



# **The Chomolungma Diaries: What a commercial Everest expedition is really like (Footsteps on the Mountain travel diaries Book 17)**

*Mark Horrell*

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Are you tired of reading mountaineering disaster stories which tarnish the reputation of Everest by focusing on all that's negative about climbing it?

Are you longing to read an account that more accurately reflects what a commercial expedition to climb Everest is really like?

You might be forgiven for thinking that Everest has become the playground of glamorous celebrities and multimillionaire businessmen who have difficulty climbing the stairs, never mind a mountain. Many books and news stories about mountaineering disasters leave you thinking that anyone can climb Everest if they pay enough money, and that Sherpas will carry you up if necessary. They conclude that if you put enough of these rich fools together, then tragedy is inevitable, and they take great delight in telling you all about it.

This is not one of those stories, and it aims to dispel those popular myths surrounding Everest. It does so by telling the true story of an ordinary climber on an ordinary commercial expedition to reach the summit of the world's highest mountain.

The reality is that most Everest climbers are not rich at all. They are normal people who have saved up over many years, climbed many mountains, and made career sacrifices and lifestyle choices along the way.

The Chomolungma Diaries is the journal of Mark Horrell's expedition to climb Everest from the north side in 2012, a year when there were many fatalities on the south side. While the world's media were working themselves into a frenzy about the queues of commercial climbers and the personal tragedies taking place on the other side of the mountain, Mark's team were quietly getting on with the job of preparing to summit from the north. It follows the hopes and the disappointments, the excitement and the boredom, the banter and the arguments of a team of ordinary people preparing for the biggest day of their lives; and it highlights the superhuman efforts of the Sherpas in helping them to achieve their dream

But nothing about Everest is ordinary, and there's more than enough excitement when your life is clipped into a narrow line of cord five miles above the Earth. Those who think Everest is easy have never been up onto the Northeast Ridge and experienced the world's most terrifying ridge walk. This diary will bring you just a little bit closer to that experience.

Ordinary people doing something extraordinary - a refreshing antidote to mountaineering disaster books and movies.

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