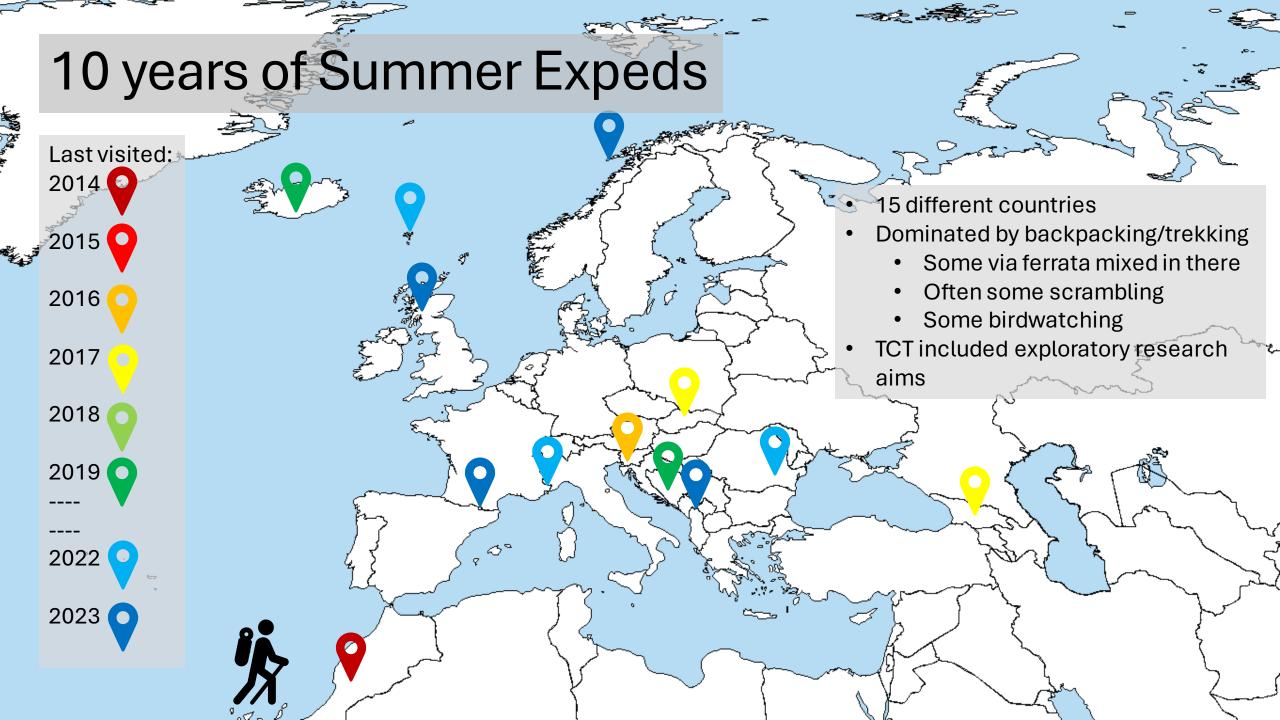
2024 Summer Exped Launch

By Tommaso and Jane

Ft. Isaac x Joshy Swanders, Hannah, Jack x Max, Joshetta Cignetta, Jim







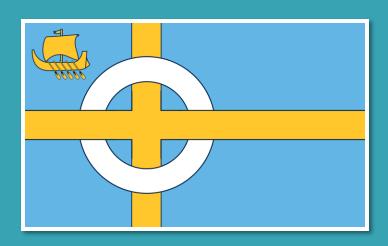
What to expect?





The Where...

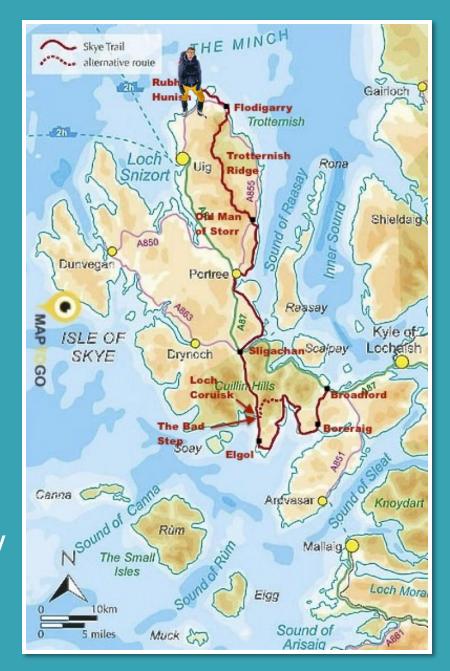
- Isle of Skye, surprise surprise!
- Largest of the Inner Hebrides
- Home to the magnificent Cuillin mountains
- Lots of history and wildlife!
- Irn Bru?





The What...

- Backpacking the Skye Trail in 7 days of walking. Some longish distances, in beautiful scenery!
- 128km (80mi) route across the Isle of Skye follows the Trotternish ridge and passes beneath the Cuillin. Also includes cliffs, beaches, and lots and lots of lakes!
- Mostly not on any waymarked paths, opportunity to practise some nav!
- Southern coast path includes some "airy sections" and one "Bad Step"
- Strenuous walking particularly on the second day aim for a relatively lightweight philosophy.



The What, you want more details...?

