

RMI EXPEDITIONS
RAINIER MOUNTAINEERING, INC.

SHISHAPANGMA EXPEDITION 2013



26,289' • 8013m
Tibet, China

Fall 2013 (Post Monsoon Season)

www.rmiguides.com



SHISHAPANGMA

Shishapangma is the 14th highest mountain in the world, and the only 8,000m peak lying solely in Tibet. We consider Shishapangma an ideal first 8,000m peak because the overall effort to get established at the base of this mountain is much less than for other similar mountains and the climbing route is straightforward.

For a peak of this size and stature, the Northwest Ridge, our climbing route, offers a direct route to Shishapangma's Central Summit. A knife edge ridge connects the slightly lower Central Summit to the mountain's South Summit at 26,289' (8,013m). This final section of the climb can prove very challenging but will be the team's ultimate goal.

Shishapangma is considered by many to be one of the "easiest" 8,000m peaks to climb because of its direct route and relatively short approach to Base Camp. We arrive by jeep to the "Chinese Driver's Camp" and from there a long 16-mile one-day walk with yaks brings us to the established climber's Base Camp. We now dedicate up to a full 28 days to the climb.



The RMI Difference

Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. was established in 1969 and is one of America's oldest and most-trusted guide services. We are the largest guide service on Mt. Rainier and Mt. McKinley and a leader in guiding climbs and treks around the globe. Our experienced guides are some of the best in the world, more than 40 of whom have reached the summit of Mt. Everest, some multiple times. Our years of leading mountain adventures give us the experience and knowledge necessary to create the best possible trips. We work hard to live up to our reputation as an industry leader.

In 2011 a strong team of RMI guides, including Elías de Andrés Martos, successfully climbed Shishapangma via the Northwest Ridge, without the use of supplemental oxygen or Sherpa support. For your 2013 expedition, his knowledge and experience will serve as the foundation for your adventure. Read about the 2011 climb on the [RMI Guide Shack](#) or the [First Ascent Blog](#).

Safety

Safety has always been RMI's top priority and we strive to create the safest mountain experience possible. Our experienced team of guides and Sherpa focus on leading a fun and successful climb without compromising safety. Our climber-to-guide ratio is 3:1, and our Sherpa-to-climber ratio is 1:1. This unusual degree of personal service from RMI's guides and Sherpa staff increases our margin of safety on the mountain and improves your chances of success.

Our camps are stocked with comprehensive medical kits and we have two Gamow bags on the mountain throughout the expedition. Our guides and staff are highly trained in emergency mountain medicine and work to maintain our strict standards of safety. When problems arise on the mountain, away from medical facilities, the level of training and experience RMI's guides have makes them some of the most sought after guides in the profession.

Careful planning and vigilant care are taken as we venture into high altitudes. Our well-planned use of climbing oxygen dramatically improves a climber's chance of success on Shishapangma. It is expected that first time 8,000m climbers use bottled oxygen. Personal exceptions/considerations will be addressed individually with the guides. Oxygen equipment will be carried to high camp and worn on summit bid. A necessary amount of oxygen will be purchased prior to the expedition.



Why Climb Shishapangma with RMI?

Rainier Mountaineering, Inc. is one of America's most reputable and long-standing guide services with over four decades of mountain guiding experience. Simply stated, we excel at bringing climbers to the highest mountains of the world. Our commitment to leading extraordinary mountain adventures, our unparalleled logistical support, and our world-class leadership make our Shishapangma Expedition unmatched.

RMI's Approach Safety is RMI's number one priority and nothing trumps its importance.

Guides The most experienced and renowned guides in the profession. Our guides are well regarded climbers and mountaineering instructors. They are highly trained in technical rescue and in wilderness and mountain medicine.

Climbing Ratios Small team ratios of 3:1 climber-to-guide. Small team ratios facilitate stronger team dynamics, excellent communication, and individualized attention.

Logistics RMI is involved in every step of the planning, preparation, and packing of our expedition. Our behind-the-scenes logistics are not left to others, ensuring that each and every detail of expedition planning is addressed and met.

Expedition Execution Small ratios and extensive logistical support give us a high level of flexibility and the individual focus needed on the mountain, from acclimatization scheduling to individual food preferences. We intentionally avoid locking our expedition into predetermined itineraries and plans, choosing instead to tailor our climb to the needs of our climbers and the realities of the mountain conditions.

Sherpas With years of experience, our phenomenal Sherpa staff are among the most experienced and well regarded in the Himalaya. They each have dozens of Himalayan summits and offer superior attentive support for our expedition. Our Sherpa pursue ongoing technical training between expeditions under internationally accredited guide training programs. All of our Sherpas receive equipment stipends as well as First Ascent down suits for our expedition

Base Camp We outfit a comprehensive and comfortable Base Camp on the mountain, including heated dining tents, hot showers, communications tent with re-charging equipment, private toilets, individual sleeping tents, full-time cooks and great food, as well as a selection of entertainment and games. We address all of the necessities, as well as luxuries, to keep our climbers comfortable and happy - and ultimately strong and healthy - throughout the climb.

