

**NORTH PATAGONIAN ANDES OF CHILE AND ARGENTINA
(Between latitudes 35°- 45° South)**

North of Patagonia proper (between lat. 35° - 39°S.) the main crest of the Andes is relatively low and of little interest to mountaineers, the highest peaks being isolated volcanoes, some of which are recognized as still active. Most of them rise in Chilean territory or on the international border. The earliest recorded ascents were made by travellers, including: - Antuco in 1828 by E. Pöppig, the German botanist; Volcàn Chillàn in 1848 by the Pole Ignacio Domeyko; and Planchòn, Peteroa and Descabezado Grande in 1897, all by Rudolf Hauthal from Argentina.

East of the Chilean city of Talca is Campanario, a bold obelisk which was attempted in 1962 by the Chileans Bion and Ociel González and Sergio Kunstmann. They abandoned the climb some thirty metres from the top because of the bad rock which they described as 'solidified mud'. In 1980 the first ascent of the Torreòn Norte of Campanario was made on very bad rock. The route followed the north-west spur, reaching a ridge at the foot of the big tower, then up a steep gully. Further south the remote Nevados de Chillàn (not the same as Volcàn Chillàn) were considered inaccessible until 1937 when Chilean Humberto Barrera and the Grandjotts (eminent botanists) made an ascent from the east. Further south again, the border peak Copahue and the Chilean volcanoes Llaima and Villarica are primarily skiing centres. Between these areas lies the massive, snow covered Argentine peak Volcàn Domuyo, the northernmost and culminating point of the sub-Andean Cordillera del Viento. The principal climbing difficulties are the enormous stones which hurtle down and the sudden storms of snow, thunder and lightning.

The exact point at which the geographical region of Patagonia commences is debatable. In general terms Lago Alumin, (c.lat. 39°S.), just inside Argentina, can be considered as a point of reference for the start of the northern Patagonian Andes, which run north-south for approximately 600 kilometres to end near Puerto Aisen (c.lat. 45°S.). This region of the Andes is rich in lakes, forests and green meadows, with a number of superb glaciated peaks. However, the mountains and mountain massifs, while generally following the direction of the main axis, rise isolated from each other, and for huge tracts maintain an average elevation of only about 1000 metres. Situated in the north of the region is the Chilean lake district, sometimes referred to as 'Chilean Switzerland'. The most famous peaks are - Lanin, Tronador, Osorno, and Puntia Guido. South of the lake district are half a dozen or more isolated peaks spread out between lat. 41°- 45°S. In Argentina, on or close to the international boundary, and mainly in the national parks of Nahuel Huapi and Los Alerces, lie several groups of mountains and ranges of sub-alpine character which provide good climbing more European in nature than the usual Andean expedition.

Selected General References

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Chilean Peaks

Apart from Tronador (see below) the other principal Chilean peaks may be mentioned briefly. Lanin is an inactive volcano situated on the Chile-Argentina border, capped with a thick layer of ice and

formations of nieves penitentes, and having a steep rocky south face. The peak is easily approached from either country. The first ascent was made in 1897 by Rudolf Hauthal and in 1942 A. Hemmi made the first winter ascent. The south face was attempted repeatedly in the 1950s, resulting in three different routes. Volcàn Osorno (the 'Fujiyama' of the Andes) is a great favourite with Chilean andinists and skiers. It was first climbed in 1848 by Jan Renous. To the north-east lies the difficult Puntiaquedo, a rocky peak with steep snow slopes descending from the summit. After various attempts the first ascent was made in 1937 by two young climbers from the Club Andino Osorno, Hermann Hess and Rodolfo Roth. Both fell on the way down and Roth was killed. South of Osorno lies Calbuco, climbed in 1859 by Renous; its last eruption was in 1929. Next is Yate, a precipitous peak covered with ice which may have been climbed as early as 1845 by the Chilean Basilio Alvarado. In 1915 Reichert and two others reached Pico Sur, the highest point. The lower Pico Septentrional was ascended in 1944 by F. Huber. East of Isla Chilo, are four peaks - two lesser ones, Hornopiren and Pillaumo, also called Amunategui; Minchinmavida, a massive peak armour-plated with ice, climbed in 1953 by three andinists from Valparaíso; and the majestic Corcovado, climbed in 1945. Finally, north-west of Puerto Aisen, there is Cerro Macà, attempted in 1936 by Reichert and climbed in 1944.

