

Special Feature

Dan Does Kilimanjaro

As promised, I am reporting back on my attempt to climb Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa. The aim was to raise money for Action for Children, a charity that supports

vulnerable children and families across the UK. I am delighted to tell you that I have now raised over £4,000 and our team of twenty climbers have raised in excess of £72,500, so this is my chance to say a huge thank you to all who supported us.



height of Mont Blanc, and began preparing for our ascent to the summit the following night. We were set to depart at 11.00pm so we did a short walk in the morning. Not much grows at that altitude, and we enjoyed

the fantastic lunar landscape and massive views. This was followed by lunch and kit preparation. Some found it hard to eat at that altitude, but I'm pleased to tell you that yours truly managed a large luncheon!

The Plains of Tanzania

Our flight in gave us wonderful views of Kilimanjaro and we all noted that our plane seemed to be flying below the top! Once we had signed in at Marangu Gate, our long awaited trek began up a muddy path through the jungle. The sounds were wonderful with Colobus Monkeys hooting at us, especially when they had young ones in tow!

Our first night was spent at 2,700m above sea level and was perfectly comfortable apart from the odd mosquito. From there, we trekked to my favourite camp at Horombo Huts. At 3,700m, the views are breathtaking, looking down on to the vast plains of Tanzania. We also had our first glimpse of the summit, known as Uhuru Peak in the distance. Needless to say, we all wondered what was in store.

Two days later, we reached Kibo Huts at 4,750m, which is just 50m less than the

Sun-rise Success on Uhuru Peak

Finally, we were off. The temperature was -10°C and it was pitch black as we zig-zagged our way up the side of the volcanic crater with our head-torches on. We were helped by our guides who sang us up the mountain, much to our surprise! The singing was a huge help and I couldn't resist joining in. By 5.45am the following morning, we had crested the crater rim, reaching Gilman's Point at 5,681m.

We then began the walk around the crater rim to Uhuru Peak, finally arriving at 6.55am to see quite simply the most incredible sun-rise. All but one of our party had made it to the top at 5,895m.

The elation of that moment is impossible to describe and very addictive! Next on the list - Mont Blanc and Aconcagua!

Dan Rogers