



35TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

Africa's Geological Summits

Field Trip Participant Information Pack



Africa's Geological Summits (15 to 24 August 2016) is an exciting fieldtrip being held before the 35th International Geological Conference.

The 35th IGC, Geological Society of South Africa, AngloGold Ashanti and Adventure Dynamics International, will collaborate to lead a group to the deepest point on the African continent and then to the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro – the highest point on the African continent. This combined distance is greater than Everest! The group will raise awareness of the importance of geology as a natural heritage on the continent. A special conference message will be recorded for use at the opening ceremony.

This information pack provides all relevant information of the geological expedition.



Introduction

South Africa will be hosting the 35th 'World Cup of Geosciences' in 2016, the prestigious International Geological Congress (IGC), which is undoubtedly the most important activity of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). The South African event will take place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 27 August to 4 September 2016.

The objectives of the IGC are to:

- Contribute, in collaboration with and under the sponsorship of the IUGS, to the advancement of fundamental and applied research in the geological sciences.
- Provide a general assembly of geoscientists, spanning a wide range of geoscience disciplines, where ideas and information can be freely exchanged.
- Emphasize the geological specialties or challenges of the host country or region.
- Provide the opportunity, by way of geological excursions, to examine geological problems and features in the field.

Only two of these prestigious conferences have been held in Africa before. The first was hosted by South Africa in Pretoria in 1929 and the other was held in Algeria in 1952.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you back to Africa for the 35th IGC in 2015!

Africa's Geological Summits: Deepest and Highest points of the African continent

The 35th IGC together with AngloGold Ashanti and the Geological Society of South Africa present the geological excursion for the adventure seeker! The trip starts by descending to the deepest point on the African continent: the Mponeng Gold Mine (-4200m) in the heart of the Witwatersrand Gold deposit then transfer to Moshi, Tanzania where we ascend, via the highly successful Rongai route, to the very highest point of the African continent: Kilimanjaro (5895m) at the edge of the African Rift Valley. By completing this "greater than Everest ascent" you will become part of a very select group having been to the highest and lowest points on the African continent: each a geological superlative in their own right. We will record a special summit message to be used during the opening ceremony of the 35th IGC. Each participant will receive a special edition plaque and branded sweatshirt in recognition of this unique adventure and double geological summit!

Adventure Dynamics International

Adventure Dynamics International (ADI) has been leading and guiding trips up Kilimanjaro for over 15 years and their knowledge, expertise and professional staff make their expeditions a truly great experience. They guide to mountains around the world and thrive on the fact that they are professional

climbers. This gives them the opportunity to impart the knowledge and service necessary to make this an unforgettable expedition.

Kilimanjaro is more than just climbing the highest mountain in Africa. It's about an adventure with a group of people to achieve a common goal and dream. It's about pushing your mind and body to new limits in a strange and exciting place. ADI offers all routes on Kilimanjaro and the 35th IGC organizers have chosen the Rongai route for this expedition, for its scenic beauty and high summit success, due to increased acclimatization. We are especially fortunate to have global mountaineer and double 7 Summiteer – Sean Disney - as the climb leader.

Climb Leader: Sean Disney

- CEO and Owner of Adventure Dynamics International
- 23 years experience of mountaineering & guiding
- 2 times Everest summiteer
- 2 times 7-Summits summiteer
- 20 times Kilimanjaro summiteer
- First South African to complete GRAND SLAM with Vaughan De La Harpe, includes skiing to North and South Pole
- Author of the book *“Poles Apart with some pointy bits in between”*

35th IGC Co-Leader: Dr. Jeannette E. McGill

Jeannette McGill has been to Kilimanjaro twice. She has been to the North Col of Everest and most recently been the 1st South African women on Manaslu, the 8th highest mountain in the world. A seasoned mountaineer, she is also President of the Geological Society of South Africa and Co-President of the 35th IGC. She is passionate about sharing mountain adventures with others having lead groups on the Drakensburg escarpment previously for the Mountain Club of South Africa. Coupled with her geological and mining acumen she is well placed to co-lead this exciting trip together with Sean Disney.

The Mine

CHALLENGE

Gold-mining is the backbone of the South African economy. Generations of families have gold mining in their heritages. The opportunity to go to the deepest accessible part of the Witwatersrand Basin is truly remarkable and would not be possible without the support of AngloGold Ashanti.

Mponeng Gold Mine, situated in South Africa, near Johannesburg is one of the world's deepest and richest gold mines with grades at over 8g/t. The name means 'look at me' in the local Sotho language. Mponeng is located on the north-western rim of the Witwatersrand Basin. There are several gold bearing conglomerates within the lease area. Currently all mine production is sourced from the Ventersdorp Contact Reef (VCR) a gold-bearing quartz-pebble conglomerate, capping the last angular Witwatersrand non-conformity.

