

Geography Lesson 1

Mountain Information

Denali



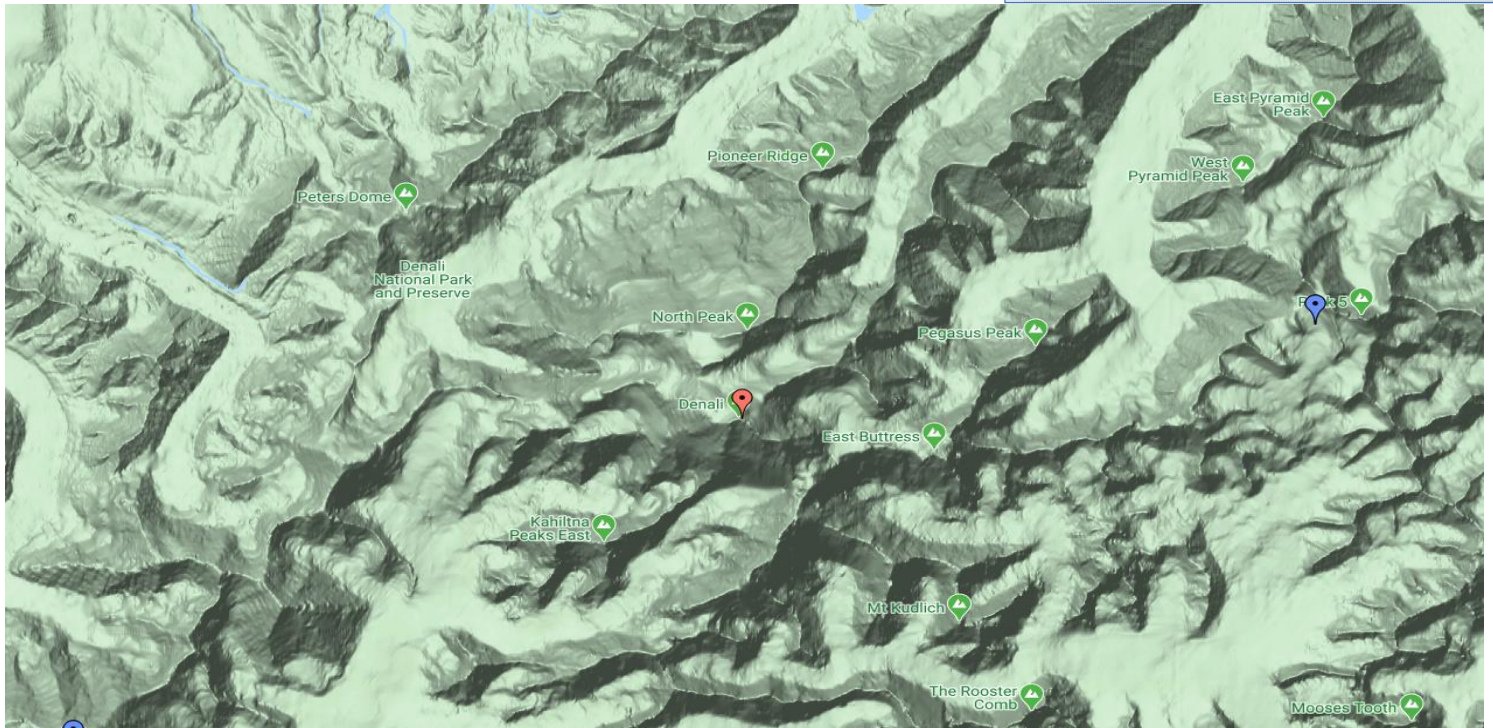
[Home](#) [Photos](#) [Videos](#) [Trip Reports](#)



Photo by [Tom Buzek](#), all rights reserved.

Mount McKinley is the highest peak in North America. It is a huge snowy mass, flanked by five giant glaciers and countless icefalls. It dominates the horizon from as far south as Cook Inlet, 200 miles away, and as far north as Fairbanks, 150 miles away. Its steep unbroken south slope rises 17,000 feet in twelve miles. Five major ridges extend from the summit, and many spurs and buttresses extend from these. The mountain is increasingly known by its native name, Denali, which means The Great One in the Athabaskan language. Denali is not an especially difficult climb technically, but the weather is more severe here than anywhere else in the world, and many lives have been lost attempting the ascent. The number of attempts on the summit have increased dramatically in recent years, and a greater percentage of these are ending in failure.

