

20th DECEMBER

We woke at around 7.30am and started packing everything up to move back down to basecamp. Luis was due to ride out this morning and we spoke to him on the radio. We begged them to get Carolina to make us pizza for lunch.

I forced my still very numb feet back into my boots and at around 9.30am we started to walk down.

My feet were killing, i was definately loosing some toe nails.

I stopped at camp 1 and chatted briefly to the girls from Wales and then we headed down as fast as we could. i met the South African team heading up to camp 1 and we spent a while chatting to them.

They were planning to try for the summit on christmas day.

Near basecamp i spied Hamish walking up to meet us and it was so exciting to be almost down. Hamish filmed our arrival back at basecamp and before long we were tucking into Carolinas yummy pizza.

Luis had gone off with the advanced Muleteers in a flurry of cracking whips and thundering hooves so he was on his way back to civilisation.

I spent the remainder of the day getting packed up and ready for our departure the following morning. Dorje took a look at my feet which despite feeling frozen solid were also causing me a lot of pain probably due to the two big nails which were definately going to come out soon.

Dorje assured me i wasnt going to loose my toes but that the tissue was damaged and i probably wouldnt have any sensation in them for a while. I took some neurofen for the pain.

We had a delicious dinner, we were sharing our mess tent with two austrian guys whom were planning to climb Aconcagua via the polish glacier route, one of the more technical routes on the mountain. It was great to be in the oxygen rich air of 14,000 ft and i slept really well.