We arrive at the mine where we are briefed and attend a safety induction. We will then be provided with suitable protective wear (PPE) for the underground visit. A two-stage journey in a triple decker mining cage will drop us vertically to the deepest point at 3,900m below surface where we also might see an active working stope in the Witwatersrand gold deposit.

The Mountain

CHALLENGE

Mount Kilimanjaro, situated in Tanzania, looms above the African plains and is the highest freestanding mountain on earth. Its altitude of 5,895 metres puts its ascent in a class of its own, providing a challenge to those who wish to climb her.

Kilimanjaro is situated 330kms south of the equator, close to the Indian Ocean. Its great size and height strongly influence the climate and thus its vegetation, animal life and the climbing conditions. Her volcanic history has left igneous features like none other and her cone is a unique environment of great interest.

It's about the thrill and satisfaction of living your dreams. But remember that although Kilimanjaro is an easily accessible mountain, it is still at altitude and is no "walk in the park". The way to make Kilimanjaro a truly special trip is to be physically and mentally prepared. It can be one of the most rewarding or most difficult things that you ever do so please don't underestimate this beautiful mountain.

CLIMATE

August in Johannesburg is late winter becoming spring. Day time temperatures start low (5-8°C) and peak (18-22°C) by midafternoon. A light jacket is preferable for evenings.

An ascent of Kilimanjaro will take you from Equatorial forests to arctic conditions, and through all the zones in between, in six days. The range begins with the warm, dry plains with average temperatures of 30°C where Moshi and Arusha are situated. The beginning of the hike starts in a wide belt of wet tropical forest with plenty of huge trees and Spanish moss. We then travel through zones with generally decreasing temperatures and rainfall, to the summit where there is permanent ice and where temperatures are below freezing. Weather on Kilimanjaro is a direct result of the season of the year and the altitude on the mountain. August is cool and can have completely clear days, but usually a dripping cloud belt girdles the mountain above the forest and moorland. The summit can be totally clear and the successful climber looks down on a vast sea of cloud with distant mountain peaks poking through like islands.

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

10 Day Itinerary

Day 0: Sunday 14 August 2016:

Optional early day to check into excursion hotel and do any last minute shopping at nearby Sandton City. Overnight at excursion hotel: The Capital Empire, Sandton. Note: Cost is additional.

*Day 1: Monday 15 August 2016: Deepest point on African continent **Altitude: 3,900m below surface***

Full group convenes - depart excursion hotel at 07:00 – group transport to the AngloGold Ashanti Mponeng mine site – Mine induction and safety briefing – proceed underground to the deepest point on the African continent – Overview of the geological superlative: Witwatersrand Basin – transfer back to excursion hotel: The Capital Empire and overnight, dinner at an award winning steak house is included. For individuals electing not to overnight at the hotel the expectation is that you still join the group for dinner as this is important for team dynamics and information sharing purposes.

Day 2: Tuesday 16 August 2016: Travel to Tanzania

Early breakfast at Sandton hotel – transfer to ORT - depart South Africa for Tanzania arriving at Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) in Arusha – overnight at the Protea Hotel Moshi.

*Day 3: Wednesday 17 August 2016: Rongai Gate to 1st Caves Camp **Altitude: 1 950m to 2 600m***

Breakfast at hotel then drive and register at Kilimanjaro National Park Gate and transfer (approximately two and a half hours) to the Rongai trailhead. Begin hiking from the village of Nale Moru. The small winding path crosses maize fields before entering pine forest, then climbs gently through a forest sheltering a variety of wildlife, including the Kilimanjaro Colobus monkey. Our campsite is on the edge of the moorland zone with expansive views of the Kenyan plains.

*Day 4: Thursday 18 August 2016: 1st Caves Camp to Kikelewa Caves **Altitude: 2600m to 3450m***

Challenging ascent to the "Second Cave" where you will relax and have lunch with superb views of Kibo and the ice fields on the crater rim. After lunch proceed towards the jagged peaks of Mawenzi, where we camp in a sheltered valley near Kikelewa Caves.

*Day 5: Friday 19 August 2016: Kikelewa Cave to Mawenzi Tarn Camp **Altitude: 3450m to 4335m***

A short but steep climb up grassy slopes offers superb views of this wilderness area. The vegetation zone ends shortly before we reach our next camp at Mawenzi Tarn spectacularly situated beneath the towering spires of Mawenzi. Spend the afternoon relaxing and acclimatising.