Day	Section	Approx distance/elevation
1	Drive to Skye	
2	Rubha Hunish, walk to Quiraing	15.5km / 800m
3	Quiraing to Old Man of Storr	23km / 1500m
4	Old Man of Storr to Portree	15km / 650m
5	Portree to Sligachan	20km / 400m
6	Sligachan to Elgol	17.5km / 600m
7	Elgol to Torrin	22 km / 600m
8	Torrin to Broadford	20km / 500m
9	Rest day/exploring? Sea Eagle/puffin boat trip??	
10	Drive back from Skye	

Bus to the northern tip of Skye

Food resupply stop in Portree!



The When...

- No need to book anything, so the dates are relatively flexible
- Early June 10 days total. We will work out the exact dates with those on the exped once places have been confirmed.
- Destress from exams and hopefully avoid the worst of the midges!



The Why



It looks cool!



Destress from exams...



"Best backpacking I've ever done" – Robyn Franklin, 2024





- Josh and I should probably come as we know what the plan is
- 6 other people to make a team of 8. Travel to and from Bristol in 2 cars of 4, 10hr drive each way plus stops for leg stretches and food!
- Ideally around 3-4 tents exercising our right to roam but minimal impact, leave no trace!

Do you want to aim for the Skye?

- Some backpacking experience ideal
- Wants to be part of a fun and positive team
- Prepared for some tougher off-path terrain and some exposure



The How Much...

- Fairly dependent on fuel prices which is the main expense, and how boujie you want your food to be— however this is an affordable adventure, you have past and present UBES Treasurers leading it after all!
- Estimated around £60pp fuel cost, £8 bus ticket, £50 food (maybe a bit more dependent how many snacks you want!). **Realistically approx £150** to account for service stations, pubs etc. There is the potential for a proper campsite or two as well if we wish.
- UBES can help out with kit requirements, including tents, walking poles and exped rucksacks however a lightweight philosophy may be beneficial when packing given the longer distances/rough terrain. Tin whistles are not explicitly banned.

The Other Things.

- Wildlife!
- History!
- Remoteness!











The Summary...

- Team of 8
- 7 days backpacking, 10 days total inc. travel time
- Affordable adventure around £150
- Kickstart your summer by leaving all your academic troubles behind and escaping to the mountains and the sea!













What is an Expedition?

"A journey made for some definite purpose"

(OED)





The River Dee

- The UK's 15th longest rivers at **140** km
 - Crosses the Length of Aberdeenshire, carving a crosssection through Scotland
 - Flows from 1,220 m on top of the Cairngorms to Aberdeen at sealevel
- The length of the river is designated a Special Area of Conservation
 - Important environment for salmon, otters, golden eagles and freshwater pearl muscles
- Established long distance trail from Aberdeen to Ballater



Our journey purpose

- Rivers across the UK suffer from great threats due to mismanagement and climate change
 - ▶ Even the River Dee which is among the wildest and most remote in the country
 - ▶ But benefits from many groups committed to its conservation
- As we follow the Dee to the heart of Scotland we'll be helping local conservation groups by:
 - ► Collecting data on the state of the river
 - Managing invasive species
 - Documenting our journey to raise awareness
- ???Possible funding???





Highlights



Aberdeen



Royal Deeside Railway



Lochnagar



Balmoral



Linn of Dee



Pools of Dee



Falls of Dee



Aviemore

Travel options

- Bristol-Aberdeen outwardbound
 - ► Flights ~£150
 - ► Coach ~£80
 - ► Train ~£180
 - ► Car ~£180 (per car)
- Aviemore-Bristol return
 - ► Flights (hybrid) ~£165
 - ► Coach ~£90
 - ► Train ~£350
 - ► Car ~£180 (per car)



Right to Roam

► The Scottish Outdoor Access
Code legally grants the public
right recreational and
educational use of most natural
areas

Use extends to wild camping, provided a respect for the principles of No Trace Left Behind

https://www.outdooraccessscotland.scot/



Climate

- ▶ While much of the UK lies within the mild (and rather wet) climate we know and love a tiny portion of **subarctic and tundra climates** may be found
 - ► These are almost completely within the Cairngorms making them more like Norway than anywhere else in the UK
- ► At the top of the Cairngorm plateau July (warmest month) temperatures vary from 4°C-10°C with 110 mm rainfall
- ► In the lowlands temperatures are higher with ranging averages of 11°C-19°C and 70 mm rainfall
- ► For reference Bristol ranges 13°C-22°C with 60 mm around this period



Budget

► Transport: £100-200

Accommodation: £0-40 (Depending on desired facilities)

Food: up to around £50-60

► Total estimate: £150-300

Depending on how long you've been into backpacking, you might need to purchase extra kit. Gear costs can be eliminated by borrowing from UBES stores or greatly reduced by purchasing second hand e.g. through Outdoor Gear Exchange UK.

