

Title:

Andes Mountains Adventure

Word Count:

921

Summary:

The first time I used an ice axe and crampons, I went to 20,600 feet with a guide who didn't s

Keywords:

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Article Body:

My Andes mountains adventure started with a graveyard.

All the monuments near the first refuge weren't for climbers without skill. This graveyard is

"El Refugio Edward Whymper" is a simple, unheated, hut at 16,000 feet. It's named after the ER

We drank "mate de coca" a tea made of coca leaves, which are also used to make another product

Mount Chimborazo

Mount Chimborazo is in Ecuador, about 100 miles south of the Equator. At it's peak, it is the

Paco, my guide, woke me up at ten that evening. He frowned when he saw my sleeping bag, which

Paco didn't speak a word of English, and I was just learning Spanish. Since our whole group co

Actually, I had practiced once with crampons and an ice axe on a sledding hill near my house.

I think Paco was telling me he didn't like the papery rainsuit I was using as a shell. He frow

I hadn't planned to climb Chimborazo with such lightweight gear, but I had come to Ecuador on

Glaciers Near The Equator

The glaciers start near the hut. Hiking soon became mountaineering. I put on crampons for the

We struggled (okay, I struggled) up the ice, hiking, climbing, jumping over crevasses, until I

We stumbled onto the summit at dawn. Or rather, I stumbled. Paco, who seemed somewhat frail do

The sky was a stunning blue color that you never see at lower elevations. Cotapaxi, a classic

Handshakes all around, and it was time to get off the mountain. I was told you don't want to b

Paco was looking at his watch, and telling me to hurry. He got further and further ahead. Was

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