

Mountain-conquering Swiss family drops in for birth stop

Third child may be named Cairns

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A SWISS family sailing the world and etching their names into history want to include a special chapter for Cairns with the birth of their third child.

Dario and Sabine Schwoerer have spent seven years travelling the globe, intending to visit every continent where they will bike to the highest mountain – sleeping in tents along the way – before hiking to its peak.

Their seven summits adventure has seen them climb Europe's Mont Blanc, South America's Aconcagua and Australia's Mt Kosciuszko.

When the trip is complete in another seven years time, the Schwwoerers say they will be the only people to achieve the mountaineering challenge using natural energy.

Three years into the expedition Sabine gave birth to Salina, 4, and then Andri, 2, who both stay in the care of local volunteers while their parents tackle the terrain.

i TRAVEL HIGH POINTS

ALREADY CONQUERED

- Mt Blanc 4807m, Europe
- Mt Aconcagua 6959m, South America
- Mt Kosciuszko 2230m Australia

NEXT ON THE LIST

- Denali (Mt McKinley) 6198m, North America
- Mt Everest 8846m, Asia
- Mt Kilimanjaro 5895m, Africa
- Mt Vinson 4892m, Antarctica

Mt Aconcagua



Mt Everest

Now the family of four, who have visited 40 countries during their trip, has earmarked Cairns to be the birthplace of their third child.

"We might even name it Cairns," said Sabine, who is 32-weeks pregnant. The pair, expecting the baby in two months, spend their spare time visiting schools telling adventure stories and promoting clean environment methods.

But Cairns could miss its chance to play a role in the adventure with

the Schwwoerers saying they will leave for Darwin soon if schools show no interest.

"If we get a big response from schools we could stay and have the baby in Cairns," Dario said.

Everything on the family's boat is run by solar power and they pay for food and other running costs through sponsorship money and occasional part-time work.

▶ To contact the Schwwoerers, email dario@toptotop.org



Adventure: Sabine, Andri, Salina and Dario Schwoerer and volunteer Jacqui Hocking. Picture: MIKE WATT

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