Building a team



Experience with multiday backpacking



Navigator

Map reading and route planning proficiency





Literary Storyteller

Recording through writing, poetry, song



Passion for life and the environment



Team Medic

Experience in wilderness first aid/
Exped Medicine courses

Key Points

01

Walk the River Dee from Aberdeen to Aviemore 02

Ideal group size of 6

03

Cost estimate of £150-300 pp

04

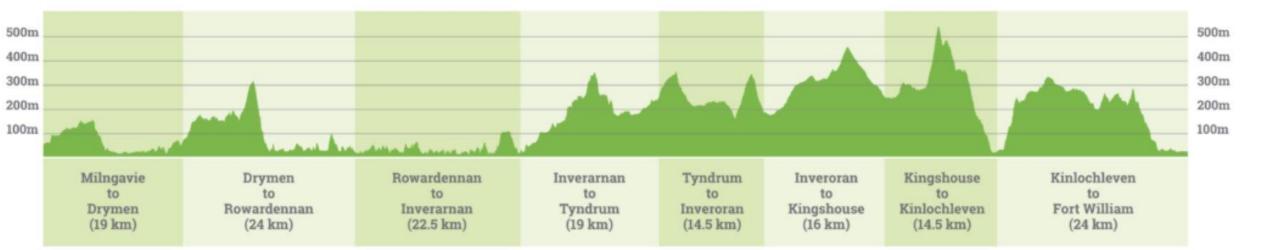
2-week window from 21st of June to 5th of July



What is Fastpacking?

- Fastpacking is a combination of trail running and ultralight backpacking.
- Writer Clint Cherepa describes it as "hiking the ups, jogging the flats, and running the downs"

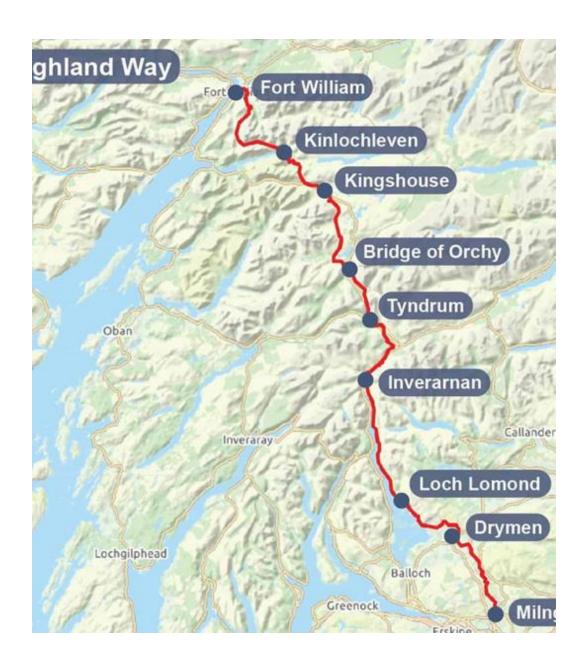






The West Highland Way

- The WHW is a long-distance route from Milngavie (near Glasgow) to Fort William
- It is 96 miles (154km) long
- Most people do the WHW in 7-8 days
- The aim is to run it in 5 days



Itinerary

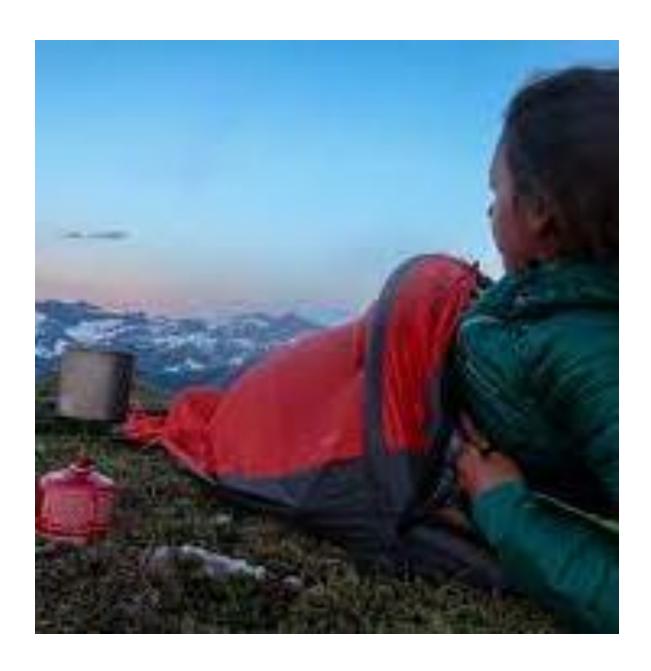
- Day 0: Travel to Glasgow
- Day 1: Milngavie to Strathcashell- 36km
- Day 2: Strathcashell to Inverarnan-30 km
- Day 3: Inverarnan to Bridge of Orchy-29km
- Day 4: Bridge of Orchy to Kinlochleven- 33km
- Day 5: Kinlochleven to Fort William- 26km
- Day 6: Fort William/ Ben Nevis?/ extra day
- Day 7: Travel back to Bristol

Cost?

- Transport:
- > Flights to Glasgow £60-£100+ (+transport to Milgavie £15)
- ➤ Bus £28 (14hrs with 1 change)- eco-friendly option
- > Drive- fuel costs (£90-110 total, £18-22 each for 5 people)
- > Fort William to Glasgow train/bus-£30
- Accomodation:
- > Free if wild camp every night
- > Or £50 for a mix of wild camping, campsites (cabins) and a night in Fort William
- Food:
- ➤ Don't want to carry all food for the entire trip to save weight, places on the way to pick up food (£30-40) + pub + snacks

