), at almost 5400 m (17,715 ft). You will pass the ruined hut Refugio Antartida Argentina higher up the slopes on your right: ignore it, it's not usable.

*Camp Canada*



At Nido, try to camp as close as possible to the large boulders, taking into account that storms mostly arrive from the south or west. Water is normally available from a (frozen) pond or the penitentes nearby.

*Nido de Cóndores*

