

Why is the hike from base camp to camp one on everest so long?



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The Khumbu Icefall

The reason that the hike from base camp to camp one is the Khumbu Icefall. The icefall is filled with many dangerous crevices. Sometimes the ice in this area will crack to make more crevices. Which is similar to what they call snow bridges. Snow bridges are when there is like a really thin coat of ice and snow over top of a crevice. Sometimes people are able to walk over top of them without anything happening but, sometimes that is not always the case some people walk over top of these and the ground collapses sending the people into the crevasse. This area is so dangerous that sometimes even ropes and ladders aren't enough to save peoples lives.



Why the hike is so dangerous and long

The hike is long because of all of the obstacles in the way. When hikers come through this area they have to leave early for a reason. They have to so that they have as much daylight as possible and also they have to leave when the ice under them is the most frozen. Because if they left at the hottest part of the day they could be risking their lives since the ice could start to get softer and would move more easily. Another thing is when they are on those bridges made of ladders they are risking their lives while on them because if one end slips they could just easily fall into one of the cracks below them. Also when there are avalanches it's not like they know what is going to happen like with all of the other situations. They have to take cover because they cant see where they are all they see is white and if they make the wrong move they could be hit with falling ice.



A brief history

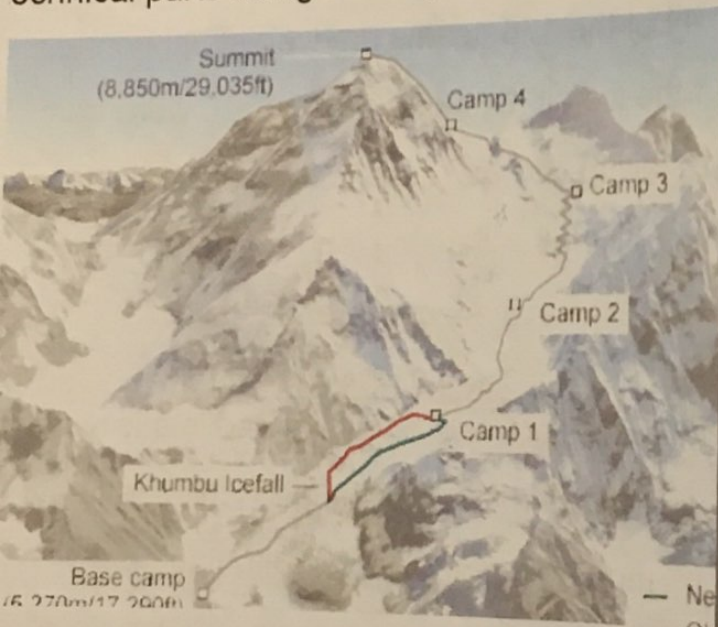
George Mallory in the early 1920's came across the ice fall and said that it was "terribly steep and broken" so he changed the place that he climbed the mountain from. It took until the 1950's for people to think that it was even possible to hike this section of the mountain. From 1953 to 2016 there were only 44 of the 176 deaths on everest happened in the icefall. Of those 44 deaths 6 were from falling into crevasse, 9 from pieces of the icefall collapsing, and 29 were from avalanches into the icefall.

The 2014 Avalanche

In 2014 there was an avalanche in this section were around 16 sherpas died while getting the mountain ready for the climbing season. Sometimes the sherpas are called ice doctors. The sherpas help people up the mountain and they also try to keep it as safe as possible at the same time. The avalanche was most likely to be caused by ice falling off of the west shelf.

The journey up Everest

The journey up Everest is a very long and hard process. It takes about two months to get up the mountain completely because you have to stop in certain places to get used to the altitude and you also have to go through many extreme conditions as well as very dangerous technical parts along the way.



Mountain safety

On Everest when ascending or descending you are supposed to be clipped into the fixed rope at all times. Also when you are in the icefall you need to be in it while the sun isn't touching the ice, make sure that you are clipped in to a fixed rope even on ladders, never stop for more than a few minutes at a time, move as fast as you can safely, and let faster climbers pass you



Fun Facts

1. The width of the icefall is usually between over half a mile and a third of a mile
2. Most experienced climbers tend to ascend this section in a few hours but inexperienced climbers tend to take 10 - 12 hours to ascend this section.
3. Due to the Khumbu glacier melting the Everest base camp is lower on the mountain than it used to be.

