



www.adventuresinternational.co.uk
Tel: 01656 782300



To help you choose an operator for your Climb or Trek Holiday, we have prepared this checklist of the questions you should ask.

Is the your operator a member or agent of ABTA or similar body?

Membership of a recognised travel body, while not a guarantee of quality is a good indication of the reputability of a company. Many overseas's operators are actually virtual companies with little more than a website. Also an organisation like ABTA can provide you with help if you have a problem with the operator themselves.

Are they financially bonded?

Bonding means that whatever happens you are protected financially for your Trek Holiday. If a company sells you a trip and you live in Europe, wherever they claim to be based, they are breaking the law if they do not offer you this protection. ie ATOL bonding.

Do they have public liability insurance?

Again this is a legal requirement for offering trekking packages to anyone living in Europe. Not only does the insurance provide security but companies cannot provide insurance without having operational and risk management plans, another good sign of quality.

Does the company selling your Trek Holiday sub-contract to someone else or do they run their own operations?

A lot of web-based overseas operators are actually just selling operations and in some cases can be no more than a person with a phone, who then subcontracts an incountry company to run the trek.

Does the operator provide qualified guides on every trip ?

These would be UIMLA or UIAGM guides. The vast majority of trekking companies particularly charity based treks provide staff with virtually no qualifications. The minimum standard for UK companies operating abroad is an International Mountain Leader Award.

Does your trek have to stick to a fixed itinerary?

Fixed itinerary trips can be a cheap way to climb or trek, but they offer no flexibility and have a much lower success rate.

How long is your trek holiday for – Is it realistic ?

The shorter the trip, the less chance you have of successfully acclimatising and reaching your chosen summit. Many operators advertise short 4-5day trips to do mountains such as Kilimanjaro. You have very little chance of success on these trips. Find out what their client success rate is.

Is there flexibility in your scheduled itinerary, for example, bad weather, flight cancelled, luggage delayed etc?

If you miss your scheduled start for a trek, or encounter bad weather, can the operator flex your schedule?

What happens to the climb or Trek if one of your group falls ill and has to descend?

Sadly it is a fact that some people will get sick on high altitude trekking trips and will be forced to descend. If this happens to someone in your group is it possible to continue so that at least some people can summit.

Check what is included in the price quoted?

Compare costings carefully- even some of the largest operators miss out the cost of things such as Park Fees and local costs. On Kilimanjaro these can be as much as £500 per climber!

For Charity Treks, What is the actual cost of the trip and how much is going to charity ?

Many charity treks build in a large hidden amount on top of the trip cost. It is far better to know the cost of the trip and have the freedom to then raise whatever you can for the charity.