

S² MOUNTAINEERING



7 Big Tesuque Canyon Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506
S2Mountaineering@live.com / 505.670.1441
www.S2Mountaineering.com

INVITATION

RE: Invitation to 2007 Kilimanjaro Expedition

TO: Prospective Team Members

FR: Jeff Reynolds, Expedition Director

1. **Objective.** Kilimanjaro via the Lemosho Route (19,344 ft.).
2. **Dates.** To Be Determined by Team Members - December (10 day itinerary)
3. This is a non-profit expedition being planned by experienced climbers who think mountaineering should be about a great experience rather than a profit margin. Long before climbing turned into a commercial franchise, climbers who preceded us came together and shared their dreams and passion for the mountains. They would discuss an objective, develop a plan and go with it. We think there should be an alternative to the commercial expedition - that's why we're returning to tradition with S² Mountaineering. S² Mountaineering has organized successful expeditions to many of the world's highest peaks in six continents without incident.

By organizing a non-profit climb, we have reduced the cost of the expedition to each member without compromising safety, thorough planning, group management and execution.

4. **Cost.** Based on the logistics and projected cost of services provided below, the cost is **\$3,500**. The cost includes airport transfers in Nairobi, hotel accommodation in Nairobi and Arusha, round trip transfer to Lemosho trailhead, all national park entry and camping fees, rescue service, guide service, porter and cook service, food and beverage service on the mountain, camping equipment, and emergency portable oxygen. Items not included in the cost are your airfare, personal equipment, medical/evacuation and trip insurance, gratuities (approximately \$150 total per climber), entry visas for Tanzania and Kenya, and early departure services. These are the same services and exceptions offered by commercial expeditions. Members will be expected to make a non-refundable \$1,000.00 deposit by three months prior to departure to reserve your place on the team. The remaining balance is due one month prior to departure.

5. **Difficulty.** Although no prior climbing experience is required, those with high cardiovascular fitness have the most success on Kilimanjaro. The Lemosho Route is a remote, unspoiled and very beautiful route to the Roof of Africa. The forest around the Lemosho Glades is rich in wildlife. A game ranger frequently accompanies climbers on the first day. This route is also a longer route requiring five to six days for completion. The route is a moderate, low-angle climb with no permanent snow fields. Although the route is non-technical, you should be familiar with acclimatization and cold weather camping. Depending on conditions and progress, we may spend the night in the crater just below the summit on summit day. This is a very cool experience. The most significant objective hazards are altitude and weather. Each member should be familiar with their tolerance to altitude, personal acclimatization schedule and fitness. Please review the enclosed itinerary and make sure it is within your ability.

6. **Come join us!** If you want to be a part of this great opportunity please contact us at (505)670-1441 or S2Mountaineering@live.com. We can also provide contacts to arrange a safari for members who desire to spend more time in Africa. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

10 DAY ITINERARY

- Day 1 All members arrive in Nairobi and transfer by vehicle to hotel from airport. Team orientation and gear shake-down.
- Day 2 Transfer to Arusha by vehicle.
- Day 3 This will be the first day on the mountain. Once we have completed registration at Londorossi National Park gate, we will set out on an easy day of walking through beautiful and lush forest, then continue to Lemosho Forest camp (8,700', 2-3 hours walking). As this area is home to a variety of game, including buffalo and elephant, we may be accompanied by an armed park ranger.
- Day 4 Leaving the forest behind, we will climb to the rim of the Shira Plateau. We continue to the summit of Shira Cathedral, a huge buttress of rock flanked by steep pinnacles, then reach the next camp near Shira Cave (12,200', 6-8 hours walking). This campsite has some of the most stunning views on Kilimanjaro and is near the Kibo Dome.
- Day 5 Enjoy a morning of gentle ascents and panoramic views as we leave the moorland plateau behind to walk on lava ridges beneath the glaciers of the Western Breach. After lunch near the Lava Tower junction (14,750') we descend to the bottom of the Great Barranco valley (12,800', 5-7 hours walking) sheltered by towering cliffs and extensive views of the plains below. We will overnight at Barranco Camp at 13,000 ft.

- Day 6 The path climbs steeply out of the Barranco Valley and leads to a trail on the southeastern flank of Kibo and continues to Karanga Campsite (13,700', 3-5 hours walking).
- Day 7 The terrain changes to scree as we climb steep slopes to Barafu campsite (15,100', 3-5 hours walking). At this point, Uhuru Peak is very close. The remainder of the day is spent resting in preparation for a very early departure for the final ascent.
- Day 8 Beginning at 1:00 a.m., we climb over loose volcanic scree with some well-graded switchbacks at a slow but steady pace that will take us to Stella Point (18,810') in about five or six hours. The summit at Uhuru Peak is only two hours round-trip from here along the crater rim as we pass glaciers and ice cliffs occupying the summit area. After our summit, we will descend to Mweka Camp at (12,500'). If progress permits, and we have an earlier summit day, we may spend the night in the crater just below the summit.
- Day 9 We continue our descent through the open moorlands, forest glades, and rain forests to the park gate at Mweka (5,412'. 4-6 hours walking), then return to Arusha.
- Day 10 Return to Nairobi for departures.

SUGGESTED PERSONAL GEAR

Adjustable trekking poles, crampons, heavyweight trekking boots, sport sandals, gaiters, 1 pr. of heavy wool or synthetic socks, 2 pr. of liner socks, 2 sets of lightweight underwear (tops & bottoms), mid-weight fleece jacket, 2 sets mid-weight hiking pants and tops, Gore-tex pants and jacket with hood, baseball cap, wool or fleece cold weather hat, neck gaiter, a really good pair of glacier glasses with side covers, 2 bandanas, 1 pr. of synthetic gloves, 1 pr. of Gore-Tex over mitts with liners, a minimum 4,000 cubic inch back pack, summit pack, sleeping bag rated to -0°F, compression stuff sacks, Thermo-Rest sleeping pad, closed cell pad, headlamp, camp knife, cup, spoon, bowl, sunscreen, lip screen, water bottles, water purification tablets or iodine treatment, pee bottle, personal first aid kit, personal toiletries, hand sanitizer, 4 tough plastic bags for liner protection from rain, large duffel bag w/lock, small bag with lock for storage, travel clothes and a camera.