

Dentaid tackles Mount Sinai for 2007 Trek

The oral health charity Dentaid is offering members of the dental profession and the general public the opportunity to conquer Mount Sinai, visit the Pyramids and trek through part of the Sahara - one of the most varied and beautiful desert landscapes in the world. The Charity Trek, which takes place from the 25 Nov – 1 Dec 2007, will raise vital funds for Dentaid's pioneering work improving oral health for disadvantaged communities around the world.

The challenge event follows on from Dentaid's highly successful Italy trek climbing the three active volcanoes of Vesuvius, Stromboli and Etna in 2006, which was hailed by all who took part as an experience of a lifetime!

Chief Executive Luke Wordley said:- "This year we wanted to take our supporters somewhere more exotic, and offer experiences even more out of the ordinary!" The trips highlights include:- Visiting the Pyramids at Giza – one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World; Climbing Mount Sinai – where Moses is believed to have received the Ten Commandments; Encountering the grandeur and beauty of the Sinai landscape, and camping out in Bedouin tents or even underneath the stars of the pristine desert sky! On the last day there is also a chance to relax on the shores of the Red Sea.

Tour operators Classic Tours report the Sinai region as "one of the most attractive trekking areas in the world – the vast open spaces, ever changing landscapes and an abundance of fresh air make it seem a million miles away from everyday life."

Those who would like to take part must raise a minimum of £1980, of which at least £1000 goes to Dentaid after tour costs. However, Fundraising Assistant Dafydd Pierce is determined that no-one should be put off by this aspect of the challenge. Almost 100 people have successfully taken part in

Challenge Events for Dentaïd in the past and with Dentaïd's extensive support, advice and ideas, past trekkers have regularly exceeded their fundraising goals with ease.

Past Challenges and their results

Dentaïd's annual Challenge Trek is the charity's biggest single fundraising event. Funds raised from previous Challenges have been pivotal to Dentaïd's work over the last few years, providing key pump-priming funds to develop new initiatives and projects.

The charity's first challenge event took place in 2002 when 25 volunteers cycled through part of the Grand Canyon in the USA. The money raised allowed vital investment in skills and machinery to improve the charity's equipment operation. Thanks to this effort, since 2002, Dentaïd has been able to supply a complete dental surgery to needy charitable projects overseas on average every ten working days to nearly 100 projects in 40 countries, allowing hundreds of thousand of patients to be relieved of oral pain safely and effectively.

In 2004, 28 hardy souls took on trekking a section of the Great Wall of China, in doing so raising almost £50,000. This enabled Dentaïd to develop an innovative toothpaste dispenser and holistic school oral health programme in Uganda, currently reaching almost 9,000 children. Initial results from this pilot project are extremely encouraging and it is hoped this dispenser resource and holistic programme could prove a blueprint for school oral health programmes and be replicated in needy communities all over the world.

Finally, in September 2006, 29 trekkers took on the "Three Tremors Challenge" in Italy, climbing Mounts Etna, Stromboli and Vesuvius in just five days. Money from this trek will fund vital new initiatives Dentaïd is

embarking upon in oral health promotion, training and advocacy to lobby and help developing world governments improve oral health services and ensure greater access to key prevention measures like fluoride toothpaste. These more “upstream” areas of work have potential to improve oral health for whole populations rather than just individual communities and regions.

These Challenge Event trips have been vital to Dentaids work and helped establish Dentaids as one of the leading oral health charities in the world. By joining the Dentaids team heading to Egypt in 2007, trekkers will be playing an amazing role in the improvement of oral health for disadvantaged communities in some of the poorest countries around the world.