

GUIDES – ALPAMAYO

E-mail address: y.astier@wanadoo.fr

Heliskiing north Chile / Central Andes

Yves ASTIER p.
Ski and mountain guide UIAGM
Appt 529 Jardins de la Balme
73150 VAL D'ISERE, FRANCE
Gsm: + 33 (0)6.07.78.52.44
Home: + 33 (0)4. 79.09.64.81
www.guides-alpamayo.com

Heliskiing weeks from mid-june to mid-september every year.

LOCATION / TERRAIN

We offer heli-packages in the Chilean Central Andes, between latitude 32 degrees and 35 degrees south. We are based outside of Santiago, Chile where we have access to thousands of hectares of unlimited terrain. Such terrain includes the Aconcagua region (CERRO ACONCAGUA ,6967 mts,highest peak of Americas), Juncal and Rio Colorado Valleys to the north, the Olivares, Parraguirre, and Tupungato Valleys located centrally, and the Aparejo, Marmolejo, Pangal, Rengo to Tinguiririca Valleys to the south. This is an amazing vast mountain region about 400 km long, offering a variety of endless terrain from glaciated Andean peaks to steep ridges and gullies, with elevations ranging from 2,500 meters (8,250’’D5) to 4,500 meters (14,850’’D5), a combination of some of the world “D5 most exciting Heli-skiing/snowboarding terrain imaginable, surrounded by a breathtaking backdrop of 6,700 meters (22,000’’D5) peaks. We have the privilege of dry continental snow pack at high altitude, synonymous with champagne powder at its best. Snow accumulation comes from the Pacific Ocean, a mere 100 miles (160 km) west of the Andes. Flying conditions are best during winter, due to an almost zero thermal reduction, a daily weather phenomena in summer, caused by heat and cumulus build-up in early afternoon.

LODGING

We use the existing and comfortable infrastructure of Chile’’D5s traditional mountain lodges, such as our deluxe, locally owned, and tasteful El Ingenio lodge, a jewel of Andean hospitality located in the Maipo Valley, family run to perfection. At the lodge you will be able to enjoy all the amenities expected from a mountain lodge, an outdoor hot tub and swimming pool, gourmet cuisine, and infinite Chilean hospitality. Treat yourself to a massage after skiing, or read a book in front of the fireplace while served delicious appetizers prepared daily by our Chef.

The El Ingenio Lodge has a character all of its own. With true confidence, we consider it to be one of a kind in the Heli-ski business, one of the Central Andes “D5 best kept secrets, within 5 minutes of the South American continent’’D5 best Heli-skiing! This uniqueness may include an inviting outdoor fire, meals served outside twice a week when mild temperatures at the lodge permit, or fresh homemade ice cream served as you step off the helicopter after a long day of Heliskiing/boarding. Or perhaps the character comes from the lodge keeper, Carlitos, running towards the group with your après-ski shoes in a wheel barrel to change into as soon as you land, or the homemade pastries, ice cream of all flavours, and fresh juices that await you.

HELI-SKI / SNOWBOARD WEEK OVERVIEW

Saturday, Day 1: After landing in Santiago, Chile, we meet you at the airport and direct you to your van for ground transportation, or to your reserved helicopter connection, to transport you to your lodging in the mountains. You will meet with your Heli-ski guide for gear check, briefing, group selection, and later an avalanche beacon search and safety clinic will be conducted, along with the required helicopter briefing. Welcome Dinner at the lodge.

Sunday, Day 2: Immediately after breakfast we walk to the heliport only yards from your room. Soon we will carve our first turns in the pristine Andes, an unforgettable alpine setting of Himalayan proportions. Each group will have a minimum of 1 Heli-ski guide, a 4:1 ratio, or a 3 : 1 ratio depending on the number of guests. Today we take it slowly. It will be your first day exposed to the thin air at nearly 15,000'D5 elevation in the magnificent surroundings of the dramatic and rugged Central Andes Mountains. Back for the night to a well deserved gourmet dinner at the lodge.