*Day 6: Saturday 20 August 2016: Rest day at Mawenzi Tarn **Altitude: 4335m***

Active rest day to assist in acclimatization for successful summit – Group overview of the geological superlative: African Rift Valley volcanics

*Day 7: Sunday 21 August 2016: Mawenzi Tarn Camp - Kibo Hut **Altitude: 4335m to 4750m***

We trek across the saddle between Mawenzi and Kibo to reach Kibo Campsite. The remainder of the day is spent resting in preparation for the final ascent with an early night.

*Day 8: Monday 22 August 2016 **SUMMIT DAY: Crater Camp - Uhuru Peak - Horombo Hut, **Altitude: 4335m to 5895m (Summit) then down to 3720m*****

A very early start (midnight) for the final challenge to reach Uhuru Peak (5 895m). Push up further for the short haul up to Uhuru Peak. Remember to take in your day pack, energy bars - biltong is also very good, and munch along the way. Hike slowly on a switchback trail through loose volcanic scree. Rest for a short time to enjoy the spectacular sunrise over Mawenzi. Continue to Uhuru Peak passing close to spectacular glaciers and ice cliffs in the summit area. Team to record a special message via satellite phone and video for 35th IGC conference opening ceremony. Descend to Kibo and a rest then continue down the Marangu Route to Horombo Camp for a well-deserved rest.

*Day 9: Tuesday 23 August 2016: Descent **Altitude: 3720m to 1900m***

Descend steadily through the moorland, past Mandara Hut and through a lush rain forest to the Marangu Park Gate where transport will be waiting to drive you back to Moshi. Overnight at the Protea Hotel Moshi, and time for a well-deserved hot shower, dinner and enjoy double summit celebrations.

Day 10: Wednesday 24 August 2016 – Depart Tanzania –and arrive in Johannesburg. **Excursion ends.**

COST OF PACKAGE

SUMMARY

To be indicated on the booking form with total amount due

Item	Cost	Comment
Premium Double Summits	USD 2875	As per detail below
Total Flight cost	TBD	Pricing is time sensitive
<i>Optional Extra's</i>		
Pre-excursion night 0 – Capital Empire Hotel (Bed and Breakfast)	ZAR 1400	
Either: Excursion night 1 – Capital Empire Hotel (Group Dinner, Bed, Breakfast)	ZAR 1650	
OR: Group Dinner at The Local Grill on Night 1 – if not overnighing at hotel	ZAR250	It is strongly suggested that participants not at the hotel join the team for the dinner
Transfer to ORT airport from Capital Empire Hotel for departure to Tanzania	ZAR 150	

PREMIUM DOUBLE SUMMITS PACKAGE

- Mine Visit and Kilimanjaro Rongai Route 7 days / 6 nights + 2 travelling days

Full Package Cost = USD 2875 (excluding flight prices)

Excludes flight Cost @ approx. ZAR7500 see Critical Steps/Dates)

A deposit of USD 1000 per person is required to secure your booking PLUS 50% payment of confirmed airfare; with final payment due 6 weeks prior to departure. Invoices for the cost of the package are in USD converted to SA Rands at the bank-selling rate applicable on the day of invoicing. Payment in USD cash is accepted. Out of country payments are to be made by your bank to Adventure Dynamics International in SA. Please refer to critical dates section for more information.

The total cost of the trip is determined by current exchange rates and the cost of flights, which cannot be confirmed until booked and paid. We are currently investigating flight prices and will revert with a final estimated total cost at the briefing on the 24 May 2016.

Full Package Includes:

- Fully guided mine visit, lunch, and transfers to and from AngloGold Ashanti Mine
- Fully guided expedition by expert mountain guide, Sean Disney ex: Johannesburg
- 2 nights' accommodation Protea Hotel Moshi on a dinner, B&B basis
- All porters, park fees, camping accommodation and exclusive toilets on the mountain
- All meals as well as mountain rescue while doing the climb
- 2 airport transfers in Tanzania
- Training program designed by Adventure Dynamics International
- Gear briefing in Johannesburg with optional Skype link for those who are unable to attend in person
- Optional gear check (if required) on day 0 of the trip
- Discounts at Drifters retailers in Sandton City for gear purchases
- Free gear rental of items that you personally do not have, (see what is included under Gear)
- Limited edition fully branded expedition apparel
- Limited edition expedition plaque sponsored by AngloGold Ashanti

Excludes:

- Spending money for drinks, curios and extras for the full duration of the excursion
- Lunches off the mountain, drinks, items of a personal nature
- Hospitalisation, evacuation or medical costs (ADI can advise, it is strongly suggested that you have)
- Any costs outside the itinerary
- Any aviation fuel tax surcharge (beyond our control and advised by the Airline at short notice).
- Any unforeseeable increase in Park permit and entrance fees, camping fees and/or any other associated park and government fees.
- Tips for Tanzanian guides (a minimum of USD 180 per participant is required)
- All flights

FLIGHT COSTS

The best flight and connections from Johannesburg to Kilimanjaro International airport will be communicated to participants in early 2016. Discussions are being held to secure preferential pricing options.

