

Junko Tabei



Junko Tabei (September 22, 1939 – October 20, 2016), born in Miharu, Fukushima, Japan was a mountaineer who shattered gender norms in 1975 by becoming the [first woman to ever successfully climb Mount Everest..](#)

Tabei developed a love for the outdoors at a young age after a school trip introduced her to mountain climbing. She later attended **Showa Women's University** in Tokyo, where she earned a degree in **English and American Literature**. While in college, she joined a mountaineering club and quickly developed a passion for climbing despite facing skepticism in a male-dominated sport.

In 1969, Tabei founded the **Ladies Climbing Club of Japan**, whose motto was **“Let’s go on an overseas expedition by ourselves.”** Her determination led her to international recognition when, on **May 16, 1975**, she successfully reached the summit of **Mount Everest**, becoming the first woman in the world to do so

After this monumental achievement, Tabei went on to become the first woman to ascend the Seven Summits, meaning she successfully climbed the highest peak on every continent. Throughout her lifetime, Tabei also wrote seven books, organized environmental projects to clean up trash left on Everest, and she led annual climbs up Mount Fuji for youth who were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Tabei has left a truly unique legacy; Asteroid 6897 Tabei is named after Junko, and in 2019, a mountain range on Pluto was named “Tabei Montes” in her honor.