

13TH DECEMBER

Hamish and I flew in from Santiago last night having had the better part of a day in Santiago. We were both starving when we got to the airport and went to grab a quick bite. Before we knew it, it was touch and go whether we made our flight. Lan Chile were great and put Hamish and i in the front of the plane as we were ushered down the gangway. An hour later we were in Mendoza, the wine region of Argentina - unfortunately we weren't there to enjoy the wine. We went to the Hyatt hotel and pretty much all went our separate ways. We arranged to meet at noon the next day as Ang Dorje was flying in at 11.30am to join us and guide my Aconcagua trip. Ang Dorje works for AC and is a legend in the mountains. He has reached the summit of Everest 10 times, Cho oyu 8 times and Aconcagua 10 times too, to name a few of his feats!!

I felt very safe in having him guide me on this trip.

I organised all my gear, spoke to all the girls, tania, Lucy tang and lisa whom were all propping up the bar at the Lanesborough hotel in London. I felt a million miles away from the Lanesborough bar i have to say! I left my phone on by mistake and was woken up by Fi calling from London at 6.00am with a loud "Hi darling" we gossiped for a while and then i went back to sleep again and didn't wake until 9.30am. Ang Dorje arrived at noon and we all lept into the van which was fully loaded with all our gear and went to go and get our permits for Aconcagua issued. Having sorted the permits we then started the 4 hour car journey to Punta del Inca located at the trailhead of the Aconcagua climb. We arrived, arranged all our gear with the mule guys - everything had to be weighed in order to get distributed onto the mules ( poor things) and then we had an early dinner with Willy Benegas and his team before heading to bed. Its not quite the Hyatt here but im so tired i dont care!