

DYING HIGH



One would think that Mount Everest is the most dangerous mountain of all, with 332 fatal mountaineering accidents. But far from it. As a result of the rush to the mountain and the ever-increasing professionalization, 11,997 people have made it to the summit until end of 2023. This results in a death rate of only 2.8% (deaths to successful ascents). This number also includes sherpas and other hired personell participating in the ascent, while it does not include aborted expeditions.

Many experienced mountaineers consider Annapurna I to be the most difficult and dangerous mountain, but Nanga Parbat is also not without reason nicknamed "The Killer Mountain". (Statistics for Nanga Parbat are not entirely reliable.) Non-climbers are probably most afraid of falling into the depths, but the most common causes of death are hypothermia, exhaustion, heart attacks, altitude sickness – and avalanches.

Data Shown
Each mountain image is based on an actual photo, although from different directions and distances.

Each red cross stands for one person who died during an expedition.

Mountains with a death ratio of up to 5% are shown with a grey bar, up to 10% in medium red and more than 10% in dark red.

What Is Not Shown
The position of the crosses does not relate to the actual locations of climber's death. Rather, they are arranged with similar density around the peak.

The peaks are not shown in their actual size or the same ratio.

They are arranged by height in descending order, but they do not form ranges as shown here.

Sources
Data for all peaks in central Himalaya comes from the Hiamalayan Database (2023).
Data for peaks in Karakorum and Nanga Parbat comes from Wikipedia (deaths, 2022) and MountainIQ (ascents, 2012 and estimates), marked with a „+“

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