Total= £90-250 +pub money





Sleep

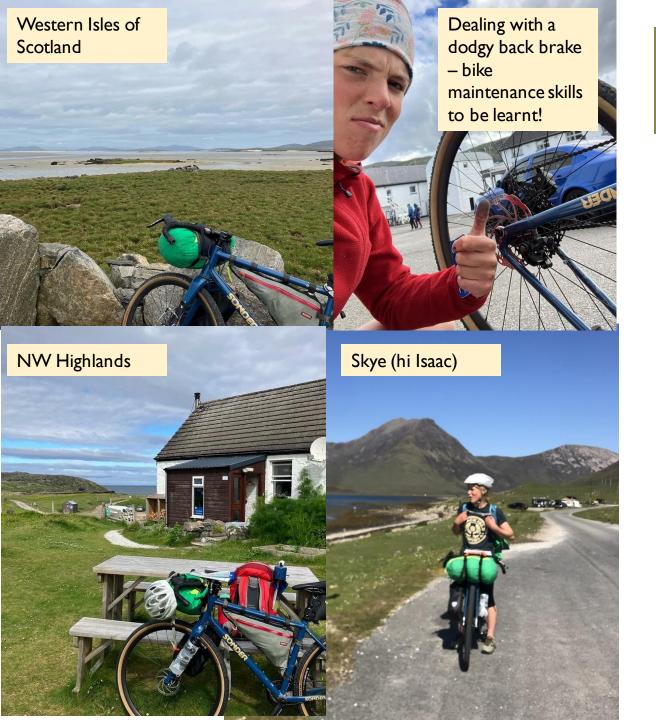
- Tents heavy
- Bivvy/ tarp much lighter
- Light weight sleep system is important
- Staying in campsites on a1/2 nights



Why Come?

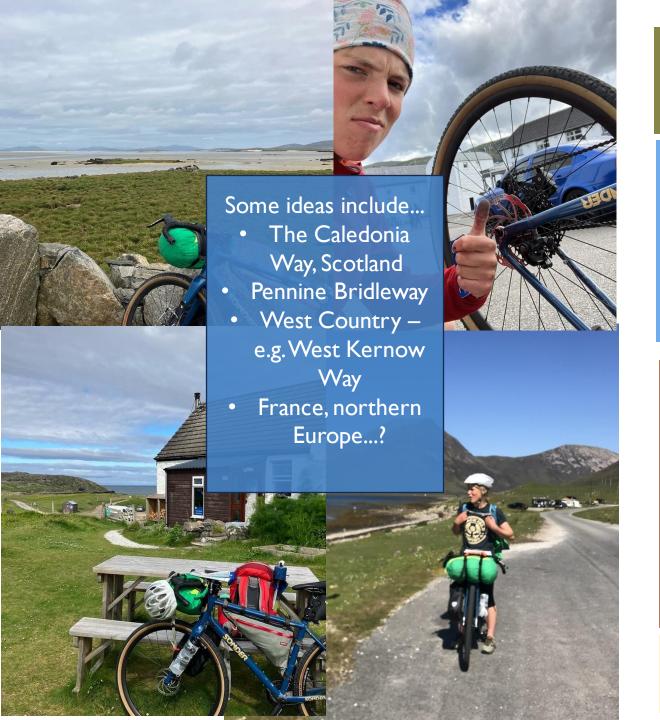
- Want a challenge-type 2 fun
- Like running- Woooo!!!
- Want to do something a bit different

 Potential to do a 2-day training run in the Brecon Beacons in July ish



Bikepacking..?!

- A small backpack, dry bags and straps are all you need to get going (plus a fairly decent bike) kit is not a limitation, my first 5 day trip worked well like this
- Backpacking but the bike carries your stuff, and you can go much further. Cheap, fun, good for fitness, a good convo starter!
- Can carry camping kit (small tent, bivi bag...) and/or use hostels/bothies (little free mountain huts in the UK)
- The possibilities for location and duration are endless! Slightly dependent on logistics travelling with bikes to the route start, and good fitness/enjoyment of cycling and a resilient bum (get padded shorts) are useful
- I am currently thinking a week to 10 days in mid-August
 - As this is new to UBES, we'll work as a team to plan location, duration, distance etc so it suits everyone's abilities and availabilities, but will be within approx 10th-22nd August timeframe
- Team of 4-6 as an absolute maximum so we don't annoy trail and road users and keep faff/logistics issues to a minimum



Bikepacking..?!

- Bike + packs = adventure
- A small backpack, dry bags and straps are all you need to get going (plus a fairly decent bike) kit should not be a limitation, my first 5 day trip worked well like this
- Backpacking but the bike carries your stuff, and you can go much further. Also options for hiking/swimming on non-cycling days
- The possibilities for location and duration are endless!

 Slightly dependent on logistics travelling with bikes to the route start, and good fitness/enjoyment of cycling and a resilient bum (get padded shorts) are useful
- I am currently thinking a week to 10 days in mid-August
 - As this is new to UBES, we'll work as a team to plan location, duration, distance etc so it suits everyone's abilities and availabilities, but will be within approx 10th-22nd August timeframe

PS.I currently have a broken foot (and can't even walk) but all will be fine by the summer! Sorry I can't be here to present in person, please email or message with any questions (fu22243@bristol.ac.uk)



Who's leading this exped?

Jack:

- 22, from Frankfurt, Germany
- 3 years of backpacking experience, including Romania (8 days) and an adapted Skye Trail (7 days), both with scramble sections
- Feel free to talk to me in person or send a Facebook message



Who's leading this exped?

Max:

- 21, from Devon, UK
- 3 years of backpacking experience, including two difficult alpine treks of 9-12 days each
- Any gear questions, feel free to send a message on Facebook



What is the GR20? When are we going?

