

TECHNICAL DATA

 p. 107 - From the ski resort, go up the "pista verde" ski slope and then follow the tow lift. Cross towards the left and go up the slope under the chairlift "colico". Then head for the coomb in between two big rocky hillocks "piedra blanca" and "piedra negra". Go past the remnants of a chairlift station and continue climbing above the ski slopes. Follow the obvious vallon* in the direction of the summit. You eventually get to the 35° summit slopes of 150 m.

Opposite: Villarrica lake, seen from the volcano's crater.
Below : the Villarrica smokes incessantly and often spits out lava.

Right hand page, above: the interior of the Villarrica crater with its strong odours and bordered by sulphurous, icy scales.



Comments

The climb starts from a ski resort and Villarrica is by far the most popular volcano to climb, possibly even the most popular summit in South America. On a nice day one may find up to 200 people around the crater, which fortunately forms a big esplanade with the capacity for hordes of tourists, mostly accompanied by guides.

The shores of the Villarrica lake contain black sand, a result of erosion from lava flow. On the plains, nestled between the lake and the volcano, lies Pucón whose entire economy is based on the climbing of Villarrica.

Despite the crowds, the spectacle at the top makes it an obligatory stop when in Chile. Anyway, one can avoid the crowds by starting out earlier than the

other groups, before dawn. There is intense volcanic activity: beware of the toxic vapours at the top.



Cl (t) 2847 m ■ VOLCÁN VILLARRICA ■ I1

Glacier itinerary

■ NORTH SIDE, NORMAL ROUTE ■

 1300 m(a) 1900 m(a) at chairlift	 6h00 4h30 from chairlift	 30° 35° at the end
 1547 m 947 m from chairlift	 3.1	 X
 north	 1	 191, 192, 200 209, 211, 227