Elevation (feet):	20,320
Elevation (meters):	6,194
Continent:	North America
Country:	United States
Range/Region:	Alaska Range
State:	Alaska
Latitude:	63.0694
Longitude:	-151.004
Difficulty:	Major Mountain Expedition
Best months for climbing:	Apr, May, Jun
Year first climbed:	1913
First successful climber(s):	Hudson Stuck, Harry Karstens, W. Harper, R. Tatum
Nearest major airport:	Anchorage, Alaska
Convenient Center:	Talkeetna, Alaska



Aconcagua



Home Photos Videos Trip Reports



Photo by [Rodrigo Mujica-Aventuras Patagonicas](#), all rights reserved.

the weather, which on Aconcagua can quickly become severe.

Aconcagua is the highest mountain in the Western hemisphere, located in western Argentina, near the Chile border. Aconcagua is a gigantic mass of rock, not picturesque in the traditional Alpine sense, but magnificent by its size alone. It dominates the sky east of Santiago, Chile's capital city, and is visible from the Pacific coast, 100 miles away.

Though the mountain's summit crest and radiating ridges are largely windswept free of snow, large glaciers fill the valleys on all but the southern and western flanks. Some climbing routes are relatively straightforward hikes to the top, but this is the very reason that Aconcagua has one of the highest mountain death tolls in the world: It is a popular mountain, and many of its climbers tend to move too swiftly up the mountain, with little respect for the elevation or

Elevation (feet):	22,841
Elevation (meters):	6,962
Continent:	South America
Country:	Argentina
Range/Region:	Central Argentina-Chile
Latitude:	-32.653359
Longitude:	-70.011234
Difficulty:	Major Mountain Expedition
Best months for climbing:	Jan, Feb, Mar
Year first climbed:	1897
First successful climber(s):	Matthias Zurbriggen
Nearest major airport:	Mendoza, Argentina
Convenient Center:	Mendoza, Argentina



