

All Your FAQs About Mount Chappal Waddi

The Geography of the Mountain

1. How high is Mount Chappal Waddi?

The summit of the mountain is 2,419 meters above mean sea level. This makes Chappal Waddi the highest peak in Nigeria and all of West Africa. Most people begin hiking from Amansale, at the foot of the mountain.

2. What's the weather like?

Taraba is hot in the day and cool at night. The mountain is even colder. The rainy season runs from March till November with temperatures between 17 ° C and 27 ° C. During the Harmattan season, the sky is glazed with dry dust and temperatures range from 18 ° C to 31 ° C. You will need jackets, thermals, warm sleeping bags and blankets, if you plan to camp anywhere on the mountain.

3. What's the culture, dressing and language?

Nigerians, Tarabans and Mambillans are very warm. Everyone in major cities speaks English. However, the further you go away from cities, you may need a translator to communicate. Most people around the mountain speak Fulfulde(Fulani). Your group of rangers will be able to translate English to Fulfulde. Even though people are tolerant of guests, it is important to respectfully avoid short clothes and PDA as many Mambilla villages are conservative.

4. When is the best time to visit?

You can visit the mountain at any time of the year, as long as you have gained permission from the Gashaka Gumti National Park authorities. If you want to see lush green landscapes and do not mind a wet climb, you should visit during the rainy season (late March - October). If you prefer a dry climb and do not mind the Harmattan haze, you should visit during the dry season (November - mid-March). **Note:** GGNP officials may withdraw permission at any time if weather conditions prove dangerous.

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Travel, Transportation and Accommodation

1. How long is the journey to the mountain?

You can come to Chappal Waddi from anywhere in the world. The closest airport to the mountain is Jalingo airport and it can only be accessed from Abuja on [Overland Airways](#) or by road. The typical journey looks like this:

Day 1

- Abuja to Jalingo - 1.5 hour flight on [Overland Airways](#).
- Jalingo to Serti - 5 hour bus or car ride
 - OVERNIGHT at Serti Transit Camp or Young JP Hotel

Day 2

- Serti to Nguroje - 4 hour bus or car ride
- Nguroje to Njawai - 5 to 6 hour rugged landrover ride
 - OVERNIGHT at ranger lodge

Day 3

- Njawai to Amansale - 3 hour bike ride
 - CAMP at the community campground

Day 4

- Amansale to the Summit of Chappal Waddi - 4 to 6 hour hike
 - CAMP at the riverbed, close to the summit.

Day 5

- Summit to Amansale (descent) - 4 hour hike
- Amansale to Njawai - 4 hour bike ride
 - OVERNIGHT at ranger lodge

Day 6

- Njawai to Nguroje - 5 to 6 hour rugged landrover ride
- Nguroje to Serti - 4 hour bus or car ride
 - OVERNIGHT at Serti Transit Camp or Young JP Hotel

Day 7

- Serti to Jalingo - 5 hour bus or car ride
- Jalingo to Abuja - 1.5 hour flight on [Overland Airways](#).

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2. How many hours / days do I need for the climb?

We recommend 7-8 days for the journey to Chappal Waddi. We have a day-to-day itinerary above. You can also customize the package however you like. The actual hike from the base of the mountain to the summit is 4-6 hours.

3. What accommodation is available on the mountain?

These are the accommodation options available during the journey to Chappal Waddi:

- Serti - National Park Services Transit Camp
- Serti - Young JP Hotel
- Njawai - Rangers Lodge
- Njawai - Field for Camping
- Amansale - Community Space for Camping

Hiking Requirements

1. What documents do I need to travel to Chappal Waddi?

You may be required to show a passport or an ID during the trek, as the climbing route is along an international border line with Cameroon. You may or may not be asked to show a Nigerian ID, a work permit or a Nigerian visa so it is important that you have it handy. You are required to register with the officials of Gashaka Gumti National Park before you climb Chappal Waddi. You will be permitted to climb the mountain, pending weather conditions, and assigned armed ranger(s). Unguided hikes are forbidden and could lead to penalties or arrest. When you register for this climb with Visit Chappal Waddi, the registrations are done on your behalf.

2. What hiking and camping gear do I need for the hike

You need the following for your climb to Chappal Waddi:

- Hiking gear
- Camping gear

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- Foodstuff
- Snacks
- Travel documents
- A healthy positive attitude.

The full checklist of what to buy (including recommended brands) is on the [GUIDES](#) page of our site. We also provide a list of items that are available for rent, if you do not have them available.

Cost and Climb

1. Is the climb difficult?

Anyone with average fitness can summit Chappal Waddi. The climb requires physical effort, but you will be trekking the entire time (no technical equipment required). There are a few steep areas, which can be made easier with hiking poles. The gorgeous views of the mountain range make the journey worth it.

2. What food is available on the mountain?

You are responsible for your own feeding throughout your climb, with help from the rangers. The best place to purchase raw food (rice, vegetables, yams, etc) items is at Serti, before you proceed toward the mountain. When you get to Njawai, the rangers' camp provides cooking utensils and firewood. By the time you get to Amansale, you will be responsible for your own cooking and will be able to rent their cooking utensils, and buy live chickens. You should bring your own plates, cups and cutlery from home. Also, you should bring your canned foods and special dietary ingredients from home. The people of Amansale are renowned for their warm hospitality but it is important not to depend on this. Let us know if you would like us to handle your feeding throughout the climb.

3. How much does it cost?

The cost to climb Chappal Waddi will be determined by how long you're spending in the National Park, your mode of transportation to Jalingo, what items you need

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to rent, the time of the year you plan to visit and your group size. Contact us to get a specific estimate for your climb.

Fully catered climbing packages start from 485,000 Naira (\$1000) and include:

- Roundtrip Flights <> Abuja to Jalingo
- Transportation
- Porters, Rangers and Tour Guide
- Foodstuff
- Camping Gear
- Hiking and Camping Permits

Safety and Emergencies

1. Is it safe to travel to Taraba State?

It is important to travel to Taraba with as much caution as is required when visiting a new place. We encourage you to make arrangements with experienced tour operators when climbing Chappal Waddi to ensure that all safety and security measures are put in place for your experience.

2. What emergency services are available?

It is highly recommended that you climb the mountain with a fully-fitted first aid kit that contains relief for cuts, falls, stomach upsets, food poisoning and other prescribed medicines. When you climb with us, we provide a first aid kit to augment yours. The nearest clinic to the mountain is at Serti (8-9 hours away) and the closest hospital is at Jalingo (11-12 hours away). Serious emergencies may require evacuation on bike to the nearest clinic either in Nigeria or Cameroon. There are currently no med-evac services by helicopter on the mountain. We are currently raising donations to refurbish a rescue helicopter on the plateau.

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