Food Dedicated professional cook at Base Camp who prepare excellent, healthy meals. We have well-stocked inventories that include hundreds of pounds of specialty food brought from the U.S., offering excellent variety and selection. A flexible and diverse menu accommodates our differing tastes and changing appetites.

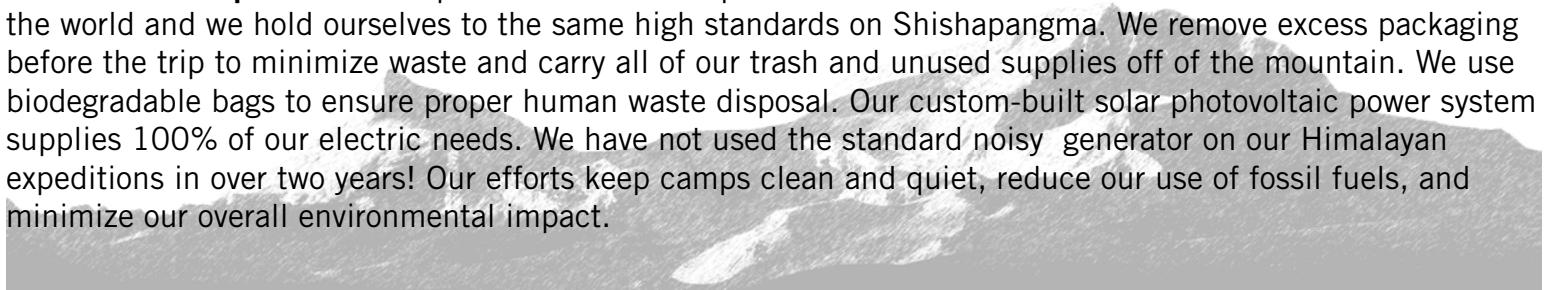
On-Mountain Camps Our mountain camps are well stocked with emergency supplies, and medical and rescue equipment.

Medical Our guides are highly trained in medical and technical rescue and carry medical and rescue equipment with them at all times.

Weather Forecasts We use a private weather forecasting service with Himalayan experience to keep us current with the latest trends and developments in weather patterns throughout the expedition.

Communications All of our climbers, guides, and Sherpa are outfitted with personal radios. We provide access to phone, email, and satellite communications at Base Camp. We can help arrange personal cell phone, email, and satellite communications equipment as needed.

Environmental Impact RMI has pioneered and championed Leave No Trace ethics on mountains all around the world and we hold ourselves to the same high standards on Shishapangma. We remove excess packaging before the trip to minimize waste and carry all of our trash and unused supplies off of the mountain. We use biodegradable bags to ensure proper human waste disposal. Our custom-built solar photovoltaic power system supplies 100% of our electric needs. We have not used the standard noisy generator on our Himalayan expeditions in over two years! Our efforts keep camps clean and quiet, reduce our use of fossil fuels, and minimize our overall environmental impact.





Kathmandu, Nepal



Hiking across the Tibetan Plateau

Shishapangma Itinerary

Day 1: Depart the United States

Day 2: Travel Day

Day 3: Arrive in Kathmandu

Day 4: Kathmandu: Orientation and preparation

Day 5: Early morning drive to Zhangmu (7,544')

Day 6: Drive Zhangmu to Nyalam (12,460')

Day 7: Acclimatization hike in Nyalam (12,460')

Day 7: Drive Nyalam to Shishapangma Trailhead at Chinese Driver's Camp (16,400')

Day 8-9: Acclimatization in Chinese Driver's Camp (16,400')

Day 10: Hike to Base Camp (18,400')

Day 11-39: The Climb

Day 40: Return to Zhangmu (7,544')

Day 41: Drive Zhangmu to Kathmandu

Day 42: Kathmandu

Day 43: Transfer to airport, fly home.

Day 44: Arrive US



Climbing above Base Camp



Shishapangma at night



Climbing towards the Central Summit



On the summit of Shishapangma

Required Experience

Participants on our Shishapangma Expedition must have a solid understanding of mountaineering skills. We require that each team member have previous high altitude experience, such as McKinley, Aconcagua or other 7,000 - 8,000 meter peaks. Screening and final selection will be done on an individual basis after we have reviewed your climbing resume and our Shishapangma Guides have spoken with you directly. Please download the [climbing resume registration form here](#).

Climbers on this adventure will be expected to be confident, competent and ready to participate in this adventure of a lifetime.

As you prepare for your upcoming adventure please feel free to contact our office and speak directly to one of our experienced guides regarding equipment, conditioning, the route, or any other questions you may have about our programs. We are available Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT at (888) 89-CLIMB or info@rmiguides.com.



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