

# Into Thin Air (1996 climb of Everest) by Jon Krakauer (1997)

Base camp is at 17,600'; Camp One at 19,500'; Camp Two at 21,200'; Camp three at 24,000'; Camp Four at 26,000 & the top of Mt. Everest is at 29,028'. The highest peaks on the seven continents are 29,028' Everest (Asia); 22,834' Aconcagua (S. America); 20,320' McKinley [aka Denali] (N. America); 19,340' Kilimanjaro (Africa); 18,510' Elbrus (Europe); 16,067' Vinson Massif (Antarctica); & 7,316' Kosciusko (Australia). Base camp has half the oxygen as sea level & the summit only has 1/3.

Some people are willing to pay \$65,000 for a guided/supported trip to the top of the world, but then put everyone's life in jeopardy by not adequately preparing themselves. There is only a 75% average survival rate as it is. The Sherpa (local workers) is invaluable. At high altitude the brain doesn't think clearly and bad decisions can cost you your life. Too many died on the trip because of it. Most use oxygen above 25,000' (death zone).

When hiking, turn around at key points and see the trail from another view for the return trip. The weather can change quickly high on the mountain. From base camp they would take weeks hiking to get acclimated to the high altitude. The author actually went to the summit on this trip he documented. The leaders Robb Hall & Scott Fisher died along with several others.

Quotes: Some people have big dreams, some have small dreams. Whatever you have, the important thing is never stop dreaming. (Doug Hansen)

Books: Into the Wild (Jon Krakauer)