

## **Erciyes Volcano Ascent (3917 m.)**

### **“An Ascent to Strabo's Argeus, The Highest Mountain of Central Anatolia”**

Duration: 2 Days

Best Season: Spring-Winter

Tour Type: Alpinism

Accommodation: Camp/Mountain Hut

Difficulty: Moderate – Hard

### **Overview**

Mt Erciyes is standing extinct volcano in central Anatolia. It covered the magic Cappadocia landscape with volcanic dust and tufa as also they made the region so valuable by rich agricultural soil. Mt Erciyes is the highest summit of Central Anatolia and one of the most well known ski centre all around Turkey just in the heart of Turkey. Any traveler passing through the Central Anatolian plain will realize this huge volcanic massive. The majestic view of the mountain is just so attractive that we can not remain blind to visitors interest to climbing trip. Climbing up to this majestic mountain is intermediately challenging but the view and feelings will be worth for that.

Ancient geographer Strabo tells of Mount Argeus (Erciyes Volcano) in his great book named Geographika. He tells about the possibility to see Black Sea and Mediterian Sea from the summit of Argeus. We know today its not possible, but we can feel the effect of this giant on his brain.

It is possible to combine your trip with other tours and extend your vacation in central Anatolia or in Turkey. If you would like a longer trip in Cappadocia and Aladaglar with the trekking and other climbing options , or visit some of the ‘musts’ in Turkey, please contact us.

For sure that diachronic Argeus Volcano will leave you in its spell – definitely an adventure worth the pursuit.

### **Itinerary Outline**

Day 1: Meet at the airport of Kayseri, lunch and transfer to Erciyes Ski Center. Trek to the camp site. Dinner at the camp.

Day 2: Early breakfast , climb to the summit. Descend to the camp, pick the camp up and trek back to ski resort.

## **Itinerary**

### **Day 1: Meet at the airport of Kayseri , lunch and transfer to Erciyes Ski Center. Trek to the camp site. Dinner at the camp.**

Our guides will welcome you at the airport of Kayseri and transfer you to the city center for a quick visit to historic old town. ( Also possible to start the tour from Ankara or Istanbul , please ask for detailed info and updated prices )

After a delicious otantic lunch , it is time to drive up to the ski center at 2200 m. for 30 mins. We will take chair lifts to reach 2750 m. In Spring,we will have a short walk to camp area named Cobanini at 2900 m. By this way we will have plenty of time at the camp side, also have some time for aclimatisation hike around the camp.

In winter contitions, we will sleep in the mountain hut at 2750 m, just at the last station of the chair lift. This hut is actually ferroconcrete building with some empty rooms no heating sytem in it. There is a insluted space in it , especially more comfortable than tents in winter conditions.

Electricity support is possible depends on storm.

After dinner , we will sleep and wake up early in the morning to start the climb.

Approx. Vehicle Transfer Time: 30 Mins

Approximate Activity Time: 2-3 Hours

Approximate Altitudes: Erciyes Ski resort, 2250 m, Mountain Hut 2750 m; Cobanini Camp Area 2900 m

Meals included: Lunch -Dinner

### **Day 2: Early breakfast , climb to the summit. Descend to the camp, pick the camp up and trek back to ski resort.**

After an early a wake up call, we will have quick breakfast and some hot drinks. We will have a trek arroun 1:30-2:00 hours to reach the starting point of the climbing route at 3300m. Most of this walk will be in dark especially in winter. We will decide to put on crampons and start to use ice axes after this point. After 2 hours of climbing , we plan the reach the summit before noon. If the sky is clear, we will have a chance to see Aladaglar, Sultan Marshes , Hasan Volcano in distance from the summit. After having some snacks , time to descend to camp area. After cpicking up of the camp equipments , we will take the chair lifts to go go down to Ski resort. We meet with our vehicle to go back to the Kayseri Airport.

Approx. Vehicle Transfer Time: 30 Mins

Approximate Activity Time: 10-12 Hours

Approximate Altitudes: Mountain Hut 2750 m; Cobanini Camp Area 2900 m ,Erciyes Summit 3917m

Meals included: Breakfast-Lunch(Picnic)

PS: The main summit of Erciyes is behind of the summit we climb. We don't go the highest one the difference is just 17m. , since that's technical and not so comfortable for all participitators.

### **Tour Dates & Prices**

Best Season: Late February, March-April-May-June

Please ask for new prices for group of min 6, max 14 pax.

For groups under 6 people, please also contact us.

Please ask our special prices for closed groups and Travel Agencies

### **Price Includes**

Montis Trips & Expedition Mountain Leaders

All Kitchen Services

All Meals During The Treks

All Ground Transfers In The Program

Transfer of the Equipments

Tent or Mountain Shelter/Hut accommodation (HB)

Personal Safety Equipment(Helmet, Ice-axe, Crampon)

First Aid Kit

Tent & Mattress

### **Price Does Not Include**

International Transfers, Domestic Air Fares

Entrance Fees for Historical Sights and Parks

Out Of Program Demands

Beverages in the camps and restaurants

Backpack, Walking Sticks, etc.