Monday, Day 3: After breakfast we gain altitude as we become more comfortable and familiar with the terrain, as well as better acclimatized to the altitude. There is always the possibility of discovering a new landing zone, or virgin terrain never skied or snowboarded before. It is highly likely that you will have the chance to pioneer a few runs with us, since the terrain is vast, the possibilities endless, and much is yet unexplored. Return to base and dinner at the lodge.

Tuesday, Day 4: Another exciting day with more runs, powder and fun! We continue discovering the Andes and tracking new powder. Picnic at midday, then continue Heli-skiing and/or Heli-boarding. By this time the group will be well acclimatized and feeling stronger. We may go a bit higher or perhaps move to a different valley, depending on conditions, and group strength and abilities. Return to Base for dinner.

Wednesday, Day 5: After breakfast we repeat our heli-ski routine. Those who are ready for a break can soak at the nearby hot springs, go horseback riding, choose a day of resort skiing, or simply relax at the lodge.

Thursday, Day 6: After breakfast we continue with our exciting program; more Heli-time, and more turns and vertical feet in the majestic Andes Mountains. Return to Base for dinner.

Friday, Day 7: After breakfast we start our 6th and final day of our Heli-ski/board journey into the Andes. After skiing, we pack and transfer you to your hotel in Santiago, the Park Hyatt, for an enjoyable Friday evening in the city.

Saturday, Day 8: After breakfast and a relaxing morning, we transfer you to Santiago'D5s international Airport to meet your flight, or you may extend your trip and continue travelling on your own.

Classic Heli-package – 12 people 6,500 EUROS
Heli-ski/snowboard week
Based at deluxe lodge – Maipo Valley

Package includes :

- Professional UIAGM / IFMGA certified Heli-ski Guides.
- 6 full days of Heli-skiing / Heli-snowboarding.
- Private Helicopter : 21 hours of flying time. Additional flying time 1 800 Euros an hour per Group.
- 7 nights lodging, breakfast, daily Heli-picnic, and dinners included (6 nights at our deluxe Lodge and the last night at the Santiago Hyatt or Ritz Carlton Hotel).
- Ground transportation, including airport pick-up and drop off.
- Safety equipment, transceiver, probe, shovel, and backpack.
- Powder skis and/or snowboarding equipment.
- Small groups (4:1 guide ratio for our Ecureuil AS 350-B3).
- Group size base on 12 skiers/snowboarders per week.

Classic departure program with 12 skiers and 3 guides per group per week, with a total of 21 hours of flying time. Additional flying time is 1 800 EUROS / hour/ Group.

Not include in the package:

- Extra hours at 1 800 Euros per hour per group.
- Personal items and services (alcoholic beverages, tips, laundry, etc.) and expenses incurred in the case of an evacuation or rescue.
- Single supplement fee.

Other Heli-packages available every week :

- **Semi-private package (8 people):** 8 000 EUROS per person, same conditions than classic Heli-package, but only 16 hours of flying time.
- **Private package (4 people):** 11 500 EUROS per person, same conditions than classic Heli-package with 12 hours flying time.

Heli-season 2008 Schedule Available Weeks.

WEEK #	DATE	PRICE
Week # 1	JUN 14 – 21	6 500 EUROS
Week # 2	JUN 21 – 28	6 500 EUROS
Week # 3	JUN 28 – JUL 5	6 500 EUROS
Week # 4	JUL 5 – 12	6 500 EUROS
Week # 5	JUL 12 – 19	6 500 EUROS
Week # 6	JUL 19 – 26	6 500 EUROS
Week # 7	JUL 26 – AUG 2	6 500 EUROS
Week # 8	AUG 2 – 9	6 500 EUROS
Week # 9	AUG 9 – 16	6 500 EUROS
Week # 10	AUG 16 – 23	6 500 EUROS
Week # 11	AUG 23 – 30	6 500 EUROS
Week # 12	AUG 30 – SEP 6	6 500 EUROS
Week # 13	SEP 6 – 13	6 500 EUROS
Week # 14	SEP 13 – 20	6 500 EUROS
Week # 15	SEP 20 – 27	6 500 EUROS
Week # 16	SEP 27 – OCT 4	6 500 EUROS