



“Kilimanjaro is a snow-covered mountain 19,710 feet high, and is said to be the highest mountain in Africa. Its western summit is called by the Masai “the House of God”. Close to the western summit there is the dried and frozen carcass of a leopard. No one has explained what the leopard was seeking at that altitude” from The Snows of Kilimanjaro by Ernest Hemingway.

Fueled by the mystique of the Hemingway story, the diversity of climate zones, active glaciers, and ease of accessibility, Kilimanjaro is one of the world’s signature mountains and draws thousands of hikers each year. At 19,341 feet above sea level it is a test, but one that can be accomplished with good planning and preparation. Moshi Expeditions and Mountaineering has been successfully leading trekkers from all over the world up Kilimanjaro since 1994.

Trekking brief - Machame Route

Much less traveled than the **Marangu Route**, but still the next-most used route up the mountain. Trekkers stay in tents each night on the climb. The Machame route offers a much better mountain trekking experience and more wilderness than any other route.

The Campsite and gates (with corresponding elevations) are as follows:

- Machame gate (start of trek) (5718 ft/1730 m)
- Machame camp (9927 ft/ 3018 m)
- Shira Camp (12355 ft/3756 m)
- Karanga Valley (optional camp, used by 7-day climbers)
- Barafu Camp (high camp before summit) (15239 ft/4633 m)
- Mweka Gate (end of trek) (5423 ft/1649 m)
- Mweka (Descent) (10204 ft/ 3102 m)

One benefit of the Machame route is its quick rise to relatively high elevations (~10,000 ft/~3,040 meters), and a short ascent to the Lava Tower site (~15,000 ft/~4,560 m) before descending back to Barranco Camp (12,700 ft/3,870 m) on the same day. This follows the climber’s adage ‘climb high, sleep low’, and helps altitude acclimation. The initial steep ascent also helps climbers acclimatize better.

After your arrival in Tanzania and a chance to rest, *the second day* we head to the the Machame Trailhead. The route starts from Machame Gate and travels upwards through the montane rainforest which is characterized by dense vegetation, a muddy trail, and short sections of steep climbs. The first campsite, Machame Camp, is right after the dense tree cover in an area with lower but still thick bushlands.

The third day continues through increasingly sparse trees and bushes into moorlands. Picturesque hanging mosses often cover trees and offer an ethereal quality to the landscape. The day finishes with Shira Camp, which is on a small plateau in the high moorlands, and features views of Kibo in the northwest and Mount Meru towards the east. White necked ravens can be seen throughout the day. There is also a set of small caves a short walk from the campsite known as the Shira Caves.

The fourth day starts in the moorlands and moves into alpine desert, with fewer trees and more rocks. The highest point is the base of the Lava Tower, after which the trail descends into the Barranco Valley. More vegetation is present in this zone, especially the area just before the campsite. This area is called the 'Garden of the Senecias' which features many of the huge senecia plants. Shorter lobelia plants are also present.

The fifth day starts with the ascent of the Barranco Wall, which is considered a scramble in climbing terms. The top of the Wall has attractive vistas of Kibo and the surrounding landscape. The trail continues with many up and down sections across small streams and rivulets, and finally crosses the Karanga River to the Karanga campsite.

The sixth day follows the path up and across a rocky zone, finishing at the high camp Barafu. Very little vegetation can be found on the inhospitable terrain. A field of sedimentary rocks litters the ground like many broken mirrors.

The summit is usually attempted on the very early morning of *the seventh day* (around midnight). Barafu is also used as a summit campsite for the Umbwe route. Climbers typically take somewhere between 5-7 hours to ascend, using headlamps and cold weather gear.

The first milestone is Stella Point (18,652 ft/5,685 m), which is on the crater rim. Following Stella Point, the trail continues for another 30 mins to the summit - Uhuru Peak. The descent back to Barafu takes roughly 4 hours. Some climbers 'scree slide' down the slope, which entails skidding/running down the loose gravel at medium speed. From Barafu, climbers typically take a short break, and continue downwards through the alpine desert and ensuing moorlands to Mweka Camp.

The eighth and final day has trekkers continue through the montane forest to Mweka gate. Troops of black-and-white colobus monkeys can often be seen along the trail.

