

Extreme Adventures

Some people see a vacation as a way to relax and take things easy for a few weeks. But chilling out is not for everyone, especially not for more athletic vacationers. They prefer the taste of adventure. Check out this list of extreme adventures. Are there any that *you* want to try?

(1) _____ But it doesn't offer **ambitious** climbers the tallest hike from the **base** to the top. Everest measures 12,000 feet from base to **summit** while Alaska's Denali, North America's highest mountain, measures 18,000 feet. On the way up Denali, climbers have to survive arctic conditions, temperatures of -35°F , and winds traveling at more than 100 miles an hour. Between 1932 and 2018, 126 people died on Denali. Still considering it? Well, you'll need to take three or four weeks of vacation, because that's how long it can take to reach the top.

(2) _____ Probably not this much, though. Eagle's Nest, a system of underwater caves in Florida, has incredible scenery, but beware: some of its caves

are over 300 feet deep. The site is very beautiful and unique, but its depth makes it more difficult for divers to deal with any problems that occur. At least 11 divers have lost their lives here since 1981. You must be an expert diver to try this one.

(3) _____ Have you ever thought of kayaking down the Inga **Rapids** of the Congo River? Only one team has ever survived these rapids, while many others have died trying. The successful team did it in 2011, led by Steve Fisher. They paddled against water that was traveling at 30 miles an hour and waves that were 40 feet high. The team also survived waterfalls and **whirlpools**. So... interested? A flight to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, anyone?

ambitious wanting to be successful in doing something very difficult

base the bottom or lowest part of something

rapids part of a river where the water moves very quickly over rocks

whirlpools areas of water that move quickly in a circle and can pull things into them



Two hikers between 14,000 and 17,000 feet on Denali, in Alaska

A Read the article. Then match the sentences to the spaces in the paragraphs.

- a. Everyone knows Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain.
- b. Finally, it doesn't get much more dangerous than this.
- c. OK, forget heights. Maybe you like diving instead?

B Read the article again. Match the underlined words and phrases in the text to the synonyms below. Remember, a synonym is a word or phrase with a similar meaning to another word or phrase.

- 1. people on vacation _____
- 2. died _____
- 3. relaxing _____
- 4. highest point _____
- 5. active; good at sports _____
- 6. things to look at _____

C Read the sentences. Write **T** for *true*, **F** for *false*, or **NI** for *no information*.

- _____ 1. Denali is the second tallest mountain in the world.
- _____ 2. On the way up Denali, temperatures can fall below zero.
- _____ 3. There isn't a lot of wind on Denali.
- _____ 4. Eagle's Nest is dangerous because its caves are so deep.
- _____ 5. There are dangerous animals in the Eagle's Nest cave system.
- _____ 6. Other teams survived the Inga Rapids after Steve Fisher and his team did.
- _____ 7. The only difficult thing about the Inga Rapids is the fast water.
- _____ 8. The Inga Rapids are located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.