

Am I OK to attempt to climb Kilimanjaro?

If you want to do it, and plan well ahead, then the summit of Kilimanjaro can be reached by virtually anyone. However, if you are 'starting from scratch', then you will have to put a lot of training in early.

The pace is slow, sometimes frustratingly slow for fitter walkers, but a slow pace is the route to success. Why rush to get to camp when you have all day to get there? The walking is steep in parts and all pretty much uphill (until you reach the top!).

Training

A programme of walking, cycling and running/jogging is the best way to prepare yourself for the climb. You **CAN** improve your fitness and stamina through an intensifying program of exercise over a period of time. You **CANNOT** however train for altitude other than by going to altitude!

Altitude...

...can affect anyone, anytime! People who have previously been to altitude will know how to cope with it, but if it is your first time just:

- Go slowly – don't get out of breath
- Drink lots and lots of liquid (clear, colourless urine is a sign you are drinking enough)
- Keep eating – you need the energy!

On the mountain

It's the same for everyone. We camp each night in mountain tents, 2 people to a tent. Comfortable mattresses are supplied. We eat meals in a dining tent, sitting at a table. Food is varied and plentiful and most special diets can be catered for. Porters carry all your main equipment – you just carry a light daypack.

What you need

- Determination
- Dedication – put the training in well before you go.
- Health. If you are not well when you start the ascent, you are unlikely to get better as you ascend.

It's an amazing, achievable goal to reach the top of Africa. Even if you don't make it to the summit it's a great trek in a fascinating country.