Tronador

Tronador, the principal peak in this sector, is an extinct volcano on the international border, easily accessible from either side. Its three summits and ice covered flanks make it one of the most important and interesting mountains in northern Patagonia. The massif is divided into two sections by a long ridge, above which rise the highest points, Pico Argentino, Pico Principal and Pico Chileno. The first attempts to climb Tronador were made by Frederick Reichert during the period 1910-16, mainly from the Chilean side, but he did not even succeed in reaching the col, which now bears his name, between Pico Chileno and Pico Principal. Following the inauguration of the Club Andino Bariloche in 1931, frequent attempts to climb the peak were made from the Argentine side. In 1934 two Italian climbers resident in Buenos Aires, Walter Durando and Sergio Matteoda, disappeared on the mountain. Later a search party consisting of Count Aldo Bonacossa, Luigi Binaghi and Giusto Gervasutti, members of an Italian climbing expedition, reached the summit of Pico Chileno, which they called Matteoda after their comrade. The other two summits were climbed not long after and in 1938 the Club Andino Bariloche decided to build a refuge on the south side of the massif to promote climbing activities. As a result, Tronador is a popular goal of Argentine andinists.

Peak List

Peaks north of Lanin

Teno 3300m: 1-1969.

Orejas 3960m: 1-1936.

Planchòn 3970m: 1-1897.

Peteroa 4000m: 1-1897.

Descabezado Grande 3830m: 1-1897.

Quizapu 3100m: 1-1927.

Cerro Azul 3820m:

Campanario 4020m: Uncompleted ascent (very bad rock)-1962.

--Torreòn Norte-1980 via a N.W. spur to ridge at foot of the big tower, then a steep gully.

Volcàn Las Yeguas (San Pedro) 3499m: remote peak, heavily glaciated on southern & western slopes: 1-1969.

Nevado de Longavj 3080,2950m: 36ø15ÒS. 71ø15ÒW.: 1-1946, both peaks.

RGS-IBG Expedition Advisory Centre, 2nd edition, May 1994*Volcàn Chillàn 2772m?, 3115m?: 1-1848.**Nevado de Chill n 3180m: located S.E. of Volc n Chill n: 1-1937 via eastern slopes: 2-1938 via western slopes: another route from N.?**Antuco 2945m: 1-1828.**Sierra Velluda (3 peaks):**--Principal 3580m?:**--Norte 3560m: 1-1940.**--Central 3518M: 1-1948.**Copahue 2980:**Collaquen 3164m:**Tolguaca 2780m: 1-1909.**Lonquimay 2889m: After earth tremors, this volcano erupted Christmas 1988, the first time for 100 years.**Llaima 3050m: smoking volcano: 1-1909: Climbed on skis-1938.**Villarica 2900m: 1(?) -1938 Climbed on skis.*

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Northern Patagonian Andes

*Lanin 3776m: 1-1897. Several S. face routes, numerous references.**Choshuenco 2415m: twin peak with Mocho: 1-1934.**Mocho 2413m: 39°56'0S. 72°02'W.: 1-1922.**Sierra de Lilpela 2210m: 40°07'S. 71°49'W.:)**Nevados de Queñi 2309m: 40°15'S. 71°48'W.:) Unclimbed? Rock**Nevado Frick 2182m:) and ice needles.**Puyahue 2240m: 1-1939.**Puntiagudo 2494m: 1-1937.**Cerro La Picada 1710m:**Osorno 2660m: 1-1848.**El Techado (Cerro Bonechamp) 1880m:**Tronador (numerous references):**--Pico Chileno (Matteoda) 3440m: 1-1934: N.W. face-1982, ice.**--Pico Anòn:**--Pico Internacional (Principal, Central) 3470m: 1-1934 via S.W. ridge, S. face: S.W. ridge (int, gral): E. ridge from col (normal): N.E. face-1981, ice-covered rock band below summit: S.E. face, 2 variations of normal route.**--Pico Argentino 3320m: 1-1937 via S.W. ridge: S. face-1948: N.E. ridge-1982, mixed.**Calbuco 1690m: 1-1859.**Torrecillas 2164m:*

Yate 2100m: volcano with 2 summits joined by long corniced ridge with icy cracks on both sides: 1-1845.

