

The sky over Africa The second Šibenik expedition on Kilimanjaro

We have found our new mountain

After each expedition, a mountaineer prepares for a new one: if we are lucky enough we shall ascend Elbrus, 5,462 m high, the highest peak of Kavkaz. Many alpinists consider it as the highest European peak, although officially Mont Blanc (4,807m) is the highest peak, because Elbrus is located on the very Asian border. Although it is 250 m lower than Kilimanjaro, Elbrus is more demanding and dangerous due to its cold climate and unfavorable weather conditions.

The gale-blue sky glitters over Šibenik and somewhere thousands miles far away the tropical sky glitters over Africa, and esp. Moshi, Arusha, Tanga, Manyara, Ngorongoro, Tarangire, Serengeti, villages of Massaia, Bushmen and Datoga, Mt. Meru, mythical slopes of the renowned Kilimanjaro and all the nice people we met during our unforgettable journey. Memories that shall never be forgotten shall remain in our hearts, the scent and dust of savannas on our clothes, and the sounds of virgin-forest, the voices of people, Swahili and the rhythm of Africa in our ears. The angel's touch of Africa transformed itself into an angels' touch of love for all those who waited for us patiently. We felt as if we were the chosen people. We experienced things that only a few could experience. We achieved everything we anticipated when traveling to Africa. We proved that we had a heart, and a heart has the utmost power. All of us managed to climb 5,895 m high Uhuru Peak (Liberty Peak), the highest peak of the highest African mountain, the highest freestanding African mountain and the highest extinguished volcano, Kilimanjaro.

We shall remember this journey until the end of our lives, and even when we shall not be alive our grandchildren shall tell stories about how their grandparents climbed the glittering snow-covered peak of the miraculous Kilimanjaro a long time ago.

Our grandchildren taking pride in our expedition

However, if there haven't been numerous sponsors and donators who unselfishly helped us financing this expedition on the Black Continent, it wouldn't be possible to achieve such a significant ascent of "the African roof". On this occasion we would like once again to express gratitude to all our sponsors.

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It is interesting that when you come back home from such an expedition, when you rest a bit, and tell to all of your friends how it was in the wilderness of the far world, you never say :“This was sufficient to me, now I can continue living a quiet life.“ New earnings for new journeys and new challenges arise in your mind and heart.

Soon on Kavkaz

So was the case with us. We soon started to consider a new expedition. Where and when? The choice was ample, but soon we found our new mountain.

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One winter evening on Martinska, not long after my return from Tanzania, still under the strong impression of the African journey, I sent a following message to Mato, Dečko, Sanda, Zora, Ivo and Strina:

„I am still on the streets of Moshi and on the slopes of Kilimanjaro. My soul has remained in the savannas of Serengeti and in the hot sand of Peponi, and my heart has remained for ever with you and our black friends in the dust of our dear Africa.“

I have understood the fantasy of life. We have seen Africa and ascended Kilimanjaro, as our strong wishes carried us there and already tomorrow we can go somewhere else, where our new wishes might carry us.