



Photographs of the view can be quickly uploaded to social media now that 5G masts have been installed
FURTENBACH ADVENTURES

Climb Everest in comfort (from base glamp)

[Emma Yeomans](#)

Saturday April 25 2020, 12.01am BST, The Times

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On the morning of May 29, 1953, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay began their last push for the summit of Mount Everest. They were, however, soon confronted by an unexpected obstacle. “We couldn’t find the summit,” Hillary later recalled. “You couldn’t really see exactly where the top was.”

If he were climbing today, [Sir Edmund](#) would have been able to whip out his

mobile phone and check his position via any number of mapping apps. Any doubt who reached the top first could have been brought to an end with a summit selfie.

As more and more people flock to the “death zone” above 8,000m (26,250ft), there are more demands for creature comforts. And internet coverage on the summit is the latest feature to be installed. China Mobile and [Huawei](#) have installed three 5G masts on Everest and is adding a fourth. They offer speeds of up to one gigabit per second, much faster than the average home broadband speed in the UK.



Furtenbach Adventures is one of many companies offering climbers some home comforts
FURTENBACH ADVENTURES

Other luxuries that climbers have enjoyed include bars, gourmet meals and glamping tents.

Lukas Furtenbach, the founder of Furtenbach Adventures, a guiding company that specialises in upmarket expeditions, said: “Every climber has a two-room

stand-up tent with a bed, desk, electricity and wifi, and large lounge tents with a bar, movie screening, library, hot showers. Last year we even had a sauna and infrared cabin powered with a clean fuel cell. And wherever possible clients can fly in and out from base camp by helicopter.”

Some of his clients needed to be able to work from base camp, he added, so fast internet was not just a luxury but a requirement.

Furtenbach Adventures runs “flash” expeditions, reaching [Everest’s summit](#) in four weeks rather than the normal eight, with the help of at-home acclimatisation exercises and supplementary oxygen.



Huawei has installed the 5G masts on Everest, providing internet speeds much faster than the average in Britain

The luxury market has been growing on other Himalayan mountains, including

Cho Oyu and Manaslu, according to Alan Arnette, a mountaineer who has climbed Everest, K2 and Manaslu and now dedicates much of his time to chronicling trends and achievements at high-altitude.

“There is a market for luxuries just like for first class on an aeroplane,” Mr Arnette said. “Operators can offer these to differentiate themselves from other operators. The guiding industry is similar to any other business, with multiple levels of service from low to high, with prices that match.”

Over the past few decades he has seen base camps offering sushi, movie nights, tents with desks to work at, and more. He said the speedy routes offered by Furtenbach appealed to those with plenty of money but less time.

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“These climbs are heavily supported with experienced western guides, and/or multiple Sherpas per foreigner,” he said. “Also, they have unlimited supplemental oxygen, and often use a higher oxygen flow rate to address the lack of oxygen at extreme altitudes. Their base camps leave nothing out — excellent food, quality personal and group equipment.”

He added: “I believe mountains are for everyone, as long as you have the appropriate experience and self-sufficiency to be there.”

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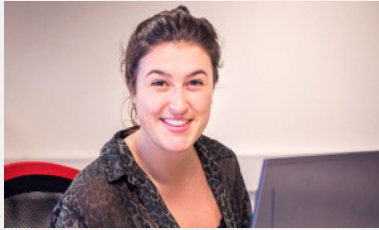
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Lukas Furtenbach ▾

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IgnoreAlienOrders

18 MINUTES AGO

Why not go the whole hog and install the world's longest escalator all the way to the summit.

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Howard Williams

38 MINUTES AGO

Why bother. You'll soon be able to fly up there with your personal drone and take a quick selfie.

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Andrew Roberts

1 HOUR AGO

Nobody should be allowed to summit Everest, unless they have previously summited K2. That should sort out the glampers...

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Thunderpants

1 HOUR AGO |  [Andrew Roberts](#)

The carpets on K2 go better with my slippers as well.

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Koel57

1 HOUR AGO

If only a portion of the foreign aid and World Bank loans given to Nepal could come with a stipulation to protect the Nepalese environment. As with Benidorm, tourism saturation is never a good idea.

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Mary Rathke

2 HOURS AGO

One of the benefits of c'virus and general economic mayhem could be that people will once again start going to Skegness instead of Nepal for their holidays. Much healthier all round . . .

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Pauline Reid

3 HOURS AGO

In the 1970s people began to flock to Benidorm. It was an exotic change from Blackpool. Now it's Everest. The world is shrinking. Many years ago I was in a Tibetan restaurant in India thinking I was away from the mass tourism market. Then in walks a family wearing Middlesbrough football kits who quickly and loudly started complaining about what a s...hole it was. All morbidly obese and straight off a package flight. That's progress I assume.

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phil

3 HOURS AGO

Obscene

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Mencius

9 HOURS AGO

'As more and more people flock to the “death zone” above 8,000m (26,250ft), there are more demands for creature comforts. And internet coverage on the summit is the latest feature to be installed.'

Presumably a sherpa has to climb to the top periodically to switch the router off and back on again.

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Archiebald Auchenlech

9 HOURS AGO

Oh for God sake why don't the Chinese build high speed lifts (elevators would be the more appropriate word) from base camp to summit taking say 100 people per load - ok with social distancing 20 per load - and the elevator would stop at 29,020 feet allowing clients to ride the last 9 feet up an escalator (with one Sherpa per client to get them over the 6inch hump at 29027ft) . Compared to the glamping method described in this article the elevator method would be a far more a physically challenging route as inexperienced elevator riders have no clue of the difficult involved in pushing the up button or down button at such impossibly high altitudes .

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Richard Bridges

10 HOURS AGO

Next year there will be escalators installed with heated hand rails.

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Archiebald Auchenlech

9 HOURS AGO |  [Richard Bridges](#)

Ha - snap !!

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