

BerenbergKids Pico Aneto Mountain Challenge

Friday 15th – Sunday 17th June 2007

So let's begin the story on Friday 15th June, when a group of 28 Berenbergers, clients and representatives from the Kids Company reached the foot of the mountain for an hour's ascent to the Renclusa Refuge – home for the next 36 hours. Time was spent fitting crampons and settling into the 'bunk-bed style' dormitories, before facing cold showers and lights out at 22.00 for the 04.30 start the next morning.

Saturday: The four teams and their guides set off before dawn by head torch along a rocky route, the first of many terrains we were to encounter. After a short pause to attach crampons, teams began a gruelling ascent crossing the snow gullies leading to the dragon's



tail ridge separating the Maladeta and Aneto glaciers. Suddenly, the summit of Pico Aneto came into view...it was, however, still a long way off! Having crossed the boulder field, we began the final ascent across the Glacier. It is relatively gently graded as far as 3,200m (Collado des Coronas) where it then steepens noticeably as the summit approaches. Time for ice axes! The first teams to arrive, braved the final ridge (Pas de Mahoma) leading to the summit cross at 3,404m. Roping up to one other, the rest of the groups followed along this terrifying rock traverse. A menacing descent found us exhausted back at the Refuge 10.5 hours after setting off that morning.

Sunday:

Our luck with the good weather ran out by Sunday as we awoke at 04.30 (again!) to a miserable, misty morning. The day consisted of a 5 hour hike (including both ascent and descent) in the drizzling rain. Heading to the airport, goodbyes were said and the adventure was over. The challenge was a great success – scaling Pico Aneto was particularly tough, yet everyone enjoyed themselves and was rewarded by a real sense of achievement. We raised over €40,000 for BerenbergKids and would like to thank everyone for their generosity and, particularly the British Military Fitness and their guides who made this all possible.



Participants: Julia Boers, Richard Bullock (JP Morgan), Simon Chisholm, Pierre Cloux, Oliver Collin, Nolan Craig, Graeme Davies, Beate Dobler, Hamish Edsell, Christine Gärtner, Anna Goodlad, Jan Hartmann, Chloe Hill (Kids Company), Laura Lembke, Andrew McNally, Natalie Meech, Christine Oehri, Catherine Ogden, Kieran O'Sullivan, Alexandra Roche, Gerrit Roosen, Karsten Saft, Melanie Schafenberg-Uta, Tatty Sloane (Kids Company), Michael Schmitz, Luca Vicentini, Matthias Wiele, Oliver Wojahn

It is not too late to sponsor us! To make an online donation, we thank you to refer to the following website:

<https://secure.efundraising.org.uk/tailored/donation.asp?charity=93290>