--North peak: 1-1944.

Hornopiren 1670m: 1-1872.

Pillaumo (Amunategui) 1623m: 1-1870.

Michinm huida 2470m: 1-1953.

Corcovado 2300m: 1-1945.

Cuatro Pir mides 2408m:

Melimoyu 2379m:

Macà 2400m?: 1-1944.

Cerro Dedo 2020m: granite peak: 1(?) -1972 via W. face, 300m(IV-V).

P.1900m (near Cerro Dedo): granite peak: 1-1972 via E. face, 300m (IV-V).

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Argentine Peaks

The development of mountaineering activity on this side of the border has been almost exclusively the province of climbers from the Club Andino Bariloche, whose headquarters are in the holiday resort of San Carlos de Bariloche on the shores of Lago Nahuel Huapi. This lake and the many others in the district are the Argentine counterpart of the lake district of Chile. Apart from intense climbing activity, the club also concerns itself with the erection of climbing huts and the marking of paths and ski pistes, while nearly all the published information about the region has appeared in the club publications, and guidebooks produced by its members. The Club Andino Bariloche, which is the oldest climbing club in Argentina, was founded in 1931 by Dr. J. J. Neumeyer.

Parque Nacional Lanín

In the north of the region is the Parque Nacional Lanín. This is an area of forests with splendid lakes, separated by mountain ridges rising to over 2000 metres, which provide fine walking country, rather than serious mountaineering.

Parque Nacional Nahuel Huapi

From its northernmost point, at the western end of Lago Lacar, to its southern boundary the Rio Manso (lat. 41°36'S.), the park stretches for some 150 kilometres, the main centre being the town of Bariloche at the eastern end of Lago Nahuel Huapi. Apart from its diverse and spectacular scenery, the area contains two particularly interesting mountains; to the north-west, the frontier peak Cerro Crespo and to the south Cerro Catedral. Crespo, a rocky pyramid streaked with snow, is approached from Lago Correntoso via Cerro La Mona and a long ridge leading to the huge saddle between Crespo and Cerro San Huberto. The climb continues along the east ridge, bristling with rock towers which in the final stretch become very airy and exposed. The first ascent was made in 1936 by Meiling and Neumeyer. Cerro Catedral is a massif consisting of several tops and rocky towers offering severe rock-climbing problems, such as Campanile Esloveno, climbed in 1952 by D. Bertoneceli and F. Jerman via the south-east ridge. The very severe north-east face of Campanile Esloveno was ascended in 1959 by Bertonecelj and Fonrouge. The climb took ten hours over two days, using pitons, wedges and bolts. The main summit was climbed in 1943 by P. Fischer and G. Kammerer, and other tops even earlier. The mountain can be traversed by walkers and makes a fine excursion. Also interesting and much visited are Cerro Bonete and Cerro Lopez, topped by a rocky tower conquered in 1936 by Otto Meiling; the north-west face of the Punta L□hrs peak of Cerro Lopez gives a 300-metre climb of Grade V.

Further to the south-west near Lago Mascardi and Lago Hess are several peaks explored in 1940 by E. Frey - Cerro Alcorta, Cerro Donat, and Cerro Granitico, which is the highest peak in the sector. South-east of Lago Mascardi lies a massif dominated by Cerro Carreras, climbed in 1954 by A. Mange and A. Mulazzi, who also succeeded in making the first ascent of a neighbouring unnamed peak which they called General Villegas. At the southern end of the park several lovely rocky peaks rise above Lago Escondido - Cerro Grande, Cerro Ventisquero, Cerro Escondido, Cerro Bastion and Cerro Santa Elena. A little further south, west of the town of El Bolson, is the frontier massif of Cordón Serrucho, of which the highest peak is Cerro Lonne, a rocky pyramid first climbed in 1941 by R. Venzano.

Parque Nacional Los Alerces

North of the park proper is the area known as the Puelo annexe (c.lat. 42°- 42°32' S.), containing a number of splendid rocky peaks, some of which carry glaciers. The nearest centre is the little town of El Bolson to the north-east, and the principal peaks are approached from the southern end of Lago Puelo by going up the Rio Alerzal to Lago Esperanza and the Esperanza valley, or further south and more difficult the Rio Turbio. Among the better known peaks are Cerro Aguja, Cerro Tricuspides, Cerro Torres and the frontier massif of Cordón del Pico Alto. South of the Rio Turbio there are more peaks of interest to rock-climbers, such as Cerro Tres Picos, Cerro Dos Picos, Cordón Ocaso and, on the frontier, Cerro Chato.