Personal Gear

Insurance

Sleeping Bag (you can hire from MONTIS Trips & Expedition)

Tips

\*You can hire a sleeping bag for the tour for a surcharge of 20 Euros pp

### **Accommodation**

Mountain Hut/Shelter :In winter conditions, we will sleep in the mountain hut at 2750 m, just at the last station of the chair lift. This hut is actually ferroconcrete building with some empty rooms no heating sytem in it. There is a insluted space in it , especially more comfortable than tents in winter conditions. Electricity support is possible depends on storm.

Camps: In summer conditions, we provide 4 season tents for DBL accommodation. Single accommodation should be asked in advance. Every camp will have a kitchen tent or compartment.

We provide portable chairs and tables for dining at camp only.

Camps and mountain shelters do not have shower and WC facilities.Guides instruct about these issues on your arrival to our camps.

### **Meals:**

We provide simple Turkish breakfast includes chocalate cream , cheese, olive, jam, honey, cucumber and tomato (depends on the season), bread served with hot tea or coffee.

For dinner, we provide hot soup, pasta or bulgur mixed with some soujouk or mixed vegetables, chocolate bars as desert. We also provide hot water and tea unlimited.

For summit day, we help you to preapare some sandwiches from breakfast table. Also we give you some chocalate bars, biscuits and some seasonal fruits .

### **FAQ**

#### **Travel Plan**

#### **Recommended Domestic Flights:**

This itinerary starts and ends in Kayseri Airport in Turkey. Some domestic flights are recommended to /from Kayseri to connect flights to international flights. Please ask for a confirmation before you purchased your flights.

Itinerary can be customized for individuals and groups due to their travel plan. Domestic flights, extra tours ( Cappadocia Trekking, Mountain Biking in Cappadocia , Traditional and Sport Climbing in Aladaglar etc.) and city sightseeing can be added to form an itinerary from/to Ankara and/or

Istanbul.

Please contact us for any requests.

Note: Our company is not responsible about the changes on the flights by the operators or airlines.

### **Visa**

Holders of most European passports, UK, Austrian, Irish, Portuguese, Spanish and US passports require visas. Visas must be obtained in advance, passengers need to obtain an e-visa prior to their arrival. This can be done online at <https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/> for approximately US\$20. The visa is valid for a stay of up to three months (dependent on passport holder's nationality). For a longer stay a visa from a Turkish Embassy is required. Please click for visa requirements to Turkey for detailed information:

<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/visa-information-for-foreigners.en.mfa>

### **Vaccinations**

There are no mandatory vaccination requirements.

### **Eating and Drinking**

Food in Turkey is generally very good and varied, making use of fresh local ingredients. Breakfasts normally include chocolate cream, cheese, olive, jam, honey, cucumber and tomato (depends on the season), bread served with hot tea or coffee. Picnic lunches are provided for climbing day.

Restaurants for the lunch in this trip are specialized in local dishes such as beef dishes, ravioli Turk, pide, stuffed vegetables etc with soup. Vegetarians are well catered for.

### **Weather**

If travelling in Spring you must be prepared for rain falling in the cities. Protracted spells of bad weather are unlikely at any time of spring in the cities.

If travelling in Winter you must be prepared for snow falling and 0-5 C degrees maximally in day time in the cities.

However,

Mt Erciyes is quite different than this especially in winter. But as all mountains Mt Erciyes has its own weather and climate characteristics. Mt Erciyes is a strato volcano that self stands on a huge plateau. That is why it collects all the clouds that rise during the day by heating. That creates its precipitation characteristics. Erciyes Mountain generates its own weather conditions; it is not wise to depend on weather forecasts. The peak is subject to severe winds, and sudden changes in temperature.. One has to be equipped for the worst, and one has to know when to quit.

In Spring, daytime temperature is usually 10-22 C degrees in and night temperatures are -3 to 0 C degrees at the campsites without windchill affect.

In Winter, Daytime temperature is usually -10 to 4 C degrees in and night temperatures are -22 to 5 C degrees at the campsites without windchill affect .

### **Is this trip for you?**

Activity Level: Moderate / Moderate – Hard (3-4)

This trip gives you the chance to climb the highest summit of Central Anatolia with the views of Aladaglar and Sultan Marshes on the South , Hasan Volcano on the South East.

Sultan Marshes are around 1 hour away from the Erciyes ski resort with 21,000-hectare expanse of wetlands that attract a wide range of birdlife - 301 different species at the last count. This is one of the best places to go birdwatching in Turkey

Erciyes Volcano is close to Cappadocia, around 1:30 hours. This unique volcanic area is one of the worth to see spot with its historical and geological background. You can have a chance to trek in the valleys surrounded with magical fairy chimneys and to hear old stories of very first christians who lived in rock dwellings. Also you can experience to Mountain Biking Tours for pro single trackers and sunday afternoon riders.

### **Packing**

You are recommended to have a duffle bag. Only a day pack will be carried during the day. Duffle bags will be transferred by vehicles. or chairlifts to the camp.

#### **Transportation Of The Equipments**

Your entire luggage will be transferred to the Erciyes Ski resort by coach.

In Winter, we use chairlifts to carry your equipments to the mountain hut at 2750m. In Spring, we use chairlifts and 4 wheel vehicles to carry your equipments to the camp area at 2900m. Equipment and camping stuff is carried by the same way.