Mount Kilimanjaro



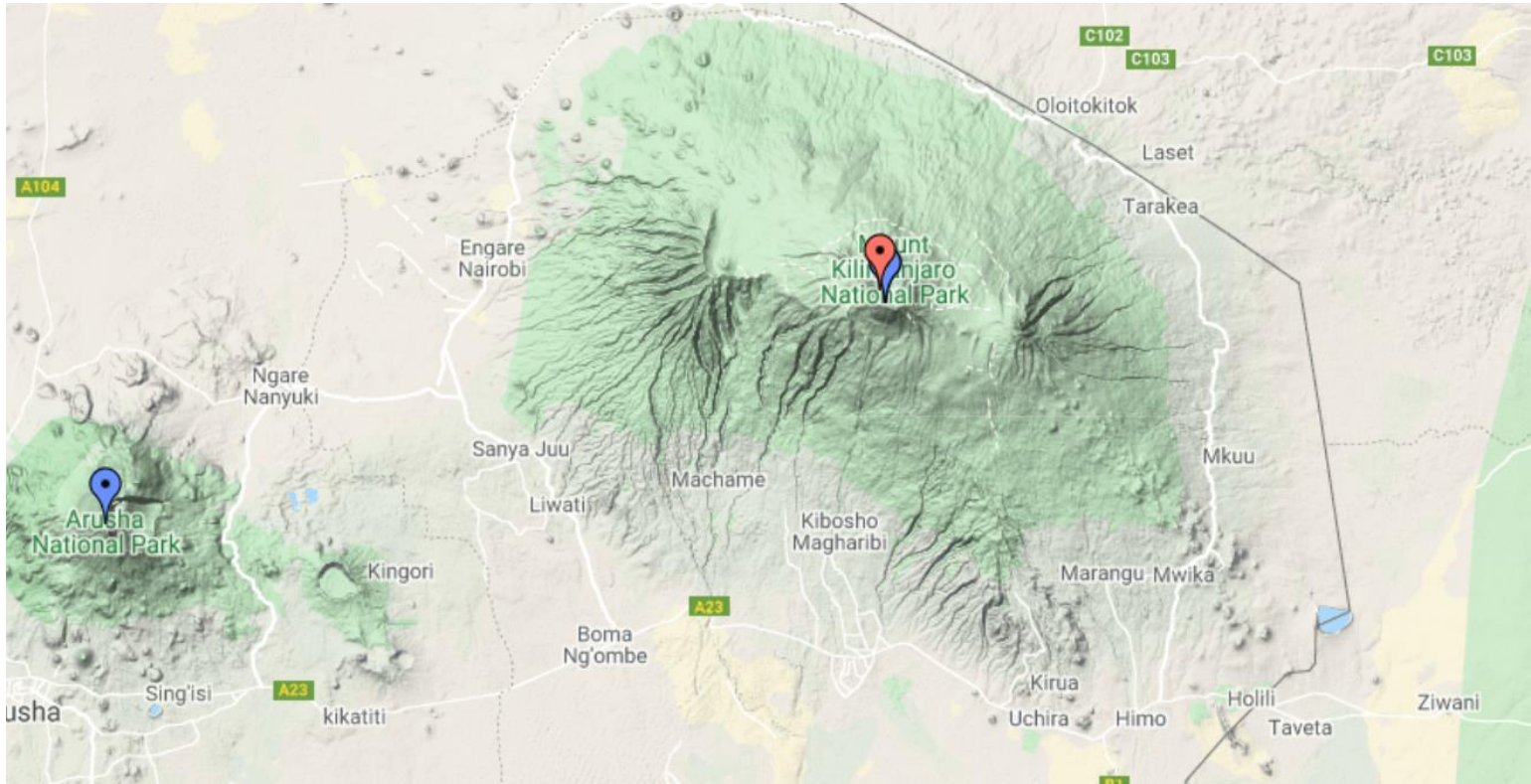
- Home
- Photos
- Videos
- Trip Reports



Photo by [Tiju Aziz](#), all rights reserved.

Extremely prominent mountain at 10,000+ feet from base to summit. It is a long hike usually broken into 4 to 7 days. It is not particularly hard, but Tanzania requires you to have a native guide with you. The trail moves from the Jungle, through the Serengeti, up to high desert like landscape, and ultimately to barren desert at the top (if you're lucky some of the glacier will still be there when you climb, but not for long).

Elevation (feet):	19,340
Elevation (meters):	5,895
Continent:	Africa
Country:	Tanzania
Range/Region:	Northeast Tanzania
Latitude:	-3.06667
Longitude:	37.35
Difficulty:	Walk up
Best months for climbing:	Jan, Feb, Mar, Jun, Jul, Aug, Dec
Year first climbed:	1889
First successful climber(s):	Hans Meyer, L. Purtscheller
Nearest major airport:	Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA), Tanzania
Convenient Center:	Marangu via Moshi, Tanzania