• Grandes Randonnées (Big Walk) No. 20 in Corsica (France)

Must be free 27th June – 10th July







Itinerary

Day	Between	Distance (km)	Ascent (m)	Notes
1	Conca - Village de Bavella	18km	1500m	Easy (relative to the rest) first day
2	Village de Bavella - Ref de Matalza	20.5km	1300m	Still in the south section, fair but hilly.
3	Matalza - Bivouac Prati	20.5km	1370m	Same as day prior
4	Prati - Ref Capanelle	18.2km	850m	^
5	Capanelle - Vizzavona	14km	350m	Rest day before the north section
6	Vizzavona - Ref L'Onda	10.2km	1150m	First major ascent
7	L'Onda - Ref Manganu	15km	1400m	Gradual day, some scrambling .
8	Manganu - Castel de Vergio	16.5km	570m	Relatively easy day, stops for supplies and campsite.
9	Castel de Vergio - Ref Tighiettu	15km	1050m	First half is just hiking, second requires use of hands (START OF THE TOUGHEST SECTION)
10	Tighiettu (Monte Cinto) - Haut Asco	8.2-10km	950-1050m	Side trip to the highest mountain in Corsica
11	Haut Asco - Ref L'Ortu	12.4km	1600m	Tough terrain , but doable in the time.
12	Ref L'Ortu - Calenzana	10.5km	135m (-1200m)	FINISH



Travel options



Outbound

London Gatwick to Figari, Corsica

Last booked 5 hours ago

3 week view >

Wed 26 Jun

No flights available

Thu 27 Jun

Dep 06:10 Arr 09:40 LOWEST FARE

£76.89 **~**

1 seat left at

Fri 28 Jun

No flights available

Outbound

Calvi, Corsica to London Gatwick

Last booked 5 hours ago



3 week view >

Tue 9 Jul

No flights available

Wed

10 Jul

Dep 10:50 Arr 11:55

LOWEST FARE

52.52 € ✓

1 seat left at

Thu

11 Jul

No flights available

Accommodation

- Camp spot: €9 per night
- Refuge dorm: €17 per night

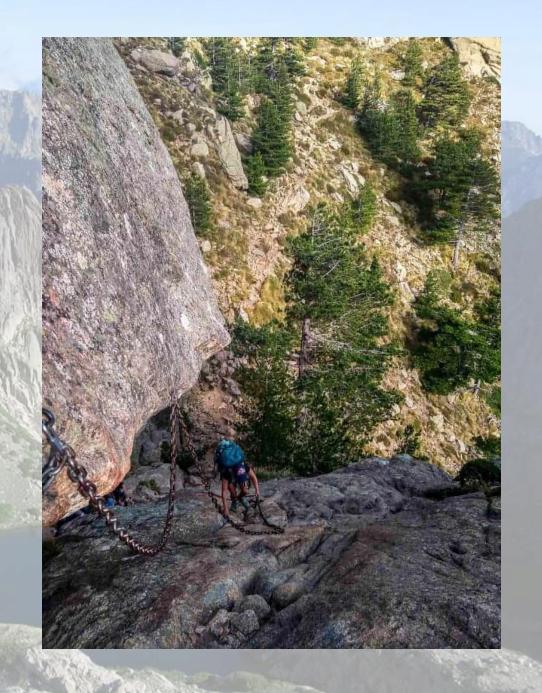






Climate 🔆

- 28° max and sunny skies
- In mountains afternoon thunderstorms and rainfall possible
- Nighttime temperatures can drop as expected, but as the overall peaks aren't as high as the Alps, it's still moderate



Cost breakdown



(x23)

Item	Budget	Premium	Deluxe
Flight from London to Figari	£150	£150	£150
Transfer from Figari to Conca	£15	£30	£110
Food	£50	£100	£400
Accommodation	£85	£160	£200
Transfer from Calenzana to Calvi	£10	£20	£40
Flight from Calvi to London	£150	£150	£150
Total	£460	£600	£1,050

Does not include any kit - and yes, you will need some - add £100 min

Who is this exped for?

- Experience in multi-day treks
- Familiarity with scrambling
- Bouldery mountainsides that frequently require the use of hands
- Physically fit enough to walk demanding trails for multiple days on end
- Looking for a challenge ("Europe's toughest trek")
- Some of the **best scenery** the Med has to offer!



Further reading and links



GR20 official website



One of many online guides

And so so many more....

Google the GR20 and you will have far too many resources to ever read and watch!!!



Key points

What is it?

Europe's toughest trek including scrambling

What is the group size?

8 including Max and Jack

Cost estimate?