Two early explorers of this remote area were the Chilean geographer Hans Steffen who, in 1895, reached the Rio Turbio which he named, and a year or two later Eimar Soot, a member of the Boundary Commission. The first visit by climbers occurred in 1932 when Neumeyer and Reichert ascended the Turbio valley and climbed Cerro de los Gemelos. There was considerable subsequent activity, particularly in the 1940s, with first ascents of Cerro Principal, Pico Bolson, Cerro Ocaso, Cerro Esperanza and Cerro Gladis, the most easterly peak of the Cordón Cholila. One of the most difficult peaks, Cerro Tres Picos, was first attempted in 1942 when Meiling and Neumeyer failed on the Torre Este, but succeeded in climbing the Torre Ovest, now called Torre Meiling. In 1952 the Torre Central and Torre Este (now called respectively Tuma and Frey) were climbed. Cerro Dos Picos was climbed in 1955 by Ren, Eggmann and in 1959 a mixed group of Club Andino Bariloche and Centro Andino Buenos Aires climbers made the first ascent of Cerro Chato. The construction of a road from Bariloche to Lago Puelo has greatly facilitated access to this very attractive region.

The main area of the park (set up in 1937) is located in the sector lat. 42°32' - 43°10' S. by long. 71°35' - 72°07' W., i.e. approximately from the eastern shore of Lago Futalafquen to the border with Chile, and from the northern end of Lago Rivadavia to the Rio Futaleufu south of Lago Situación - an area of c.3000 km². It is a fine wilderness area with numerous lakes and peaks over 2000 metres high (several with glaciers), all grouped into a very complex mountain system, which provides great scope for ascents and traverses of rock, snow and ice routes.

The principal peaks in the north-western sector, around Lago Menendez, are the splendid massif of Cordón Torrecillas; Cerro Alto; Cerro Petizo, a fine viewpoint and training climb; Cerro Solo; and the glaciated frontier peaks between the passes Navarro and Boquete Oyarzún. The central section of the park is dominated by the massifs of Cordón de los Piramides and, to a lesser degree, Cordón Situación, with their bold rocky towers and needles similar to those on Cerro Catedral near Bariloche. Further south is the somewhat lesser Cerro Castillo. Access is from the town of Esquel, whence a two-hour journey on a good road leads to the park headquarters on the shores of Lago Futalafquen.

The first travellers to tackle this (until recently) inaccessible region were members of Perito Moreno's Boundary Commission. This formidable band of explorers penetrated deep into parts of the cordillera, making journeys which were not repeated for at least sixty years. The details of the wanderings, around 1898-1900, of the Seventh Sub-Comisión, led by Ing. Frey, with surveyors Schierbeck, Soot, Bach and Moretán among others (who made the very first ascents, e.g. Cerro Trepado, Cerro Subi, Cerro Cota, Cerro 30 de Marzo) are buried in the dry, factual reports lodged in the archives of the Boundary Commission. Apart from these surveyors, some officials of the army, early settlers and the geologist Bailey Willis, no one attempted to explore the mountains until 1940, when Meiling and Neumeyer made the first attempt on one of the best peaks, Cerro Torrecillas.

Cerro Torrecillas also attracted the attention of climbers from outside the Bariloche area. The first of these was Lothar Herold who approached the peak in 1951, using a folding boat to cross the lakes. Next year he led a group to the mountain and with Dr. Neumeyer tried repeatedly to conquer the peak; hindered by bad weather they managed only to climb a gendarme, which they called Torre Norte. In 1953 Herold and Strohschneider carried out a systematic reconnaissance of the massif, including an ascent of the nearby Cerro Solo, with a view to a major assault the following year. However, members of the newly formed Club Andino Esquel, spearheaded by the guide Ren, Eggmann, made a lightning attack in February 1954, accomplishing the whole ascent in less than forty-eight hours. Herold for his part reached the summit the following day after traversing the other tops.

