

# Hakuna Matata All the Way to Uhuru, with Peak Planet

## Review of Peak Planet



I summited Mt. Kilimanjaro in June for my 50th birthday. From start to finish, my experience with Peak Planet was excellent.

Before booking, I had a ton of questions - some I even asked more than once. Ben answered every one of them promptly and thoroughly, which made me feel confident about going with Peak Planet.

My flight landed at 1:30 a.m., and after getting my visa, I finally got out of the airport around 2:30 a.m. The driver from Peak Planet was there, waiting for me, and showed me the email he had to pick me up. So, I immediately felt safe and had a pleasant drive to the hotel.

The hotel, Stella Maris Lodge in Moshi, was also great. Even though it was past 3 a.m., someone was there to greet me with a bottle of water and take me to my room. The people at this hotel were very helpful, and the service was great. I had arrived 2 nights prior to leaving so I could get over jet lag and rest up my body before the climb.

I, along with my group, left for our climb on an early June morning, after a send-off ceremony with singing and dancing. I chose the Northern Circuit Route to give myself the best chance of summiting.

Our senior guide was Davis, and the assistant guide was Hatifa. Both the guides were extremely knowledgeable and taught us so much about the plants, animals, and rocks along the way. They checked on us regularly and were always there to help - from fishing out a water bottle from that stubborn side pocket (you know the one), to patiently showing me how to put on gaiters for the first time.

Moreover, Davis and Hatifa motivated us daily and shared so much hiking knowledge along the way that I know it'll make me a much stronger hiker going forward. You could tell that they really wanted us to succeed, and without their guidance, I could not have summited Uhuru Peak - and taken a picture in front of the sign, because we all know, if there's no picture, it didn't happen.



During the climb, we were fed so well - better than I eat at home, really! The chef made such a variety of dishes - soups, stews, you name it - we joked that we might be gaining weight! Our guides assured us that no; we were definitely burning all those calories. (Darn it!). The chef was somehow even able to bake a cake for my birthday, on the mountain, at over 15,000 ft. They really went out of their way to help me celebrate my birthday.

Davis and Hatifa helped me realize this dream, and it was such a meaningful achievement for me. And because they were always teaching me new things, I feel more confident to take on more climbing challenges now.

I would recommend climbing with Peak Planet wholeheartedly. They will take great care of you, from start to finish.

Thank you, Peak Planet, Davis, Hatifa, and the whole team - chef, kitchen staff, porters, etc., who made this possible for me and took such great care of me.