Budget £500-600

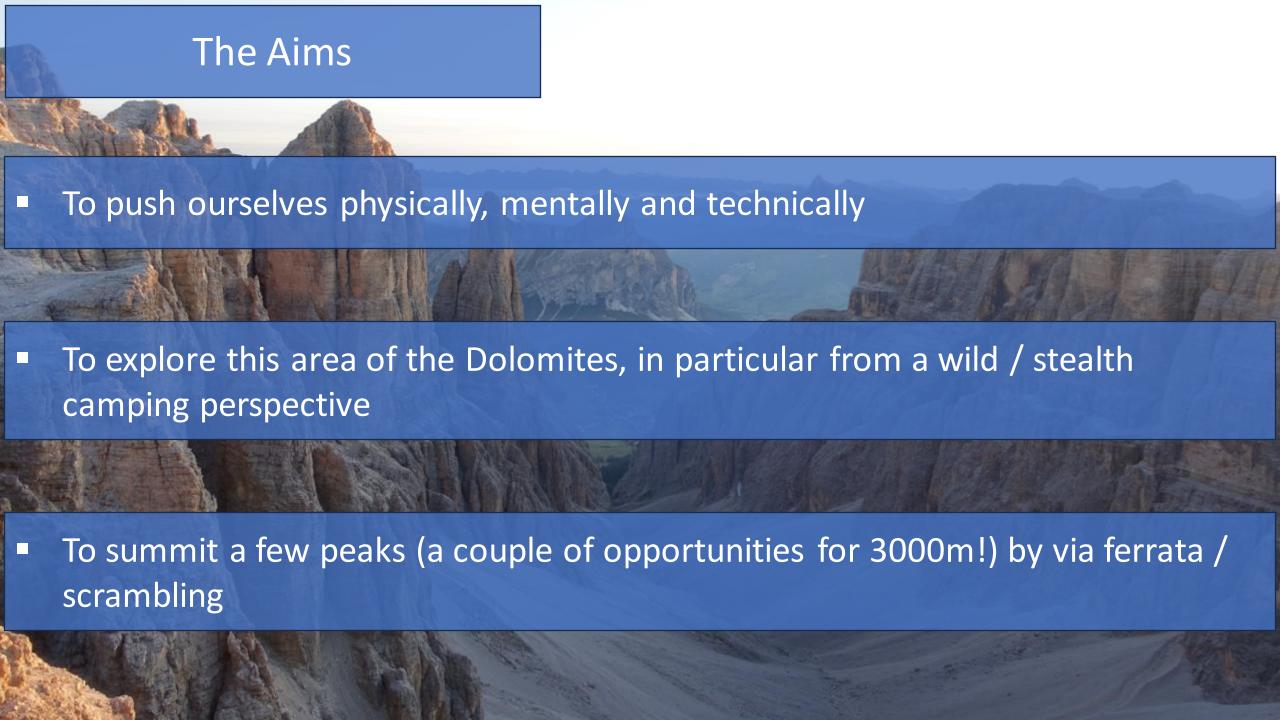
Dates?

27th June - 10th July









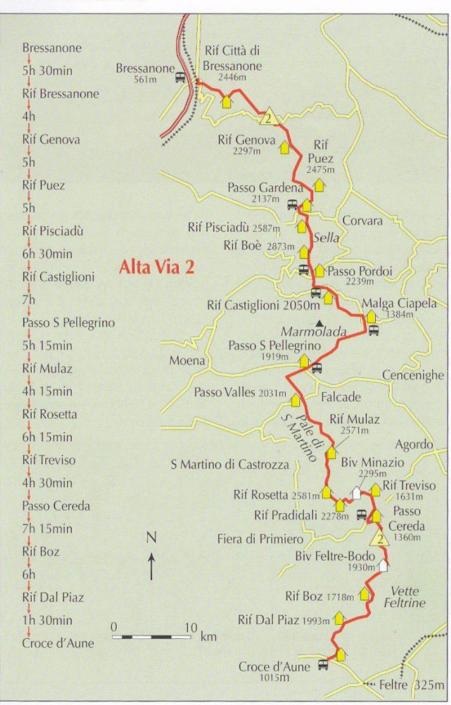
The Plan

- 9 (ish) days trekking the Alta Via 2 in the Dolomites starting at Bressanone and going to Passo Cerada
- Wild camping for the majority, with a couple of nights staying in unmanned bivouac huts (bivaccos) or rifugi
- Wild camping is (technically illegal) but is apparently tolerated as long as you LNT, pitch late and rise early, and be stealthy!
- Potentially staying a couple of nights in mountain huts (rifugi) but these are sometimes quite spenny!
- 5 days then go through Malga Ciapela (our resupply town) and spend 1 or 2 nights there at a proper campsite – option of a rest day with some potentially cool things to do!
- Then another 4 days to complete the trail aim

The Plan

			AND THE RESERVE	
Day	Where	Distance (km)	Ascent/descent (m)	Notes
1	Bressanone – rif. Genova	14.8	1150/900	Get the cable car up to Plose (official start)
2	Rif Genova – rif Puez	10.7	1100/900	Includes Piz Duleda summit (2909m)
3	Rif Puez – rif Pisciadu	10.5	1050/950	
4	Rif Pisciadu – rif Boe	4.3	600/300	Includes Cima Piscidu summit (2985m) + option for Piz Boe (3152m)
5	Rif Boe – Malga Ciapela	18.5	850/2250	A lot of downhill but not technical
Rest day	Malga Ciapela			Stay in a proper campsite (<£15 a night)
6	Malga Ciapela – rif San Pellegrino	15.1	1300/800	
7	Rif San Pellegrino – valle delle comelle	12.8	1550/1300	+ option to summit monte mulaz (2906m)
8	Valle delle comelle – bivacco Carlo Minazio	10.9	1400/1400	
9	Biv Minazio – Passo Cerada	10.9	1400/2300	

TREKKING IN THE DOLOMITES





Weather

Weather in the Dolomites in late August / early September tends to be fairly stable, often with dry and sunny days and clear skies. Earlier in the summer tends to have frequent afternoon thunderstorms, which may still happen but a lot less. Summer weather in the Dolomites can still be quite tempestuous though so we will be checking forecasts and asking at rifugi etc...

