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## Daniel Rothberg Summits Cerro Guillaumet in Patagonian Mountain Range



*For Immediate Release:* On January 11, 2009, Daniel Rothberg, son of LATICRETE co-owner David Rothberg, reached the summit of Cerro Guillaumet in the Southern Patagonian Ice Field, in Patagonia, near El Chalten village on the border between Argentina and Chile. With his guide Jorge Kozulj of Bariloche, Argentina, Rothberg reached the 8,000-foot summit after a multi-day, multi-pitch rock and ice climb that included a grueling 22-hour day from high camp to the summit and back. The final ascent from high camp is characterized by a snowy approach, and then 15 to 20 pitches of rock and ice in the legendary wind of the Andes Mountains.

Guillaumet is located at the northern end of Parque Nacional Los Glaciares, in the South West province of Santa Cruz, as part of the Fitzroy group. Cerro Fitzroy is an 11,000-foot high tower of granite considered one of the toughest in the world to summit, despite being half the size of the Himalayas, due to its sheer granite faces that require arduous technical climbing. The weather in Patagonia is exceptionally inclement and treacherous, and the area has long been renowned as the “home of wind.” The weather can vary from bad to abysmal, often with 100 mph winds that destroy everything in its way.

Of his journey, Rothberg said: “I’d only been in Argentina a day when Jorge suggested we should leave the following morning. Neither of us had any desire to be caught out in a Patagonian storm. The weather in Patagonia is commonly said to be amongst the worst in the world. Dark storm fronts that begin life deep in the Pacific Ocean rampage across the sea uninterrupted, the cold and wet air picking up moisture and gaining speed as it heads towards a thick belt of low pressure, termed a circumpolar trough, which rings Antarctica. When this trough has expanded over Patagonia, as is all too often the case, the storms are dragged kicking and screaming over the Andes first. It is not too uncommon to encounter wind speeds of 100 mph. When this is the case, the last place you’d want to be is up in the mountains where, as Gregory Crouch, in his book ‘Enduring Patagonia,’ quotes United States climber Jim Donini as saying, “survival is not assured.”

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Rothberg is currently a sophomore at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He has worked at LATICRETE locations in Bethany, Connecticut, Mexico and Costa Rica, and will spend his summer on Mainland China, working at LATICRETE Shanghai, while he polishes his Mandarin.

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