

# Melting Mount Everest revealed in staggering photos taken 100 years apart

Two teens from Nepal interview Sherpas about how Mount Everest is changing and how they put their lives at risk for income in the next part of the Mirror's NextGen project

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1- Few places on the planet can match the awe-inspiring beauty of the Himalayas, home to nine out of 10 of the world's highest peaks.

2- The mountain range is the natural world at its finest and most challenging, but beneath the shadows of Mount Everest is frightening evidence of the impact that the climate emergency is having on our planet.

3- Sherpas of Nepal today warn how glaciers on Mount Everest are rapidly melting, making traversing the peak more dangerous and putting the lives of the people living below the mountain at risk.

4- Kami Rita Sherpa, the world record holder for the most ascents to the summit of Everest, says that he is concerned about the future of the world's highest peak as rising temperatures are causing glaciers and snow to disappear at alarming rates.

- "All the mountains are melting," the Sherpa, who has reached the top of Mount Everest 25 times, says.

"And the weather at the mountains is very unpredictable. Mountains are starting to be bare, as the once snow-covered rocks are only rocks now."

5- Photographs taken of Everest in May 1921 and January 2019 from the Tibet side of the mountain show a stark difference.

6- In 2019, scientists monitoring climate change in the region found the average melting rate has doubled over the past decade due to higher temperatures and decreased snowfall.

7- Apa Sherpa, a former world record holder who ascended Everest 21 times before his retirement, witnessed the mountain disappearing before his own eyes.

8- “There was a big change compared to when I first climbed and my last climb,” he says. “When I first climbed, there was more snow and more ice, but it’s a lot rockier now because of climate change.”

He adds: “The glacier is getting lower and lower because it’s melting.”

9 - For Sherpas like Kami and Apa Sherpa, who are charged with guiding tourists and carrying their equipment to the top of the 8,849-metre peak, global warming is making the climb even more dangerous.

10- Without snow and ice holding rocks in place, Kami says “natural disasters like rock falls and avalanches occur more frequently than in the old days.”

11- Apa Sherpa recalls climbing in the 1990s without a helmet but now mountaineers have to wear helmets because of the falling rocks.

12- Climate campaigner Pemba Dorje Sherpa, who has also summited Everest 21 times and campaigns with Friends of the Earth, explains that one of the riskiest parts of the mountain is the notorious Khumbu icefall.

13- An icefall is a steep part of a glacier, similar to a frozen waterfall. The Khumbu icefall is located above Everest’s base camp and is considered one of the most treacherous parts of the route to the top.

14- In April 2014, a column of ice collapsed there, causing an avalanche that killed 16 Sherpas.

15- “It’s getting riskier with increased climate change and global warming as the ice there melts because of the heat,” Pemba says.

“Earlier, we used to start the climb at 1 to 2 am. Now, we have to start around 12 am to cross the iceberg before sunrise to avoid the risk of it melting.”

16- A research team measuring ice temperatures on the Khumbu Glacier in 2018 found that the ice was significantly warmer than expected, with the coldest ice measuring  $-3.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  – meaning it will be quicker to melt in the sun.

17- As the snow melts, Sherpas have been horrified to see bodies of past climbers emerging.

18- An estimated 280 people have died on Everest, a third of whom are Sherpas.

19 - "It is dangerous for every climber but the Sherpas are the ones that take huge risks," Kami says, explaining that they are responsible for "opening the routes, carrying loads and preparing for the clients."

He adds: "Nobody recognizes the responsibility and the struggles that Sherpas face during the expedition."

20- But unlike Western tourists seeking adventure, many Sherpas have no choice but to make the climb in order to earn a wage to feed their families.

21- Nepal's mountain tourist industry contributed \$724million (£538 million) to the economy in 2019.

"I wanted to get an education and become a doctor," Apa Sherpa says. "But unfortunately when I was 12, my father passed away. Then I had no choice, I had to support my family. So then I became a porter and trekking guide."

22- Kami also became a mountaineer out of necessity rather than choice.

"I had the responsibility of looking after my family and was not very financially stable at that moment. Being from a poor family background, the only source of income was mountaineering."

23- Apa Sherpa says: "Our Sherpa people, we have no education. So we have to climb, even though it's risky. That's why more of our people die on Everest than the Western people, the European people.

24- "Because the Sherpas have no choice and the Sherpas have to do everything - fixing the ropes, taking the clients to the top, bringing them down, we have to go through the icefall 15-20 times."

25- The people living in Everest's foothills are also suffering the effects of the melting mountain.

Leia o texto com atenção e responda às questões abaixo. Há apenas uma alternativa correta por questão.

Após ler o texto atentamente, escolha a alternativa que melhor descreve os alpinistas Sherpas.

**R: Seus rendimentos provêm de seu trabalho como guias nas expedições.**

After reading the whole text attentively, find the answer to the question "who reached the summit of Everest more times?"

**R: Kami Rita Sherpa.**

O parágrafo 22 indica que Kami se tornou alpinista

R: por necessidade.

No parágrafo 23, na sentença *So we have to climb, even though it's risky*, a expressão **even though** pode ser substituída por

R: even if

In paragraph 4, Kami

R: is worried about how climate changes are affecting the Everest.

In paragraph 5, the word **stark** in *Photographs taken of Everest in May 1921 and January 2019 from the Tibet side of the mountain show a stark difference*, can, in this context, be translated into

R: brutal

In paragraph 15, Pemba points out that

R: nowadays, they start climbing at midnight because the risk of melting is smaller

Paragraphs 19 and 20 reveal that the Sherpas

R: are not recognized for the risks they take.

In paragraph 21, Apa says that

R: because his father died, he had to stop studying and start working.

In not more than 100 words, write your views about the effect of global warming on the environment.

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