Month	Average High Temperature	Average Low Temperature	Average Hours Daylight	Average Hours Sunshine / Day	Average Days Rain / Month
Jun	27°C / 80.6°F	13°C / 55.4°F	15:42	7	9
Jul	29°C / 84.2°F	15°C / 59°F	15:25	8	9
Aug	28°C / 82.4°F	15°C / 59°F	14:12	7	9
Sep	25°C / 77°F	11°C / 51.8°F	12:37	6	6
Oct	19°C / 66.2°F	6° C / 42.8°F	11:01	5	6

(at 1224m in the Dolomites)



Getting there and back (about £300?)

- Flights from the UK (London) to Venice are less than £200 return including baggage (but this may go up so allow 200-250)
- On the UK side depends where you live!
- Venice Bressanone is £17
- Bus / train from the end back to Venice is quite cheap (~£20)
- Other options could include interrailing / coaches (probably not much cheaper but more eco-friendly!)

After...

- Italy!! You could head straight home but otherwise northern Italy has a lot to offer
- Cheap hostel / Airbnb = :)
- Flexible depending on budgets maybe £100 for a few extra days?

Kit (£0 – 100)

- Via ferrata leash you can rent for the time for about 15 quid, and ubes can lend a helmet / harness if you don't have them
- You could also borrow a rucksack /
 sleeping bag / roll mat from UBES,
 but you might want to get your own –
 a good investment and comfier
- Same goes for a tent, you can share this weight between 2/3 but the lighter the better!
- Outdoor gear exchange!
- Borrow from friends (ubesters have a lot of gear, especially the rich postgrads)





<u>When</u> Late August – early September

What

9 (ish) days trekking the Alta Via 2, with via ferrata, a bit of scrambling and some cool peaks!

<u>How</u>

Wild camping for most with a few nights in mountain huts

Where

The Dolomites in northern Italy

Who

Determined people who are ready for a challenge! Scrambling / climbing experience is definitely a plus

Why

To take on a more technical exped and explore the region









Mount Kenya: **North Face** Standard Route (IV+)

AKA:

The Dev-sped

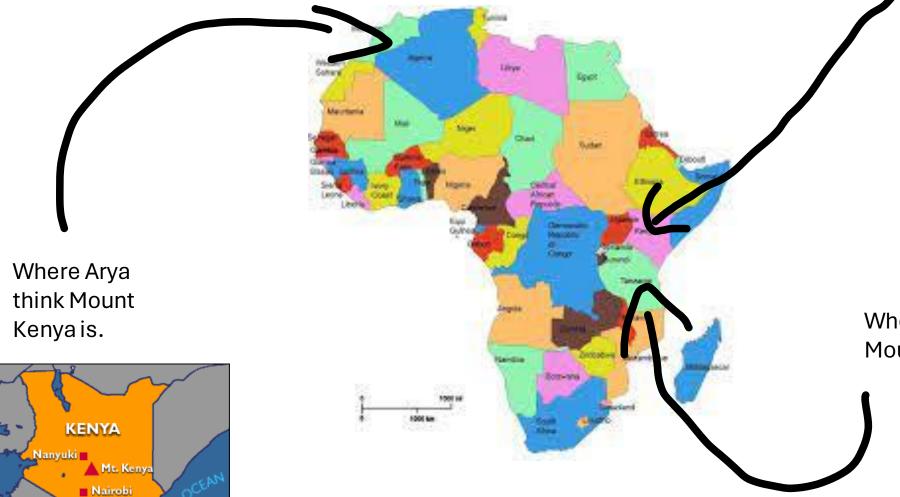
The Developedition

The Expediment

By: Jim Hobson (Dev boi the 4th)

Location, location, location

Mt. Kenya height: 5200m / 17,058ft



Where Kenyan's think Mount Kenya is.

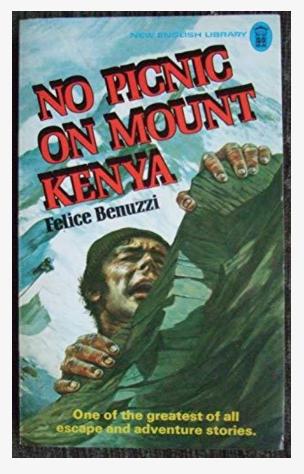


Where Max think Mount Kenya is.



History of Mountaineering on Mount Kenya

- First ascended by Halford McKinder in 1988
- Multiple lines established from then until the 1980's
- Was once attempted by 3
 escaped Italian prisoners of war
 with the sole purpose of pissing
 off their British captors.
- Roughly 45 summits per year (very low).
- Second highest peak on Africa.







