15th SEPTEMBER

We arrived after a fairly uneventful but slightly bumpy flight ( apparently its always bumpy flying over Africa) Nairobi was surprisingly cold 14 degrees and overcast which made me apprehensive about the small pro;ellar flight. We went straight over to the domestic airport, i could see evidence of my friends greg and tony Benetars signage company all over the airport..wasnt really sure what they did before but now i do!

We went to Kenya Air to check in for the domestic flight to Kilimanjaro and our first problem became immediately apparent. They had only brought in a 17 seater plane and there were about 50 people with a confirmed seat on the flight. We were informed that we would be flying first to Zanzibar, wait aboard the plane and then fly onto Kilimanjaro - only a mere 4 hours flying out of our way! Given that we were meant to walk to our first camp on the mountain today there was no way this was going to happen. Kat, who was feeling ill and like she was coming down with flu, slept on a bench, i read Hello, and we delegated Rob to go and sort out the problem. After about an hour of negotiation Rob had managed to get us onto the direct flight which was a great relief.

As we waited to board the plane an english girl came and joined us and informed us how terrifyingly bumpy this flight was when she flew down here 4 months previously due to the hot thermals near kilimanjaro airport! I turned white and immediately took a xanax which i normally try not to take. It was my 2nd ever xanax but i do get especially nervous on propellar planes after our plane disaster down in Fiji in 2001. The plane was similar to the one i flew to Lukla and by this time i was zoned out and in another world as we took off for kilimanjaro. I could hardly keep my eyes open and didnt even cry at the turbulence upon landing which actually after all the warnings from the english girl wasnt that bad. The bad news now was that i was feeling really tired and not like a 5 hr walk!!

We met up with Guy at the airport and it was great to see him and we went back to the hotel for a bite to eat and to get ready for the walk to the first camp. Still chewing our lunch we were rushed to the van to get a move on before they closed the gates at 2.00pm. Our driver drove like a bat out of hell and we made the gate in record time despite being thrown around the van!

We all signed the register and began the 5 hour walk through the jungle to the Machame hut. Guy did some filming en route and i have to confess my legs felt like jelly as we walked in through the dense tropical rain forest. I chatted with Guy and our guide Arnold on the way up as Kat and Rob had gone on ahead. It was dark by the time we showed up and i was absalutely starving. Our tents were all ready for when we arrived - such a luxury to have it done for you!! I got unpacked and then into kats tent and ate all her flapjacks.

We have just had a delicious supper, ive been really impressed by the food so far ( only one meal i know but...) Im so tired i can hardly write my diary so im off to sleep, im happy to be in my sleeping bag!!