

kilimanjaro testimonial



I cannot thank you or your company enough my Kilimanjaro Trek was unbelievably amazing (whilst also being horrific at the same time if you are talking specifically about summit night). I signed up for Kili with you guys about 18 months ago because I needed to get out of a very dark place in my life. At the time I held the trek as a stepping stone to being able to achieve something by myself, I believed then that if I could climb the mountain I could cope with anything, and it really was about the climb, but the truth is the entire experience has given me 100 times more than I ever expected. I dedicated the last 18 months to raising money for Alzheimer Scotland as my grandpa has dementia. Without that initial target to achieve I would not have met so many amazing people, or taken part in as many fantastic mini challenges. I have gone from the

lowest point in my life to quite possibly the highest. The Kilimanjaro trek was absolutely fantastic, but being with such an amazing bunch of people really made it a life changing experience...and I have you all to thank for that.

To everyone in charity challenge you are all amazing, no matter how daft my query it was answered swiftly and personally, I cannot fault a single thing about the organisation of my trek, and it is testimony that our very experienced guide William Wagan prefers only to walk with Charity Challenge groups on the few occasions that he now climbs the mountain. Prior to the trek I had spoken with quite a few individuals who had climbed the mountain and was given lots of different tips and advice, with particular mention always being given re the food and the toilet situation. I am delighted to write that on my case they were all wrong. The two chefs we had Trophie and Jeremiah were outstanding - the quality of the food was quite unbelievable some days...we literally had three courses every single breakfast lunch and dinner - it was just amazing we were so well looked after, and the meals were exceptional with regards to providing us with the perfect balance of nutrients at the right time. Every last detail was considered throughout our trek, every single porter was priceless.

As far as our guides go I don't know where to start. William Wagana - I have never met such a kind, warm hearted patient individual. William made the trip for me - he had a fantastic sense of humour with a laugh that just made you want to laugh with him. He never lost his temper although I'm sure he was tested every single day - that said there was no doubt just how assertive he was. He was never negative and never doubted you - he has the perfect nature to be a lead guide. I really struggled with the climb in altitude around the 5400m mark, however even at my worst point he still looked me in the eye and said I was going to make it to the top - he never let doubt or a negative thought creep into my head. Between him and Jonas they made sure I was going to make it. Jonas carried my bag - my extra layers and my poles, while William linked arms with me and literally walked me step by step up the mountain. He never once let go of my arm - he gave me strength that I never knew I had. I owe my summit success to him and Jonas. William is also a fantastic judge of character because the 7 assistant guides he took with him were also fantastic and I am very grateful to have had the chance to get to know them well across the 8 day trek. Said, Wilfred, Davis, Seigfried, Henry, Jonas, Hudson and Coleman were out of this world - they each individually made sure that our Kili trek was an experience we will never forget and to them I am thankful.

As for Alex - we couldn't have had a nicer doctor to accompany us on our trip. Strange as it is I didn't see him as our doctor he was part of our group - doing the trek like us all (but with some very handy and very much required medical skills). Alex had to deal with me twice, once when I lost my sight temporarily and again on summit night. Every time I had to seek Alex's advice he was the ultimate professional. Extremely calm and reassuring...something I was ever so grateful for when I was having panic attacks on summit night. Even though he was further up the mountain I had piece of mind in my head that I knew Alex wasn't far away and that really helped me have faith to continue on. I still to this day do not know how Alex coped with summit night - he was treating probably 5 of us at the same time and even when we were back down to camp was still working hard. he must have been exhausted let alone suffering from the effects of altitude himself. He is an absolute star...and I think the experience he had from A & E certainly held him in good stead. I still find it weird talking of Alex as the doctor because he was so much more than that he was part of our group and the experience wouldn't have been the same without him - I hope to also keep in touch with Alex as time goes on.

I really cannot thank your organisation and everyone in the office enough, I will have no doubts about recommending you to friends who are considering doing fundraising in the future...and I myself hope to sign up for another challenge at some point.

With kind regards and best wishes

From

Ali Hutchison

Kilimanjaro Summit Climb