



WILD WOMEN EXPEDITIONS

Wild Women Expeditions is offering a trip up Mount Kilimanjaro in September.

**TIPS, TRIPS & DEALS**

## Kilimanjaro trip for women

By PHIL MARTY | Chicago Tribune

For nearly three decades, Wild Women Expeditions has been offering a wide variety of women-only outdoor adventures around the world. A challenging bucket-list trip in September — Savannah to Summit Kilimanjaro Expedition — will tackle the peak that lures many to Tanzania. This isn't a trip that requires mountain climbing expertise, but it does call for a serious level of fitness and the ability to acclimatize to altitude. Over six days of trekking, the participants, led by a female guide, gain more than 15,000 feet in elevation on the way to Mount Kilimanjaro's 19,340-foot peak. The final ascent begins before midnight and gains 4,240 feet, then there's the trek back down, which loses 9,170 feet in elevation. Truly a challenging day. Porters lend a helping hand by toting the camp equipment and trekkers' bags. Lodging is in tents, of course, and all meals are included. Also included is one night's hotel lodging in Arusha before the hiking begins. Cost of the trip is \$3,795 per person, and international air is extra. Info: 888-993-1222, [tinyurl.com/ybfokfb7](http://tinyurl.com/ybfokfb7)

### Exploring Ethiopia

Seasoned travelers in the been-there-done-that stage of exploring the world might be intrigued by the prospect of checking out Ethiopia, a country not high on the tourism radar. Big Five Tours & Expeditions emphasizes the country's ancient culture and natural beauty with a new tour, Historic Routes of Ethiopia. The tour starts with a dose of city culture in Addis Ababa, the capital and home to, among other attractions, the National Museum. It holds the famous skeleton of Lucy, the hominid who lived 3.1 million years ago. At Simien Mountains National Park, there's the opportunity to view wildlife, including the lion monkey. In the city of Lalibela, Ethiopia's Christian roots are explored with visits to churches that were carved out of rock from the seventh to 13th centuries. This 10-day/nine-night itinerary costs \$7,500 per person, double occupancy. International airfare is extra. Info: 800-244-3483, [tinyurl.com/yae2blqj](http://tinyurl.com/yae2blqj).

Phil Marty is a freelance reporter.

### Best in snow

For the second year in a row, Magic Mountain in Vermont leads the list of top overall ski areas in North America compiled for the Best in Snow Awards from Liftopia. The online site, which sells lift tickets and equipment rentals for 250 ski areas in North America, surveyed more than 10,000 skiers about their favorite resorts. Factors taken into consideration include challenging terrain, crowds, family friendliness, snow consistency and overall quality. Rankings also are listed by geographical area. See all the lists at [tinyurl.com/yas4cl9j](http://tinyurl.com/yas4cl9j).

**GEAR BOX**

## Made for winter walking

By JEFF BANOWETZ  
Tribune News Service

Winter hiking and snowshoeing can be a lot of fun — if you keep your feet dry. Once your feet get wet, it's game over.

Choosing a waterproof hiking boot will help you enjoy time outside, and these boots from Keen offer great comfort and performance right out of the box.

The Terradora Waterproof Mid boots are designed specifically for women, with a narrower fit through the heel and a roomier toe-box than unisex shoes. (Men can check out the Targhee for a boot with similar functions.) They're comfortable enough to wear while exploring around town, yet they're technical enough boots to provide warmth and comfort in the snow.

While waterproof, the mesh upper is built with a breathable membrane to



KEEN

ensure that your feet don't get clammy like they do in some other waterproof shoes. The low collar height allows for easy movement, and there is plenty of cushioning to absorb any bumps on the

trail. They're an excellent, comfortable option for strapping onto a pair of snowshoes, or just sight-seeing on a snowy day. \$140, [keen-footwear.com](http://keen-footwear.com)

**NEED TO KNOW**

## Germany's highest peak gets an upgrade

Associated Press

BERLIN — A new cable car began service at Germany's highest peak in late December.

The cable car to the Zugspitze mountain is being billed as a world-record-breaking work of German engineering, featuring the biggest altitude difference between the base and summit station, and the greatest distance between the summit and the only support pillar.

The \$59-million installation replaces a cable car



PHILIPP GUELLAND/GETTY

A new, record-breaking cable car arrives at the Zugspitze peak on the first day of service in Grainau, Germany.

from 1963 that could take 240 tourists an hour to the 9,718-foot Alpine peak. The new cable car can manage more than twice as many passengers.

Munich's Archbishop

Cardinal Reinhard Marx and the Protestant Bishop for Munich and Upper Bavaria, Susanne Breit-Kessler, blessed the cable car before its first official trip.



VISIT LAKE GENEVA

Lake Geneva Winterfest, running Jan. 27 to Feb. 4, will include the U.S. National Snow Sculpting Competition.

