

Life on the Mountain

Kilimanjaro

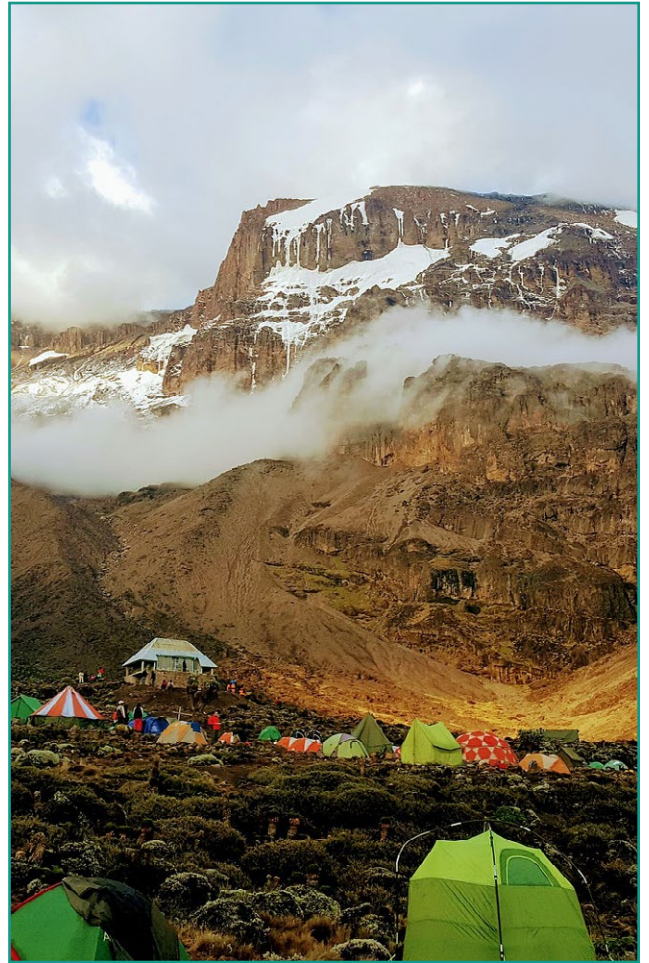
Location: Tanzania, East Africa

The famous Kilimanjaro is part of the 'Seven Summits' – the highest mountain peaks in each of the seven continents of the world. As such, it is a magnet for tourists and adventure seekers.

Some visitors attempt to climb the mountain, while others just want to experience the sight of it. Many tour operators offer trips and guided treks. The largest nearby city of Arusha attracts tens of thousands of tourists every year. Kilimanjaro International Airport is located a short drive away.

Coffee beans and bananas are grown on the mountain slopes and were once extremely popular exports. Smaller family farms still exist but tourism has become a much more popular source of income.

Tourists can enjoy walking safaris and cultural tours to get a flavour of the local African surroundings. Accommodation ranges from luxury hotels to smaller village community lodges.



Can you list three jobs that might be found on this mountain?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

How would life be different for local people without the mountain?

Would you like to live near the base of this mountain? Explain your reasons.

Life on the Mountain

Matterhorn

Location: Switzerland / Italy, Europe.

The famous Matterhorn peak is a distinctive peak which sits on the border between Switzerland and Italy. It is part of the Alps mountain range. The nearest town is Zermatt in Switzerland, which is a famous and popular tourist attraction.

A beautiful train journey connects the village of Zermatt with nearby St Moritz. Both are famous for their sporting activities and events. Zermatt is a famous ski resort and mountaineering destination which draws visitors from all over the world to its slopes. Even newcomers can come to take skiing lessons in the beautiful surroundings. It is also a starting point for a hike into the mountains. Thousands of people live in the area of the town, which has many hotels, bars and restaurants. A chairlift takes skiers to the top of the slopes.

Electric buses and taxis operate in the area around the base of the mountain, in order to prevent pollution from cars. The railway is a popular way to reach the area, which can be bustling with tourists during peak seasons.



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Denali

Location: Alaska, USA

Formerly known as Mount McKinley, the mountain is situated in Denali National Park. It is climbed regularly now by tourists on guided group treks, with an ascent taking between two to four weeks.

High-quality accommodation is available within the national park with high standards of customer service. There are also camping facilities and lodges. The nearest city, Anchorage, provides transport by plane, bus or car to travel to Denali.

The National Park Service maintains the conservation and scientific study of the area, including its varied wildlife. Wolves, bears, caribou and moose all inhabit the national park in which the Denali mountain is located. Dall sheep can be found high up the mountain along with a wide range of bird species.

While there is plenty of green space lower down, the peaks are covered with snow and glaciers flow away from them. Winter activities here including snowmobiling, dog sledding and cross-country skiing.



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Mount Fuji

Location: Japan

Mount Fuji has spiritual and religious importance to local people near its location in Japan. It has always been a popular subject for artists and features beautiful surrounding scenery, including several lakes.

Located on one of Japan's islands, the area has a peak climbing season of early July to mid-September when the weather conditions are best. Climbing it is so popular during a festival week in August that climbers have to queue at some passages.



In the nearby forests and woodland areas, squirrels, foxes and birds can commonly be spotted as well as some rare sightings of black bears and the unusual Japanese serow. Three cities are also within easy reach of the sacred mountain, providing transport and further accommodation.

A number of basic hotels are scattered around the mid-slopes of the mountain, which are ideal resting points for climbers. One of the more unique experiences at the peak, for those who manage to get there, is a tiny post office. Only open in summer, it allows visitors to prove their conquest by sending a postcard stamped with 'Mount Fuji'. You can also buy a hiking stick en route and get it 'stamped' at the various tourist shops up the trek.

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