

Why Book Your Kilimanjaro Climb Through Epic Private Journeys

Thank you for your enquiry regarding a potential Kilimanjaro Climb.

There are options where you can go on a Kilimanjaro Climb at prices that are USD 300-350 cheaper per day than our climb (for the same routes as the number of days on the mountain will reflect in the total price as well) and there are a number of reasons for that:

- Firstly, pre and post climb accommodation can range from budget accommodation to super luxury and different operators use different hotels and lodges. Epic tends to swing to choices in the higher budget range of travellers as that is our client base for all our travel - whether it is a safari or a climb.
- Secondly, we have the best guides and best looked after porters and camps crews on the mountain. Our guides all get annual, comprehensive refresher guide and emergency training and we generally have sufficient guides and assistant guides per client, so that if any one person wants to descend, they will always have a fully trained guide and porter with them. Our clients to staff ratio are arguably the highest on the mountain. You will notice when you see them that our staff are well equipped for the mountain compared to other operators. We benchmark remunerations across the industry and our research and policy is such that we pay at the highest end of the salary spectrum for local staff in order to attract and retain the best staff. This inevitably means our costs are higher but so are our service levels.
- Thirdly, You will also notice that we generally have better tents and equipment than most other outfits. Guest comfort is really important, and equipment takes a hammering on the mountain so is replaced regularly. Our sleeping tents tend to be bigger and our sleeping equipment is cosy and comfortable. We take a mess tent, tables and chairs for dining comfort and the staff will even put this up at lunch time if the weather is terrible.

Our meals specifications are well planned and varied and carefully calculated to ensure the right nutrients for high altitude physical exercise. There is always enough food and it is amazing what the chefs can prepare on a single gas burner in a tent at 5000 meters!

Much of the value is in places that we hope you do not get to see - the emergency equipment and response. This also starts with the pre climb preparation. When someone asks for a formal quote from us and have deposited, we send you the pre climb information package with equipment lists, recommended training programs etc. We also ask for a pre climb medical assessment from your GP as a duty of care. We are not aware of any other company that does this. During the climb, our guides will monitor your general well being constantly. They are trained to watch changes in mood, emotions, and body language as early signs of problems. As well as this we objectively measure oxygen saturations and pulse rate using pulse oximeters morning and night. As well as this we measure perceived level of exertion each day and fluid intake against urine output to ensure adequate hydration. We carry emergency oxygen as well as many first aid medications including nifedipine and dexamethasone for altitude related illness - not to mention a range of symptomatic relief medications.

All of these measures help us maintain a success rate (on the Lemosho and Machame Routes) of well over 90% for those climbers whose intent is to summit.

We are constantly looking at ways to be the best operator on the mountain and have built a model around service and quality which costs us more to provide and we acknowledge that does come at a price to the customer, much the same as booking any holiday adventure.