

DATE: May 9, 2007



I'm at 3400 meters at a little village on the side of a cliff. You have no idea how beautiful it is here. We've been hiking through a couple of valleys along a river and it is so frickin awesome. The mountains here are unbelievably tall, and very steep. You just look around and there's walls of mountains everywhere. The peaks are above the clouds and your right next to them. It looks like something from a movie. I've been taking tons of pictures but they do no justice. I'm still a couple of days from our base camp but I just got my first look at Everest. It's very impressive. It looks like a mountain above another mountain. I took a peak of it from on top of a mountain and it was still way up there. It's indescribably awesome. Everything around here is so tall though, its not just like a huge mountain in the middle of nowhere, there are so many big peaks everywhere.

Everyone in the company is very friendly and nice. My tent mate is a guy from Australia and we get along very well. We all get along very well in fact. We haven't seen too much of Bear and the flight team, though. I thought they were gonna hike with us, but they met us at the hotel before we left for the trek and took a helicopter straight to their base camp. We are meeting them in a couple of days. Bear is very friendly though. The two guys are real excited about their flight. I also found out that there is a 3-day window where they could fly and we are only there for 1 of the three days so we might not even get to see them launch.

We've been hiking for 2 days now. The first day was pretty easy but today was rough. We climbed over 600 meters in altitude today before lunch. The altitude didn't bother me yesterday, but it was a little tough this morning.

I'm so jealous of the people that get to see this everyday. It's incredible. The porters that are hiking with us are insane. They're carrying all our big bags, strapped to their heads, and some of them are wearing sandals and flip flops. They are giving us extremely good service too. Our food has been way better than I expected. The cook that we have is making us multi course meals that are great. This is the life.

The trip has been awesome so far. Everyone is great and the views are incredible. The area is a little more built up than I expected. There are little tea room stops all along the trip and I can still buy a coke. There is only 1 trail that leads to the Everest base camp from the south side though, so everyone that hikes and climbs has to come this way.

Everything is great, and I look forward to the rest of the trip!

-Kirk