Mount Elbrus



Home Photos Videos Trip Reports



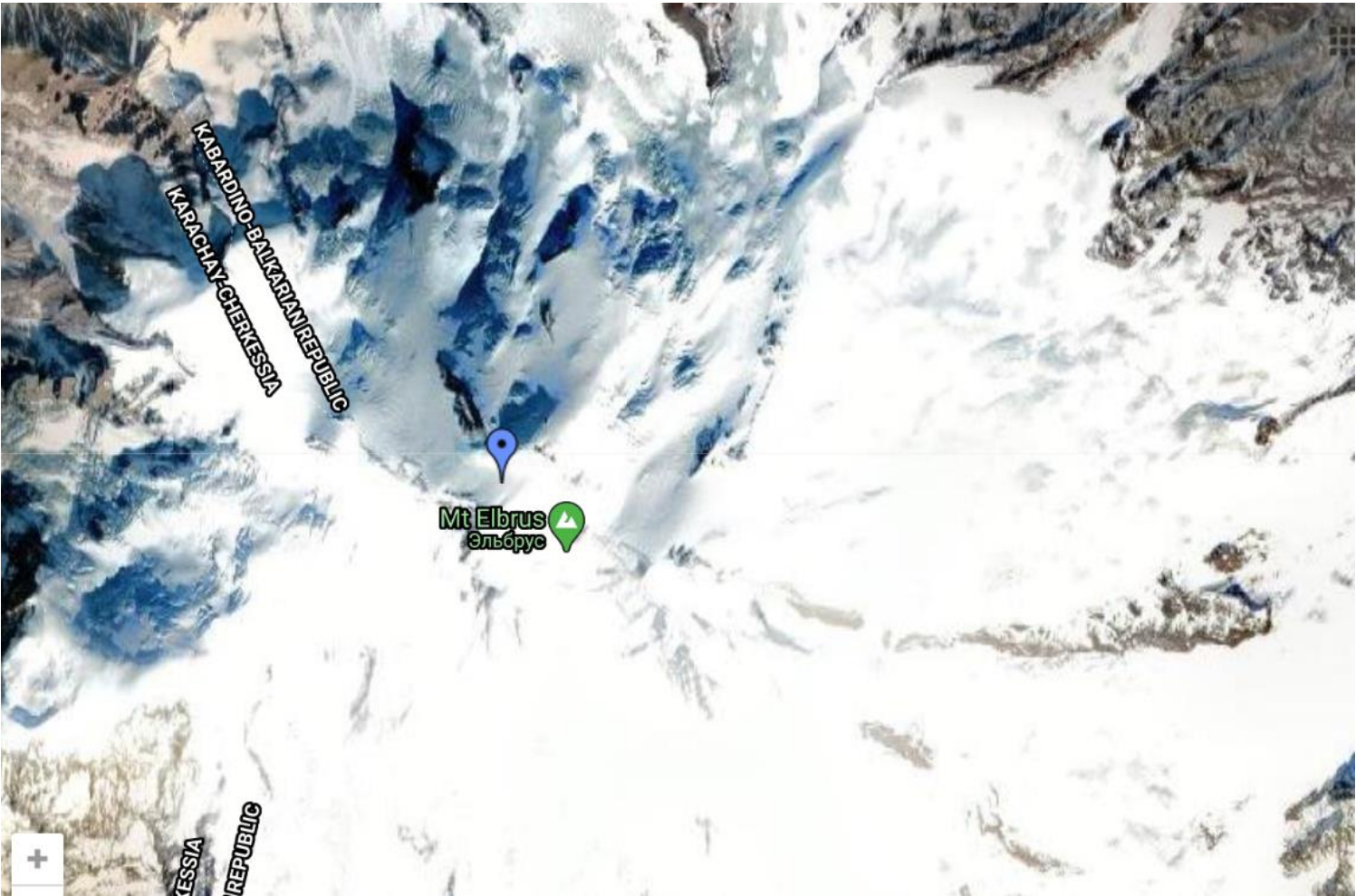
Photo by [John Shively](#), all rights reserved.

Mount Elbrus is the highest peak in the Caucasus, and the highest peak in Europe. It is located several miles north of the main crest of the Central Caucasus, in the Russian Republics of Kabardino-Balkaria and Karachay-Cherkessia, north of Georgia.

Its origin is volcanic, and though it has long been extinct, it still retains its gently sloping, conical shape, with twin cones rising on its summit. The west summit at 5,642 meters (18,510 ft) is slightly higher than the east at 5,621 metres (18,442 ft).

The summit is capped in ice year round, and 22 glaciers sprawl from its slopes. All told, the mountain and its vast glaciers cover 56 square miles. The summit provides spectacular views of the entire Caucasus.

Elevation (feet):	18,510
Elevation (meters):	5,642
Continent:	Europe
Country:	Russia
Range/Region:	Central Caucasus
Latitude:	43.355
Longitude:	42.4392
Difficulty:	Basic Snow/Ice Climb
Best months for climbing:	Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep
Year first climbed:	1874
First successful climber(s):	A. W. Moore, F. Gardiner, F. Cruford Grove, Horace Walker, Pete Knubel
Nearest major airport:	Moscow, Russia, Kiev, Ukraine, Tbilisi, Georgia
Convenient Center:	Mineral'nye Vody, Russia



Vinson Massif



Home Photos Videos Trip Reports



Photo by [TODD PASSEY](#), all rights reserved.

