

EVPA - KILIMANJARO CHARITY TREK

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Report to donors

Dear donors:

Mission accomplished!

Our group of 17 has successfully completed the trek up Mt Kilimanjaro. The charity accounts will be finalised in a few weeks' time, but current estimates put the total amount raised by all participants as approaching €300,000. This will go towards the EVPA, the Masai village of Tinga Tinga through Friends of Tanzania and charities chosen by the participants individually. Thank you for your support.



The welcome by the Tinga Tinga villagers was moving. We were taken around to see the early results from the funds we had already sent. We shook hands with the wise old villagers. We visited the works of the water supply pipeline which is now in an advanced stage of construction: once the pipeline is completed, over 9,000 people and 15,000-20,000 cattle will benefit from it. We visited the local school and were greeted by the singing of over 400 pupils. The refurbishment works had already started. Finally we were greeted by a dance in traditional Masai costumes, given specially made gifts and invited to a traditional dinner.

Getting to the top of Mt Kilimanjaro was an amazing experience. Mt Kilimanjaro is the highest freestanding mountain in the world and one of the largest volcanoes. Ours was not a technical climb, yet our 70 Km trek took us - in eight days - from an altitude of 2,000 metres to the summit at nearly 6,000 metres. Our group of 17 was assisted by 57 porters, guides and assistants and we stayed in tents all the way up. In the space of a few days we passed, as it were, from the equator to the Arctic: through tropical rain forest, Alpine meadows, moorland, desert uplands to snow and ice.



Our itinerary attacked the mountain from the West via the Lemosho Route leading to the Shira Plateau (3,500 metres), a high altitude caldera infrequently visited by climbers, then Barranco Camp (3,950 metres) and Barafu Camp at 4,600 metres from which we made the final "jump" to the peak on 5th February. On that day we set out at midnight for a very slow (thin air!) but magnificent climb, under a dark sky full of stars, with a slice of moon rising around 3pm. At 7.15am we finally reached the summit, Uhuru Peak, at 5,896 metres or 19,340 feet!

We had made it!



The EVPA has made significant progress since its formation. It has received formal endorsement from the EVCA, financial sponsorship from 3i, Barclays Private Equity and KPMG. Further sponsor discussions are underway with very high profile groups. The first EVPA conference was held on 1st December 2004 in Amsterdam with over 70 groups and individuals from over 10 European countries attending. The EVPA has also initiated a research project entitled "Opportunities and Obstacles for Venture Philanthropy in Europe", in conjunction with several prominent European universities. The results will be presented at the EVPA Annual Conference to be held in London on 15th June 2005, in conjunction with the EVCA Symposium. We will continue to update you as relevant news comes in.

