

CERRO TORRE



Cerro_Torre.1



Cerro_Torre.2



Cerro_Torre.3



Cerro_Torre.4



Cerro_Torre.5



Cerro_Torre.6



Cerro_Torre.7



Cerro_Torre.8



Cerro_Torre.9



Cerro_Torre.10



Cerro_Torre.11



Cerro_Torre.12

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“Deamworld Cerro Torre”

The first winter ascent of the western face of the granite needle in Patagonia

From a rational point of view Cerro Torre is no more than a 3128 meter high slim and steep granite obelisk covered with a thick coat of ice, standing in Patagonia, one of the wildest regions of the planet earth. Yet the mountaineers who are once captivated by it can hardly ever resist its fascination. The same goes for Thomas Ulrich, who ascended the mountain twice: “The adventures I went through on these walls have left their mark on me. The fascination of climbing it is mingled with its history, its aura and appearance. In the summer of 1999, i.e. in the Patagonian winter, Thomas and his three friends, David Fasel, Stephan Siegrist and Greg Crouch, were the first who managed to climb the western face of Cerro Torre in winter. This route was first climbed in 1974 by a twelve-man expedition of the “Ragni”, the well-known climbing team from the Northern Italian town of Lecco, led by Casimiro Ferrari. To make an attempt on the western face of Cerro Torre in winter does not only involve a great physical challenge but also coping with tricky and varied rock as well as ice at an angle of up to 90 degrees. In Patagonia, ice does not just mean clear frozen water, but often mushrooms shapes of fresh ice resulting from the stormy damp weather. Add to this the extreme physical strain in winter: no other mountaineers for miles around, no locals but only a tiny hut as a refuge to sit out a storm.

The team of four men met the challenge courageously and with a fair amount of good luck they found themselves standing on top of the mythical mountain after their second attempt. Thomas Ulrich brought back 120 rolls of film from the mountain. His photos found their way into the “National Geographic”, the renowned American magazine; in March 2000 they published a detailed report about this first winter ascent. For Thomas a big dream had come true: “When I was in Patagonia, climbing Fitz Roy for the first time, I couldn’t help looking at Cerro Torre the whole time. I knew this was my mountain.”

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