



To the Swiss Sherpa Foundation (SSS)

Report on the RAS Level 3 course in Bariloche, Argentina

Since 2018, the IFMGA, with significant support from the Swiss Mountain Guides Association (SBV), has been supporting the training of South American mountain guides in rope access techniques.

This additional training enables mountain guides to bridge the sometimes short mountain season with interesting assignments. Rope access techniques have been used by mountain guides for many decades. However, numerous new legal regulations have meant that additional training is now required for work on construction sites.

Following training courses in Peru and Bolivia, each attended by mountain guides from various countries, the Argentinians approached the IFMGA in 2025 to ask whether an experienced RAS specialist could support their first course, which they were organising independently.

Thanks to the generous support of the Swiss Sherpa Foundation, Agripino Henostroza Vargas (RAS Level 3) from Peru was able to lead the course in Bariloche from 24 to 31 May 2026.

Programme

24 and 25 May 2026

Refresher course for the experts from Argentina, Gonzalo Rodrigues Martin and Roberto Treu, together with Agripino Henostroza Vargas.

26 to 31 May 2026

Level 1 + 2 course with 11 participants from Argentina and Chile.

The five-day training course, followed by a final examination (one day), was a great success. There was plenty of discussion, but above all intensive training, so that by the end all participants were able to receive the coveted Level 1 or Level 2 diploma.

A great dynamic developed, and you could sense that the message had got through. The participants understood just how vast the opportunities are for mountain guides from South America in this industry.

Conclusion

Mountain guides worldwide are facing major changes and challenges. Climate change will transform life in the mountains and the way guests are guided worldwide.

Who has more practical experience in dealing with natural hazards than mountain guides? They can play a vital role both in prevention and in the aftermath of incidents – whether as advisers to local authorities or governments, as companions to geologists and engineers, or, in the worst-case scenario, as rescuers and aid workers following natural disasters.



INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER BERGFÜHRERVERBÄNDE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN GUIDES ASSOCIATIONS
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS DE GUIDES DE MONTAGNE



The combination of the mountain guide profession with additional training as a rope access technician demonstrates, in Switzerland too, just how important this collaboration will be in the future.

On behalf of the IFMGA and the participating IFMGA member countries – Argentina, Chile and Peru – we would like to express our sincere thanks to the Swiss Sherpa Foundation for its vital and generous support.

Urs Wellauer IFMGA President und SSS Stiftungsrat



Agripino

Gonzalo

Roberto



Bariloche, Patagonien, Argentinien



Theory



Warm-up and practice



Technology and rescue drills