Independent travel arrangements will be considered on a case by case arrangement but are not encouraged.

OPTIONAL EXTRA'S

-Pre-excursion extra night at The Capital Empire Hotel for individuals wanting an extra night in Johannesburg or to complete final gear check and/or shopping at nearby Sandton City.

- 1 night accommodation at The Capital Empire Sandton Hotel (B&B basis)

- Dinner at award winning Local Grill Restaurant, in Parktown North – South Africa's Steakhouse of the Year 2014 and 2015, for the purposes of briefing, group dynamics and communications it is expected that all participants do attend the dinner. Price is for the meal only – drinks are for own account. Transport will be provided return from hotel.

- Airport transfer from the Capital Empire Hotel to ORT on morning of departure to Tanzania

Gear

A full breakdown of the gear required for this expedition will be provided upon payment of a deposit and will also be discussed at a gear briefing to be held in Johannesburg and via Skype for overseas participants. As this is a premium package certain gear rental is included free of charge in the expedition cost: Day pack, Sleeping Bag rated -8 degrees, Waterproof / Windproof Jacket, Fleece Jacket, 80 litre duffle bag, windproof gloves, Head Torch (excluding batteries), Snow Gaiters, Sleeping Mat

(NOTE: Although there will be no charge for the free gear rental included in the package cost, we will need a deposit to cover the replacement cost of any items not returned, or damaged beyond further use)

Training program

On booking you will be sent a training program and gear list designed for success on mountains. This should be started at least 6 weeks before departure. The training program is necessary for several reasons:

- It maximizes your chances of success on Kilimanjaro
- It provides the opportunity for climbers in their respective areas to meet each other.
- It provides time mentally and physically to prepare for the climb ahead.

Critical Steps / Dates

BY 1 APRIL 2016

- MAKE A DECISION ON WHETHER YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THE EXPEDITION AND NOTIFY JEANNETTE MCGILL. jeannette.mcgill@gmail.com

BY 11 APRIL 2016

- ADI WILL SEND YOU AN APPLICATION FORM AND REQUEST PAYMENT OF A USD 1000 DEPOSIT AND 50% OF THE FLIGHT COST.

BY 20 APRIL 2016

- ADI WILL SEND YOU A DETAILED GEAR LIST AND TRAINING GUIDE. GEAR DISCOUNT AVAILABLE FROM DRIFTERS IN SANDTON CITY.

BY 30 APRIL 2016

- JEANNETTE MCGILL WILL CONFIRM A DIARY OF TRAINING DATES FOR EACH MONTH LEADING UP TO DEPARTURE WHERE INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS CAN JOIN HER FOR LATE AFTERNOON OR DAY OUT TRAINING AT VARIOUS SUITABLE JOHANNESBURG LOCATIONS.

IN MAY 2016

- A GEAR BRIEFING BY SEAN DISNEY WILL TAKE PLACE IN JOHANNESBURG WITH SKYPE FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

BY 1 JULY 2014

- BALANCE OF FIELDTRIP PAYMENT DUE TO ADI

- FINAL PAYMENT OF FLIGHT COSTS DUE TO ADI

- **EXPEDITION START DAY – 15 AUGUST 2016 (JOHANNESBURG)**

- **EXPEDITION END DAY – 24 AUGUST 2016 (JOHANNESBURG)**

- **35th IGC CONFERENCE BEGINS – 27 AUGUST 2016 (CAPE TOWN)**

Media Strategy

To create ongoing awareness of the expedition we will be communicating through various sources of media, leading up to and during the expedition.

Radio - will be used to create awareness and raise sponsor funds for the 35th IGC conference leading up to the conference opening.

Facebook - will be used to communicate with expedition members, friends and family leading up to and during the expedition.

Website - we are looking to create a small site for publicity purposes and also as a functional platform to post pictures and video while on the expedition.

Video – Genevieve Pearson (Geoheritage Chair for both LOC & GSSA) will film and photograph the expedition, and a professional editor will ensure the video and summit message is available for the opening ceremony

SPOT Africa will provide real time tracking with a feed to social media.

Contact Details:

2016 35TH IGC – AFRICAN GEOLOGICAL SUMMITS

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