## NEWS TO USE

By PHIL MARTY  
Chicago Tribune

Here are some of the more interesting events, deals, websites and other travel tidbits that have come across our desk recently:

- The U.S. National Snow Sculpting Competition is a major part of the annual Lake Geneva Winterfest, running Jan. 27 to Feb. 4 in Lake Geneva, Wis. Fifteen teams from across the country will transform tall blocks of snow into works

of art. Depending on the date, other activities include a Human Dog Sled Race, drinks at the Fire & Ice Lounge at Baker House 1885, live magic and illusion at the Tristan Crist Magic Theatre, helicopter rides, tours of historic Maxwell Mansion, a chili cook-off and more. [www.visitlakegeneva.com/winterfest](http://www.visitlakegeneva.com/winterfest)

- The 28th annual Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza will be Jan. 27 at Hole-in-the-Day Bay on Gull Lake near Brainerd, Minn. Some

20,000 ice-fishing holes will be drilled for more than 10,000 anglers competing for prizes ranging from Ice Castle Fish Houses to a new Ford or GMC truck. All proceeds benefit charitable activities in the Brainerd area. [www.icefishing.org](http://www.icefishing.org)

- The Eagles & Ivories Ragtime Weekend, Jan. 26-28 in Muscatine, Iowa, features ragtime music performances held in conjunction with an eagle watch on the Mississippi River. Tickets are available for individual concerts or may be purchased as a three-day package. Silent movies also will be shown Jan. 27. [www.muscatineartscouncil.org](http://www.muscatineartscouncil.org)
- Every Sunday from Jan. 7 to March 4, Old Mission Peninsula Snowshoe Wine & Brew Outings will step off from the Jolly Pumpkin in Traverse City, Mich. Participants will snowshoe (or hike if no snow) and make stops at two wineries for samplings before ending up back at the Jolly Pumpkin for beer tastings. A limited supply of snowshoes is available for rental, and tickets for the event should be bought in advance. [www.tcbrewbus.com/events](http://www.tcbrewbus.com/events)
- The Iowa Boat, RV and Vacation Show takes place Jan. 19-21 at the UNI-Dome in Cedar Falls. Boats for fishing, cruising and skiing will be on display as well as the latest towable and motorized RV models. Stick around to catch a variety of fishing seminars. [tinyurl.com/yczllzkp](http://tinyurl.com/yczllzkp)
- The Edgewater hotel in Madison, Wis., is offering a package in conjunction with the National Geographic Live traveling program that features world-renowned adventurers and photographers. Program dates are Jan. 23, Feb. 27 and April 10, and the package, which is

priced from \$489, includes one-night accommodations in a king room, pre-event dinner for two, tickets for the event, overnight parking and breakfast. Package details are at [tinyurl.com/y7esr3k4](http://tinyurl.com/y7esr3k4), and descriptions of the programs at [tinyurl.com/y7rcoae9](http://tinyurl.com/y7rcoae9).

- The Michigan tourism folks have tips on good sledding and tubing locations in their state at [tinyurl.com/ydxp3zcw](http://tinyurl.com/ydxp3zcw).
- If you're looking for winter fun in Wisconsin, you can find the snow report at [tinyurl.com/yc7hr27v](http://tinyurl.com/yc7hr27v).
- Illinois lays claim to more wintering American bald eagles — an estimated 3,000 — than any state outside Alaska. January and February are prime viewing months. Find the best places to spot the birds at [tinyurl.com/y9rr9p33](http://tinyurl.com/y9rr9p33).
- The Sanderling Resort, on North Carolina's Outer Banks, has rates 20 percent off. We checked dates in early March and found rooms priced as low as \$128 a night. [tinyurl.com/y8d5suppt](http://tinyurl.com/y8d5suppt)
- Enter to win a seven-day Alaska cruise on Holland America Line plus a visit to Denali National Park at [tinyurl.com/y7anr3s5](http://tinyurl.com/y7anr3s5).
- January is California Restaurant Month. [tinyurl.com/y9th9mk](http://tinyurl.com/y9th9mk)
- The Rolex 24, a 24-hour sports car endurance race, will be Jan. 27-28 at Daytona International Speedway in Florida. [tinyurl.com/y9ytjqf4](http://tinyurl.com/y9ytjqf4)

Deals and websites listed here have been checked for availability as of press time. Listings are not endorsements. Send tips at least a month in advance to [ChicagoTribTravel@gmail.com](mailto:ChicagoTribTravel@gmail.com).

Phil Marty is a freelance writer.



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**GEOQUIZ ANSWER**

**Tennessee.** It was the 16th state, joining the Union in 1796, and it was the last state to leave the Union, in 1861, during the Civil War.