

Costs Himex Everest expedition

Jan van der Meer/Russell Brice
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Question by Erik Ravenstijn

Dear Russell,

My friend Jan van der Meer and myself are interested in your Everest 2008 expedition. See for our climbing experience our websites www.mountainpassion.net and www.climbingtours.net.

We are very curious where our 42000 dollars will go to if we join your expedition. I see other commercial outfitters offering for about half the price, so what is the difference?

Greetings,

Jan van der Meer and Erik Ravenstijn

Russell Brice:

Dear Jan & Erik

Sorry for this late reply, I am just back from my extended Everest trip this year. I am now catching up on correspondence.

Everest is always a great challenge, and we never know what the conditions are going to be like, so you should always be prepared for the worst conditions. These last two years the weather and snow conditions have been great and so many people have reached the summit. Three seasons ago the season had predominantly bad weather and very few people reached the summit, however Himex had the resources to be able to still put 32 people on the summit, 75% of the clients. Last year we had 33 on the summit which was 60% of the clients. This year we had a total of 53 on the summit. We have now put 219 people on the summit of Everest which averages out to be 66% successful.

I believe that our standard of BC / ABC is better than other operators. This may not appear to be a big deal, but this all helps in overall safety and success. When you look at the people who die on Everest these days, you will see that many people have been to the summit but then sit down and die from exhaustion and altitude sickness on the way down. They do not die because of weather conditions. The reason these people are exhausted is because they have not been eating properly during the time that they are at BC / ABC and so do not have the required reserves.



We have a very sophisticated weather report, but more importantly we have people who can read and interpret this and relate it to their own observations on the mountain. Many teams get the same weather reports but can not make reliable decisions.

Our Sherpa staff 1:1 ration are by far the most experienced Sherpa's on the North side of Everest, having fixed the entire mountain with fixed rope on three occasions now. Most of these Sherpa's have been to the summit between 5 – 13 times. I do not believe that any other operator supplies a 1:1 ratio. Some of these boys have now been on over 25 expeditions with me.

My senior Western guides have all been to the summit and trainee guides have been to the summit of Cho Oyo, so all have altitude experience. All guides are full or aspirant members of the UIAGM so are trained to be guides. Many other operators do not use such qualified guides.

We are the only team that has someone overseeing summit day operations from North Col. From here we can make rational decisions from what we can see and hear from our Sherpa's, guides and clients.

We supply everyone with a radio.

We remove all of our equipment and rubbish off the mountain. We also remove all of our rubbish and human waste from ABC and BC. Most other operators do not do this, but instead leave it to be cleaned up by authorities at a later date.

All in all, Himex has the most experience on the North side of Everest. I have been there personally 15 times, 13 of these expeditions have been commercial.

Maybe you may want to contact Kiek Stam a fellow countryman who has been to the summit of Everest and Cho Oyo with me.

Jan has also been to Cho Oyo with Himex, so he has an idea about how our operation works.

I trust that this is of some help.

Kindest regards Russell Brice