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The True Peruvian Route: An Ascent Of Aconcagua, South America's Highest Mountain (Footsteps On The Mountain Travel Diaries Book 14)



Synopsis

Mountaineering is an activity where true elation and deep disappointment thrive in equal measure. Nothing exemplifies this more than the story of Mark Horrell's two attempts on Aconcagua, the highest mountain in the world outside Asia, and one of the Seven Summits. This is the story of the second happier half. In 2005 the author set off up the Normal Route on Aconcagua's western side, possibly one of the most boring routes on a big mountain anywhere in the world. He spent several weeks staring up a huge featureless scree slope, before giving up much too easily on a cold summit day at the instigation of an over-cautious guide who didn't seem particularly bothered about reaching the summit. In 2010 he tried the other side of the mountain, a much more interesting climb, and was privileged to be guided by a man who had climbed the mountain more times than any other. It soon became clear to him that you don't get a record like that unless you really care about getting to the top every time you set foot on the mountain. It was an altogether different experience, and one with many happy memories. The True Peruvian Route is the author's travel journal from his expedition, and will be a valuable reference to anyone who is thinking of climbing South America's highest mountain with a commercial tour operator, or anyone with an interest in mountaineering and the Seven Summits (highest mountains on each continent) in general. The book includes many photographs of the trek and climb.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you really don't want to pay, you can find trail journals and mountain-climbing diaries for free on the Web. They're out there, and I've read a few. Or you can go to and browse the titles and pay anywhere from a few pennies to a few bucks for 50 to 150 pages. I suspect there will be fewer and fewer lengthy free diaries on the Web though. If you're going to write it all down, why not sell it for \$.50 or so? Mark Horrell is a decent writer and seems to be a good, knowledgeable mountaineer. I enjoyed reading The True Peruvian Route. It was only fifty pages long, so it barely got started before it was over, but I enjoyed it, and for a buck, why not? He might have made some attempt to find out what happened with the two climbers who became ill, however. But I guess his budget for research/follow up is about zero. I'll download another, longer one and see whether there's more detail, or just more days of climbing. ;-)

Another one of Mr Horrell's tales, I suspect the this is an earlier one, the writing does not seem quite as good as Everest from the north, maybe it is because the summit push was not quite so harrowing and the experience so intense. Never the less it is a good description of this route on Aconcagua and has made me think about going and doing it. As usual he has those nice little human touches in his writing. Worth the read about one of the world's significant mountains and gives a flavor of going on a guided trip.

Simple, yet elegant. I felt like I was right there during the adventure. The pictures are a very nice touch. Makes wanna go to climb Aconcagua.

The book describes the Aconcagua climb in a nice way with some funny details that makes the book enjoyable .

The first "book" I read by Mark Horrell confused me a little, more or less dumping the reader into one of Mark's journeys into the high mountains without any real background but after reading two or more of these accounts you will get his style and just plain enjoy his descriptions of some distant

destination, often lesser known than most mountaineering adventure spots. His lifestyle with endless forays into some of the lesser-known mountain areas of the world will make many of us jealous!

I am an avid trekker but I climb mountains vicariously through books like this one. I enjoy Horrell's casual style and lack of macho attitude. I want to enjoy the experience through his words. He combines trekking with technical climbs, making it easy for me to identify with his trips even if they are a bit (or a lot) outside my competence level.

I have come to quite enjoy each of Mark Horrell's travel diaries, not only because of their details of what it's like to participate in a commercial trek or climb, but because of the self-effacing and witty style in which they're written. While I don't always get the British sense of humour, it's evident that some of the trek participants don't either! Entertaining!

A nice book, I enjoyed it. It gives you a vivid grasp of what it would be like to join a commercial trekking group to climb a big mountain. If you are considering to do so, reading this short book, as well as others from the same author, is a must for you.

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