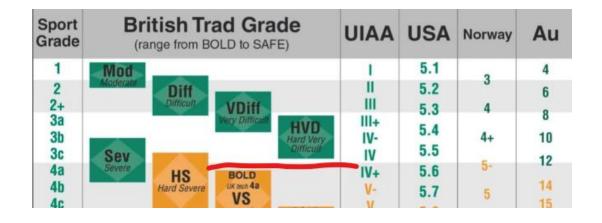
The Route thus far

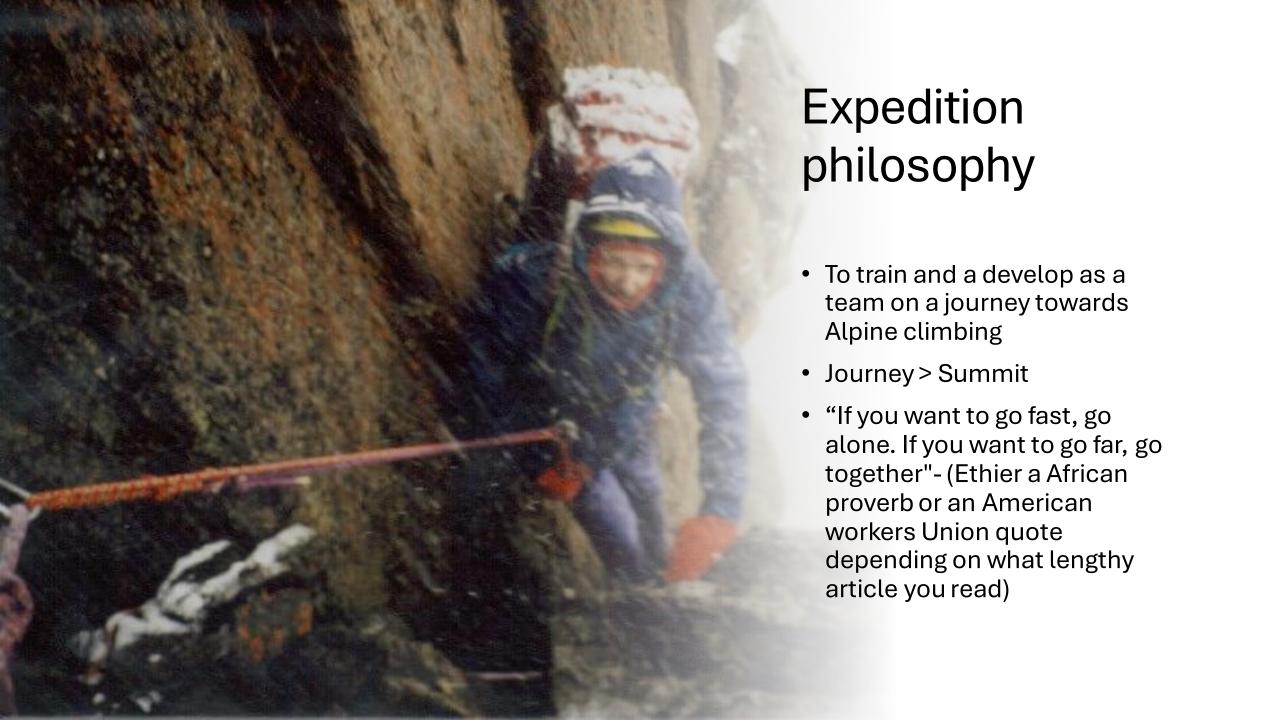
- 3 days walk in: Likely via the Chogoria Route. (3300-4700)
- 2-3 days acclimatising: or waiting for the weather window.
- 1-2 days climbing: Option for a high altitude bivy, depending on if we also go for the second and third highest peak.
- 2-3 day walk out: Likley via naro moru route



The climb

- UIAA IV+ similar to a UK trad HS, some reports of mostly VD terrain, other reports of a VS crux.
- 16 pitches of climbing, 20 if we include the second highest peak.
- 900 meter of accent moving together in places.
- · Option to bivy if needed





Goals

To develop as a team of hikers who climb (and visa versa) to mountaineers

01

To summit a selection of the three highest peaks of Mount Kenya

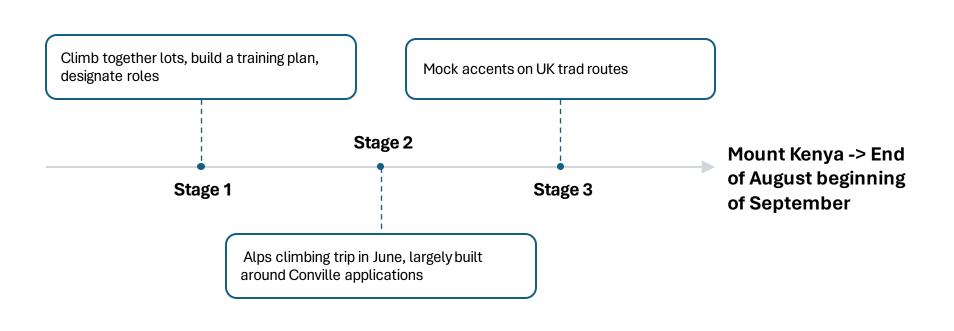
02

To understand the frankly quite strange part of ourself that wanted to do this in the first place?



The development process





Costs (£700, more likely £1000)

Rough attempts at costs

- 350-500 on flights (best deal I've seen is 365)
- 156 or 300 (depending on student status) for park acsess fees
- 50 on in country transport
- Kit and food (highly personal)
- Insurance covered under Austrian Alpine Club (70 quid I think)
- 1.65 pint
- Vaccines (Again highly personal but surprisingly not many, 50 quid ish)
- Possibility for porters or guides





Group determined eligibility criteria

- Have done a substantial backpacking Exped outside of Dofe
- Consistently climb at Severe standard on more than 5 multipitch routes, with an aim to reach consistent VS standard by the end of the summer
- Climb sport at a 6b Standard
- Have winter skills training
- High level of personal fitness
- Be committed to a development/training process
- Not be a wanker (excluding Jim for medical reasons)
- Being a medical student or prior alpine experience is a massive bonus



Any Questions?

Note: Sign up will be an express interest box on the Exped form, separate to the regular sign up. Come find me at the pub, although selection will be based on a group decision.



