

FRANSCHHOEK TATLER

NOVEMBER 2007

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Bridge House Pupils Summit Kilimanjaro

On the 19th of September 2007 Natasha Venning (16), Manon Colmant (16) and her brother Denis Colmant (14) summited Kilimanjaro's Uhuru Peak, the highest point in the Kilimanjaro range, at 5,895m high or 19,340 feet.

The group consisted of 13 climbers who were taken up Kilimanjaro by Simon Struben of Adventure Afrika. This was Simon's 21st trip to the summit of Kilimanjaro. All climbers in the group managed to summit and they included Clive Venning of Boschendal, Natasha's father, Jean-Philippe Colmant the father of Manon and Denis and the owner of "Colmant Cap Classique and Champagne", Maarten de Graaf owner of the "Elephant and Barrel Pub", Bill Stemp the owner of "Les Chambres B&B" in Franschhoek and Michael and Kristina Pawlowski, who are in the process of



From left to right Denis and Manon Colmant and Natasha Venning take a breather at the summit!

moving to Franschhoek. Two Canadians, John Redfern and Tony Smith and two Belgians, Damien Coupet and his 14 year old son, Achille Coupet also joined the trip.

The group did a 6 day climb, starting at Marangu Gate with the 1st night at Mandara Huts, where they climbed from

1,840m to 2,675m. Day 2 was spent at Horombo Huts, at an altitude of 3,725m. Day 3 was an acclimatization day where the group walked up to 4,600m and back down to Horombo Huts, where they spent the night. Day 4 the "pre-summit day", the group arrived at lunch time at Kibo Summit Camp, which has an altitude of 4,700m. At 23:30 that night they set off for Uhuru Peak at 5,895m passing Gilman's Point 5,685m and Stella Point 5,756m. Temperatures dropped to -9 degrees excluding wind chill and the group spent 10 hours reaching the Peak and a further 7 hours walking down the mountain where they spent the night at Horombo Huts at an altitude of 3,725m. The final day was spent walking from Horombo Huts to Marangu gate. The total kilometers covered by the group, was just over 100kms in 6 days.

All members of the group have recovered well and are looking for the next challenge.

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