There was plenty more activity in the 1950s. Ren, Eggmann and members of the Club Andino Esquel climbed the fine Cerro La Monja in the Cordòn Situaciòn, and H. Solari paid several visits to the whole area, climbing among other peaks Cerro Quimico west of Lago Futalafquen and an unnamed gendarme in the southern part of the Cordòn Situaciòn. In January 1958 groups from Rosario and Buenos Aires attempted Cordòn Piràmides, explored the year before by Eggmann. Finally at the end of December 1958 one of the leading Argentine climbers, J. L. Fonrouge, and two others reached the highest point of this massif (Torre 'Slavko'), which consists of five rock towers and has great climbing potential. The climbers approached via the southeast glacier and bivouaced in an ice cave, reaching the top next day after a climb lasting seven hours. As the rock would not take pitons, the climb was done free and the descent took as long as the ascent.

Just south of Rio Futaleufu is the frontier chain headed by Cerro Conico, climbed in 1954 by Ren, Eggmann. Further south, near Lago General Paz, is another snow massif which includes Cerro Central and Cerro Herrero. In the extreme south of this sector of the Andes (c.lat. 45°S.), roundabout Lago Plata and Lago Fontana, there are various massifs explored by E. Bendinger. In 1952 he made an attempt on Cerro Dedo but succeeded only in reaching a rocky tower (c.1870m) near to the massive summit. In 1972 Roger and Elspeth Whewell climbed Dedo via its west face, and a lower unnamed peak via its east face. Both are granite peaks giving some 300 metres of Grade IV-V climbing. Apart from high winds the area has reasonably good weather.

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Peak List

Cordillera del Viento:

Volcàn Domuyo 4709m: 36°37'S. 70°25'W.: 1-1949.

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Parque Nacional Lanjn

Cordòn del Rucachoroi 2296m:

Cordòn Chapelco:

--Cerro Azul 2437m:

--Chapelco 2394m: principally a ski mountain: S. face: Traverse.

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Parque Nacional Nahuel Huapi

Cerro Navidad: N.N.E. of Cuernos del Diablo:

Cuernos del Diablo: N.W. of Catedral:

Cerro Cresta Gallo: Catedral area:

Punta Tempanos: Catedral area:

Punta Schweizer: Catedral area:

Pico Refugio 1950m: Catedral area: Four rock-climbs in Arko guidebook.

Catedral: See Arko guidebook and ACAB (1986): 15-46.:

--Torre Principal 2409m: 1-1943 via N. face (normal route): Other routes have been done on all four faces.

--Campanile Esloveno c.2100m: 1-1952 via S.E. ridge: Other routes have been done on three faces.

--Torre La Vieja: 1-1960 via S. face: Also routes on N. & E. faces.

--Aguja Frey: 1-1960 via S. face: W. face-1982: Also 2 routes on N. face.

N.B. In addition to these four principal towers and pinnacles there are nearly twenty lesser points mentioned in the guidebook, e.g. Torre Astilla, Punta Philip Harron & El Abuelo.

Catedral Sur 2388m: 1-1931.

Pico de Agostini 2278m: 1-1919 or earlier.

Cerro Carreras 2360m: 1-1954.

Cerro General Villegas c.2200m: near Co.Carreras: 1-1954.

Cerro Piltriquitron 2280m:

Cerro Ventisquero 2285m: 1-1946.

Cerro Bonete 2270m: Traverse: S. face.

--Gendarme Haras:

Cerro Crespo 2225m: 1-1936.

Cerro Grande 2200m: 1-1944.

Cerro Granitico 2200m: 1-1943.

Cerro Ventana (Torre de la Ventana): N. of Co Ñireco:

Cerro Ñireco 2200m: S. of Lago Nahuel Huapi:

Cerro Punta Pussy 1730m: just E. of Ñireco: Climbed in 1951 by R. Venzano with his two young children.

Cerro Punta Negra 2166m: S.W. of Lago Nahuel Huapi:

Cerro Bastion 2115m:

Cerro Donat 2100m: 1-1940.

Cerro Lonne 2100m: Cordòn Serrucho: 1-1941.

Cerro Capilla: N.W. of Co.Lòpez:

Cerro Lòpez 2076m: see Arko guidebook for numerous references to rock climbs:

--Cumbre Principal: 1-1936: 5 routes.

--Punta Lührs: 5 routes.

