



WELCOME TO OUR

COMPANY PROFILE

COMPANY OVERVIEW



Big Expeditions is a socially responsible company. We are a qualified partner company with the Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Project (KPAP), a nonprofit porter welfare organization (www.kiliporters.org). We voluntarily participate with, and are evaluated by, KPAP's monitoring activities every climbing season. Our climb price reflects our providing proper working conditions for our porters. Lower climb prices may be possible because an operator is not adhering to fair and ethical standards. Please contact KPAP at info@kiliporters.org to confirm our Partner status.



ABOUT THE FOUNDER

Nicholas Patrick Minja was born on October 23, 1973 in Komela village Marangu, Kilimanjaro Province. He started his education at Komela West School. Growing up at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro made him develop an interest in Mountain climbing as he was living with his elder brothers and an uncle who were involved in Mountain climbing.

When he was 13 years he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro for the first time after pleading with his uncle to let him climb, despite facing many challenges on his maiden climb it turned out to be the experience of a lifetime.

Nicholas became very passionate about Mountain climbing and nothing could discourage him from climbing Kilimanjaro during school holidays. He became very famous at his school and he freely shared his passion for the mountains with his fellow students. This background of adventure stories helped inspire some of them who eventually became Mountain guides.



(Nicholas Minja & Angel)



The company continue to make a huge difference to the lives of hundreds of Porters, mountain & Safari guides who depend on it to make a living, he has also shaped the future of many orphans and children from poor background who have benefited immensely through provision of free and quality education by his school, Mkombozi school for the orphans that he founded with his wife Mrs. Angel Minja. Big Expeditions & Safaris continues run this school as part its corporate social responsibility. Nicholas believed in fighting poverty through education.

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Nicholas got married to his childhood Sweetheart Angel Richard Mngoya in November 27th 2004 and together they were blessed with two children, Wily and Winnie. Nicholas and his wife have been managing Big Expeditions together.

Through a tragic road accident that occurred on the 28th of July 2017 Nicholas lost his life. His death has stunned and saddened many who knew him. Nicholas was a decent and kind man, with a warm, gentle soul. He was Much loved by the people who worked for him and he shall be greatly missed by all. To honour him the team will continue with the legacy he left behind of selflessness and being good to all people.



WHEN WE WERE ESTABLISHED

Big Expeditions & Safaris was established on the 30th January 2003 to address gaps in customer safety & expectations. After working for other company for more than 15 years as a mountain guide, Nicholas Minja, the founder of the company realized that customers were not getting value for their money. He also found out that he did not share core values with the companies that he was working for. This prompted him to make a very important decision of starting his own company with the encouragement of an American friend.



Our Mission

The mission of Big Expeditions & Safaris is to deliver a superior customer experience at affordable prices. To achieve this, we carefully hire the best people to work for us. We only employ candidates who closely match the requirements of the job and have the right attitude. We always plan for dedicated training for all our new employees in order to bring their skills up to needed levels.

Our Vision

The vision of Big Expeditions & Safaris is to become the most service oriented tour operator in Tanzania, setting the highest standards of service to our guests and maintaining a distinctive brand image that distinguishes us from our competitors.

- 1) Our priority is to deliver optimum value to our customers
- 2) We aspire to exceed our guests expectations
- 3) Total customer satisfaction is our commitment with a focus on providing superior service to all of our esteemed guests
- 4) We fully understand that our greatest asset is the people who work for us. We value them and encourage their development and reward their performance.
- 5) We take seriously the safety of our guests and we have invested heavily in safety equipment. Our core safety values are bodily injury prevention, protection of our guests through self awareness and regular first responder training for our staff who are involved in outdoor activities.



CORE VALUE

Balance

Accountability

Ownership

Integrity

Empowerment
&
Autonomy

Diversity

Community

Commitment



Managing Director

Angel is the widow of the late Mr. Nicholas Minja, the founder Director of Big Expeditions & Safaris. After the death of her husband she has assumed the position of Managing Director and she is the sole owner of the company. Angel attended the prestigious Msalato Girls High School in Dodoma for her "A" Level. While waiting for her university admission, she joined Tropical Centre College in Arusha for a course in Tour Operations. She later joined University of Dar es salaam, the leading university in the country where she earned her degree in public Administration.

After her tertiary education, Angel was training to become a mountain guide and she trekked up Mount Kilimanjaro several times. She however did not realize her dream of becoming a mountain guide as her knowledge and skills were more needed in the office..

Angel is also a Director at Mkombozi School, a prep & primary school she founded with her late husband. The school was established to provide free and quality education to orphans and children from poor families.



Angel Minja



TOP DESTINATIONS

NORTHERN CIRCUIT



Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, Tarangire, Mount Kilimanjaro, Lake Manyara

SOUTHERN CIRCUIT & WESTERN CIRCUIT



Selous Game Reserve, Mahale, Ruaha, Mikumi, Udzungwa

BEACHES & ISLAND



Zanzibar, Pemba, Mafia, Bagamoyo, Mainland Coast

BUDGET HOTELS

Located on the foot of Mount Meru in a 140 acre coffee estate, about 30 kms from Kilimanjaro airport and Arusha town. The lodge has a total of 139 guest



MIDRANGE HOTELS

This magnificent new lodge is spread over 12 acres (ca. 50,000 sq.m.) of beautifully landscaped gardens and natural African bushland, bordering on a river



LUXURY HOTELS

Located on the outskirts of the charming city of Arusha and is about 60 minutes by car from Kilimanjaro International Airport. The lodge is conveniently



TOURS & SAFARIS

CULTURAL SAFARI



TANZANIA CAMPING SAFARIS



LUXURY TANZANIA SAFARIS



BUDGET CAMPING SAFARIS



HONEYMOON SAFARIS



WILDEBEEST MIGRATION

CLIMBING AND TREKKING



MOUNT KILIMANJARO



MOUNT MERU



MOUNT OL DOINYO

OUR KEY STAFF



**GRACE GLADSTONE
KIMARO**

Senior Tour Manager



AMANI MSHANGA

Transport Coordinator



MOHAMED MPAGAMA

Head Driver Guide



JONAS RUTTA

Head Mountain Guide

OUR REVIEWS

VISITORS RATING



Mr. George Gosbee

★★★★★

Hi Nicholas, Thank you very much for organizing my trip. Safi and the porters were first class. All very professional. You have a great team of people. I really enjoyed myself. Please let them know how much I appreciated it. I will pass on your name and recommend that my sister uses you next year. As well, if you have any Canadians that are thinking about hiring you, you can use my name as a reference if you wish. Thanks again,



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