

The Ascent of Chimborazo, the World's Highest Mountain

Dr Andrew French

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Synopsis

The twenty one kilometre difference between the polar and equatorial radii of the Earth means the summit of Chimborazo, a massive 6310m dormant volcano in Ecuador, is actually the furthest point from the centre of our planet. In this talk you will virtually ascend several volcanoes in both Ecuador and Guatemala: from the wooded cone of San Pedro above the caldera of Lake Atitlan, to the bleached white crown of Tajumulco near the Mexican border, to the impressive glaciers of Cayembe, to regularly erupting Fuego and finally to Chimborazo itself. Dr French will blend practical tips, such as how to climb (and return) from an active volcano, how to cook *tamales*, how to take enormous panoramic photos using a cheap camera, and why you shouldn't attempt circuit training at altitude. There will be many gorgeous examples of geomorphology, and a little bit of atmospheric physics.

Bio

Dr French teaches Physics and Mathematics at Winchester College. He is also editor of Pictorial Roll, runs *ProgSoc* (the computer programming society), is Master In Charge of Athletics and is the chief instructor at the Climbing Wall. He is also a qualified Mountain Leader and has assisted with many recent expeditions. However, aspirations of again breaking 50s for 400m and climbing above 6c are, like complex numbers, likely to be imaginary.