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Russian Mountaineering Legend Goes Missing During Mount Elbrus Climb

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Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe.

An accomplished Russian alpinist has gone missing on the country's highest mountain, authorities in the republic of Kabardino-Balkaria said Wednesday.

Leila Albogachiyeva, the first Russian woman to have ascended Mount Everest twice, has been missing since Monday after she failed to return to the Terskol valley during her descent from Mount Elbrus, the regional Interior Ministry said in an online statement.

A team has been organized to scour Mount Elbrus — also the highest peak in Europe — in search of Albogachiyeva, but strong winds and heavy snow had hindered rescue efforts over the past two days, the ministry said.

The experienced climber's belongings were discovered by fellow alpinists from the city of Nizhny Novgorod.

Albogachiyeva, who has climbed Mount Elbrus twelve times in her career, is thought to have

taken a wrong turn because of inhospitable weather conditions on the mountain.

She had not provided her itinerary to Mount Elbrus' search and rescue team ahead of her climb, which also complicates their efforts to locate her, according to authorities.

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