Vinson Massif is the highest mountain of Antarctica. It is a massive mountain, stretching thirteen miles long and eight miles wide. Its location, the Sentinel Range of the Ellsworth Mountains, is home to most of Antarctica's highest peaks. Climbing Vinson is not considered technically difficult, but Antarctica's extreme climate makes ascending Vinson a serious undertaking.

Elevation (feet):	16,066
Elevation (meters):	4,897
Continent:	Antarctica
Country:	Antarctica
Range/Region:	Ellsworth Mountains
Latitude:	-78.5833
Longitude:	-85.4167
Difficulty:	Major Mountain Expedition
Best months for climbing:	Jan, Dec
Year first climbed:	1966
First successful climber(s):	American Expedition sponsored by the National Geographic Society, the National Science Foundation, and the American Alpine Club
Convenient Center:	Two permanent research stations on Ross Island: McMurdo (United States), Scott (New Zealand)



Puncak Jaya



Home Photos Videos Trip Reports



Photo by an anonymous user, all rights reserved.

Puncak Jaya (also known as Carstensz Pyramid) is the highest mountain in the Pacific Basin, and is typically considered the highest peak of the seventh continent (Australia/Oceania) for climbers attempting the Seven Summits. However, there is some dispute of its status as the seventh summit since it is located in the western half of the island of New Guinea, in the Indonesian province of Papua, and Indonesia is an Asian country. This is a minority viewpoint based on politics rather than geophysics.

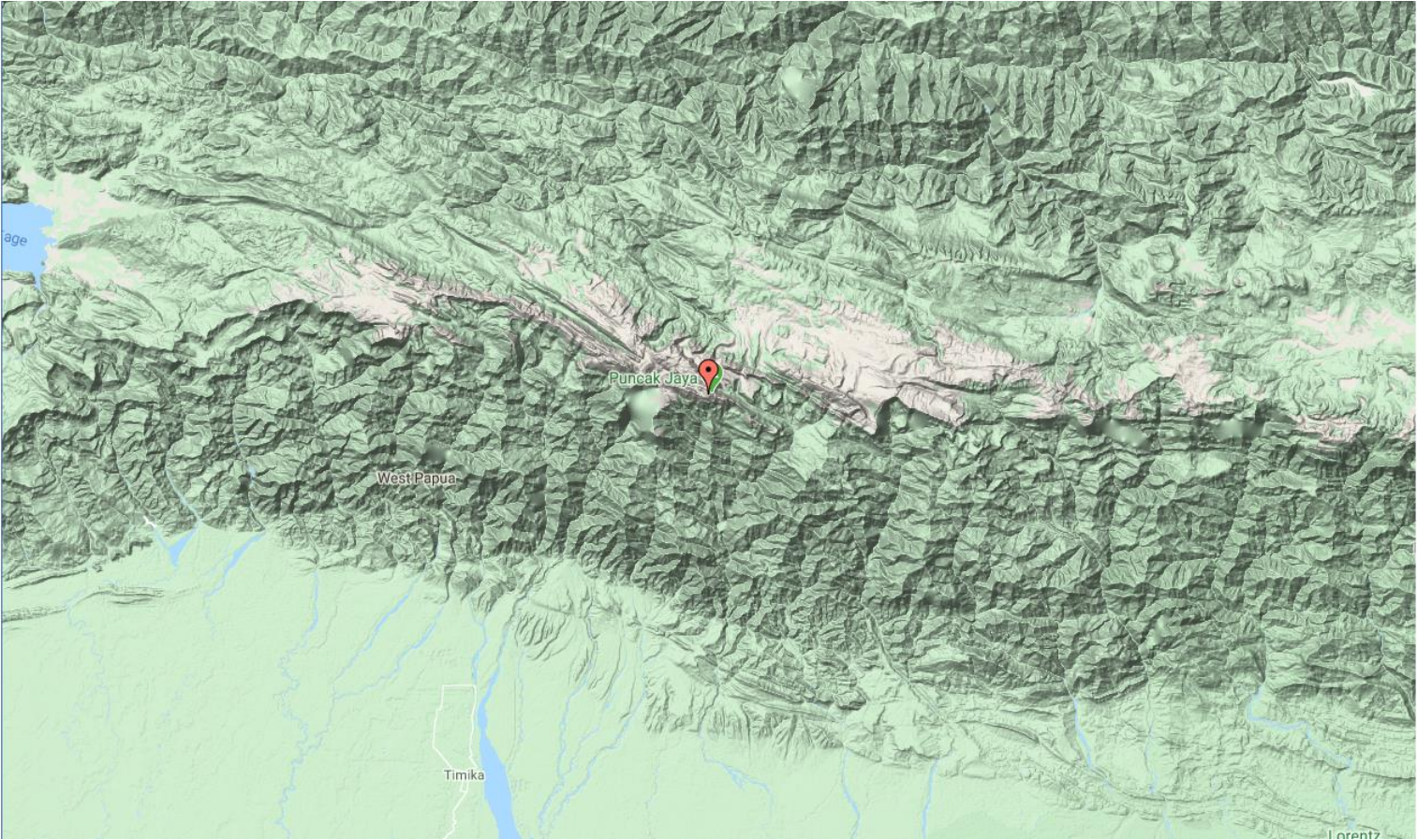
Puncak Jaya is indisputably the highest point between the Himalayas and the Andes.