--Filo & Torre Norte: 12 routes.

--Dedo del Lòpez: 2 routes.

N.B. The guidebook also describes routes on the following additional parts of the massif - Pico Fino (4 routes); Punta Norte (North face) (2 routes).

Cerro Escondido c.2000?: 1-1946.

--Punta Gorda:

Cerro Whymper:

Cerro Pirén Huincul:

Cerro del Serrucho 1985m: 1-1953?

Cerro Cuyin Manzano 1978m:

RGS-IBG Expedition Advisory Centre, 2nd edition, May 1994*Cerro Santa Elena 1965m: between Lakes Steffen & Escondido:**Cerro La Mona 1950m: near Cerro Crespo:**Cerro Tres Lagunas 1860m:**Cerro Bailey Willis 1800m:**Cerro Dormilon 1786m:**Cerro Vichadero 1740m: W. of Co.López:**Cerro Alcorta 1670m: 1-1940.**Cerro Recado Chileno: immediately N.of confluence of Limay-Traful rivers: elegant peak climbed pre-1950.***Selected References**

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Parque Nacional Alerces (Puelo Annexe)*Cerro Tres Picos 2600m?: in the Cordòn Cholila:*

--Torre Tuma (Central): 1-1952.

--Torre Frey (Oriental): 1-1952.

--Torre Meiling (Ovest): 1-1942?

*Cerro Dos Picos 2530m: 1-1955 both peaks.**Cerro Chato 2460m: W. of Lago Cholila: 1-1959 by Argentine party.**Cordòn del Pico Alto (Cerro CABA) 2435m:**Cerro Aguja 2350m:**Cerro Torres 2300m:**Cerro Gladis 2035m: most easterly peak of Cordòn Cholila: 1-1943.**Cordòn Ocaso 2010m: 1-1943.**Pico Bolson 2000m: 1-1942.**Pico Principal 1930m: 1-1941.**Cerro Tricuspides c.1900m: 1-1944.**Cerro Pirque 1870m: E. of Lago Puelo:**Cerro de los Gemelos: S.W. of Lago Puelo: 1-1932.**Cerro Esperanza: Lago Puelo area: 1-1947.**Cerro Plataforma: just S. of Rjo Turbio:**Cerro Delantero: 1-pre 1942.***Selected References**

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Parque Nacional Alerces*Cerro Cota 2530m: 1-c.1900 by Boundary Commission.**Cerro Piràmides (Cordòn de los Piràmides) 2440m: the most important massif in this area, lying between Lakes Futalaufquen and Krüger to the north and Lakes 1,2 & 3 to the south, and consisting of five rock towers, with Slavko (highest) at the southern end: 1-1958 via S.E. glacier, moderately difficult; climbed free because rock would not take pitons.*

--Torre Slavko 2450m:

*Cerro Castillo 2350m: on frontier, S. of Lago No.3:**La Monja (Cocinero) 2307m: 1-1954.**Cerro Santa Marta (Cordòn Situaciòn) c.2300m: 1-1941.**Cerro Torrecillas (Cordòn Torrecillas) 2240m: 1/2-1954.**Cerro Petizo 1800m: near Torrecillas: 1-1900? by Boundary Commission.*

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Cerro Situaciòn (Cordòn Situaciòn) 2161m: Attempted 1956/59.

Cerro Coronado 2099m: W. of Lago Rivadavia:

Cerro Quimico 1939m: 1-1956.

Cerro Alto 1936m: N.E. of Lago Menendez:

Cerro Trespado 1900m: 1-c.1900 by Boundary Commission.

Cerro Subi: 1-c.1900 by Boundary Commission.

Cerro 30 de Marzo: 1-c.1900 by Boundary Commission.

Cerro Solo 1891m: 1-1953.

Cerro San Diego 1860m: 1-1942?

Cerro Puntudo 1755m: N. of Lago Menendez:

Cerro Colorados (3 tops) 1734m: N. of Lago Menendez:

South of Alerces

Cerro Conico 2230m: 1-1954)

Cerro Grado) Frontier massif.

Cerro Redondo)

Cerro Ventisqueros)

Cerro Central massif: S. of Rio Futaleufu, E. of & parallel to frontier:

--Cerro Herrero :

--Cerro Central 2070m:

--P.2120m:

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