Outward Bound Kilimanjaro Climb

In August 2013, Outward Bound will be running a Kilimanjaro Climb in order to raise funds for a group of disadvantaged youth to attend one of our programmes.

Outward Bound has been operating in South Africa for almost twenty years. The whole Outward Bound experience is one of Experiential Learning. The students go on a journey of self discovery and learn more about themselves than anything else. They learn by doing.

Founded in the aftermath of Apartheid, as a result of the visionary efforts of Charles P Stetson, an American philanthropist from Connecticut, Outward Bound South Africa has the unique goal: ‘To promote greater understanding between people especially the young of different races and cultures. To work together to remove the barriers which separate the people of the world’.

As a result the Outward Bound School focuses on the courses that are interventions in the lives of young people who are trapped in the cycles of poverty, crime, violence and unemployment. It helps people discover that a disadvantaged past does not mean a disadvantaged future. The school operates courses for youth at risk, the street youth of the country, schools and corporations. It has a wide range of courses between 3 – 21 days that including hiking, camping, expeditions, orienteering, abseiling, rock climbing, sailing, canoeing, kayaking and rafting.

Outward Bound is the largest non-profit, experiential education organisation in the world. Pioneered over sixty years ago Outward Bound now has over 40 schools operating in thirty-five countries around the world. Using adventure and the outdoors, Outward Bound courses have a powerful impact on the lives of participants. Working on the premise that ‘we are all better than we know’, Outward Bound programmes transform lives.

Sibusiso Vilane

The climb will be led by Sibusisu Vilane who is one of a handful of South Africans, and the first black African, to achieve the feat of becoming members of the Seven Summits club. The Seven Summits are the seven highest peaks on each of the seven continents. In early 2012 Sibu completed the Three Poles Challenge when he trekked to the North Pole. (The Three Poles are the North Pole, the South Pole and Everest.)

Climb Information

The Outward Bound climb will take place from the 19 – 27 August 2013 and will follow the Rongai route. In order to adequately prepare you for the climb, a weekend preparation climb will be held in the Drakensburg in order to help you to come to terms with your gear and to experience some mountain climbing. This will be included in the cost of the climb but will be completely optional. Also included in the price is a donation to the Outward Bound Trust Bursary Fund and this money will be used to run a course for a group of disadvantaged youth to help them to realise that they are all better than they thought and to prepare them for their futures.
ABOUT THE MOUNTAIN

Mount Kilimanjaro, situated in Tanzania, looms above the African plains and is the highest freestanding mountain on earth. Its altitude of 5,895 metres puts its ascent in a class of its own, providing a challenge to those who wish to climb her. Kilimanjaro is situated 330kms south of the equator, close to the Indian Ocean. Its great size and height strongly influence the climate and thus its vegetation, animal life and the climbing conditions. Her volcanic history has left igneous features like none other and her cone is a unique environment of great interest.

Kilimanjaro is more than just climbing the highest mountain in Africa. It’s about an adventure with a group of people putting aside their differences to achieve a common goal and dream. It’s about pushing your mind and body to new limits in a strange and exciting place. It’s about the thrill and satisfaction of finally living your dreams. But remember that although Kilimanjaro is an easily accessible mountain it is still at altitude and is no "walk in the park". The way to make Kilimanjaro a truly special trip is to be physically and mentally prepared. It can be one of the most rewarding or most difficult things that you ever do so please don’t underestimate this beautiful mountain.

A person, about to set off for the summit, once asked us if climbing Kilimanjaro is a big deal. Let’s look at it like this. “Gillmans point is 960m above Kibo Hut. That is almost the equivalent of three Empire State Buildings standing one on top of the other. The horizontal distance between Kibo Hut and Gillman’s point is roughly 3,000m, so the gradient averages about 1:3.3 and the distance covered on the way up is about 3,300m the equivalent of 9 Empire State Buildings laid end to end up the incline. The climb is not difficult in mountaineering terms, you could say it is equivalent to scrambling up a staircase more than three kilometers long. Or you could say that it is equivalent to clambering up the side of nine Empire State Buildings laid end to end at about sixteen degrees. But then at 4,710m, where the final ascent of Kilimanjaro begins, there is little more than half the density of oxygen which occurs on Manhattan or at the foot of most staircases. So, in effect, the aspiring climber attempts the equivalent of those feats with the equivalent of only one lung. The result is agonizing, there is no other word for it”.

*Reader, J.:Kilimanjaro;Elm Tree (London), 1982
The Route

Rongai Route (Camping)

Day 1 - Depart for Kilimanjaro International Airport. Transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight in hotel.

Day 2 - Breakfast and transfer to start of route. Register at Park Gate and transfer (approximately two and a half hours) to the Rongai trailhead. Begin hiking from the village of Nale Moru. The small winding path crosses maize fields before entering pine forest, then climbs gently through a forest sheltering a variety of wildlife, including the Kilimanjaro Colobus monkey. Our campsite is on the edge of the moorland zone with expansive views of the Kenyan plains.

Day 3 Challenging ascent to the "Second Cave" where you will relax and have lunch with superb views of Kibo and the ice fields on the crater rim. After lunch proceed towards the jagged peaks of Mawenzi, where we camp in a sheltered valley near Kikelewa Caves.

Day 4 A short but steep climb up grassy slopes offers superb views of Mawanzi Peak wilderness area. The remainder of the day is spent doing an acclimatization hike for an hour around Mawanzi Tarn Camp 4200m

Day 5 – Rest day at Mawenzi Tarn Camp.

Day 6 We cross the saddle between Mawenzi and Kibo to reach Kibo Campsite 4700m. The remainder of the day is spent resting in preparation for the final ascent.

Day 7 A very early start (midnight) for the final challenge to reach Uhuru Peak (5895m). Push up further for the short haul up to Uhuru Peak. Descend to Kibo and a rest then continue down the Marangu Route to Horombo Camp

Day 8 Descend steadily through the moorland, past Mandara Hut and through a lush rain forest to the Marangu Park Gate where transport will be waiting to drive you back to Moshi. Overnight at the hotel, and time for a well deserved hot shower, dinner and relaxation

Day 9 Airport transfer for flight home.
Costs

Total Costs  R38 000,00
This includes:

- Flights to and from Tanzania including all taxes
- Experienced Adventure Dynamics guide.
- Two nights’ accommodation at a luxury five star mountain lodge.
- Free gear rental of items that you personally do not have.
  (NOTE: Although there will be no charge for the gear you may need for your trip, we will need a deposit to cover the replacement cost of any items not returned, or damaged beyond further use).
- Tips for the Tanzanian porters - $150
- Weekend Outward Bound Climbing Experience
- Contribution to Outward Bound Bursary Fund

Price does not include:

- Yellow Fever inoculation, which is compulsory.
- Lunches, drinks, items of a personal nature.
- Visa fee
- Any costs outside itinerary

A deposit of US$ 500-00 per person is required to secure your booking PLUS the payment for the confirmed airfare; and final payment is due 6 weeks prior to departure. Invoices are in US$ converted to SA Rands at the bank selling rate applicable on the day of invoicing. Payment in US$ cash are accepted. Other countries, payment to be made by your bank to ours in SA.

Further Information

Should you wish to participate in the climb, please contact Julie Staub on Julie@outwardbound.co.za and we will send you a booking form and further information. Any questions will be gladly answered by either Adventure Dynamics regarding the climb, or by Julie Staub regarding Outward Bound.