It is located in what is variously called the Sudirman Range or the Dugunduguoo, in the western central highlands of Papua, just fifty

miles from the island's southern shore. Much of this range is characterized by easy terrace, surmounted by severe rock walls.

While Puncak Jaya's peak is free of glaciers, there are several on its slopes, including the Carstensz Glacier, the Meren Glacier, and Northwall Firn. Being equatorial, there is little variation in the mean temperature during the year (around 0.5°C) and the glaciers fluctuate on seasonal basis only slightly. Evidence from satellite imagery demonstrates that most of the glaciers atop the mountain are retreating rapidly and some have disappeared altogether the last twenty years.

Elevation (feet):	16,023
Elevation (meters):	4,884
Continent:	Australia/Oceania
Country:	Indonesia
Range/Region:	Maoke Range
Latitude:	-4.08333
Longitude:	137.183
Difficulty:	Scramble
Best months for climbing:	Feb, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov
Year first climbed:	1962
First successful climber(s):	Heinrich Harrer, with Temple, Kippaz and Huizenga
Nearest major airport:	Nabire
Convenient Center:	Nabire



Mount Everest



- Home
- Photos
- Videos
- Trip Reports



Photo by [Sushil Dawka](#), all rights reserved.

Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world. Its elevation of 29,035 feet (8,850 meters) was determined using GPS satellite equipment on May 5, 1999. It was previously believed to be slightly lower (29,028 feet /8,848 meters), as determined in 1954 by averaging measurements from various sites around the mountain. The new elevation has been confirmed by the National Geographic Society.

The first seven attempts on Everest, starting with a reconnaissance in 1921, approached the mountain from Tibet, where a route to the summit via the North Col and North Ridge seemed possible. All were unsuccessful. George Mallory, who spearheaded the first three expeditions, lost his life with Andrew Irvine during a failed ascent in 1924.

Unsuccessful attempts continued through

1938, then halted during World War II. By the war's end, Tibet had closed its borders, and Nepal, previously inaccessible, had done the opposite.

Overall, more than 600 climbers from 20 countries have climbed to the summit by various routes from both north and south. Climbers' ages have ranged from nineteen years to sixty. At least 100 people have perished, most commonly by avalanches, falls in crevasses, cold, or the effects of thin air.

Elevation (feet):	29,035
Elevation (meters):	8,850
Continent:	Asia
Country:	Nepal/China
Range/Region:	Central Nepal Himalaya
Latitude:	27.9881
Longitude:	86.9253
Difficulty:	Major Mountain Expedition
Best months for climbing:	Apr, May
Year first climbed:	1953
First successful climber(s):	Edmund Hillary, Tenzing Norgay
Nearest major airport:	Kathmandu, Nepal
Convenient Center:	Namche Bazar, Nepal