Trip Detail:

DAY 1: Arrival in Tanzania

Upon arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport, you will be picked up by our friendly staff and transported to the hotel booked based on the category chosen. You will spend a night to rest up and rearrange your gear before the trek begins the next day. You will have the opportunity to go over any last minute questions and leave a bag behind with anything you don't need on this trek. Your left-behind gear will be secured at the storage room and will meet you as soon as you back from the mountain.

DAY 2: MACHAME GATE 1800 M (5,904 ft) to MACHAME CAMP 3,000 M (9,840 ft)

Hike time: 7.5 hrs, Elevation change: +1200 M (3,936 ft)

Estimated distance: 10km (6 miles), Final elevation: 3000 M (9,840 ft)

Waypoint	MACHAME GATE	S3 10.406 E37 14.338	5718 ft GPS Altitude
Waypoint	MACHAME HUT	S3 05.721 E37 15.975	9927 ft GPS Altitude

We will do an early pick-up drive to Machame gate (5,904') where trekking formalities take about 30 minutes (depends on the number of climber). From the gate, we begin our trek following an easy track for the first hour through the dense forest. The path continues to follow the ridge, rising steadily with several steep sections. The gradient eases slightly as the forest merges into heather covered ground we will reach Machame Hut in 10 km (6.2 miles) after a 1,200-meter (3,936') ascent and 5-7 hours of walking.

DAY 3: MACHAME CAMP TO SHIRA CAMP (12,300')*Hike time: 7 hrs, Elevation change: +800 M**Estimated distance: 6km, Final elevation: 3800 M*

Waypoint	SHIRA CAMP	S3 04.028 E37 16.576	12355 ft GPS Altitude
----------	------------	----------------------	-----------------------

From the Machame Hut we cross the stream onto its west bank and follow the path up the steep rocky ridge criss-crossing a few times before reaching Shira Hut at the base of a semi-circular wall of rocks. We will have ascended 900 meters (3,000') in 5-7 hours and about 6 km (3.72 miles) of walking.

DAY 4 SHIRA CAMP to BARRANCO HUT (12,956 ft.)*Hike time: 5 hrs, Elevation change: +100 m (328 ft)**Estimated distance: 6 km (4 miles) Final Elevation: 3950 m (12,956 ft)*

Waypoint	Shira Camp	S 3° 03.898' E 37° 16.567'	12,860 ft GPS Altitude
----------	------------	----------------------------	------------------------

Today is the last of the "easy days". It is about a 7-hour superb hike. We pass the Lava Tower, around the southern flank of Kibo, and slowly descend into the spectacular Barranco Valley, interspersed with giant *Lobelia* and *Senecio* plants. After arriving at our most spectacular campsite, everyone stands in awe at the foot of Kibo Peak, looming high above, on our left. Our camp is only 465 feet higher than where we were last night, but during the day, we will have climbed to just over 15,000 feet. This is one of our most valuable days for acclimatization.

Day 5: BARRANCO HUT TO KARANGA VALLEY (13,743 ft.)*Hike time: 3.5 hrs, Elevation change: +240 M (787 ft)**Estimated distance: 4 km (2.5 miles), Maximum Elevation: 4190 m (13,743 ft) Final Elevation: 4000 M*

Waypoint	Karanga Camp	S3 06.655 E37 21.165	12940 ft GPS Altitude
----------	--------------	----------------------	-----------------------

On the eastern side of the valley, across the stream is the Barranco Wall - a 950 ft. barrier of volcanic rock. Although it is tall and looks steep, it is very easy to climb. This is our first challenge of the day. The views from the wall are magnificent. The rest of the day is spent skirting the base of Kibo peak over our left shoulder. We descend down into the Karanga Valley, where we rest up for the night before the tough climb up to Barafu hut.

Day 6: KARANGA VALLEY TO BARAFU CAMP (15,088 ft.)*Hike time: 3.5 hrs, Elevation changes: +410 M (1,345 ft)**Estimated distance: 4 km (2.5 miles), Final Elevation: 4600 m (15,088 ft)*

Waypoint	Barafu Camp	S3 05.956 E37 22.690	15239 ft GPS Altitude
----------	-------------	----------------------	-----------------------

While this is a short day, it is a challenge. You will be making a steep hike out of the valley. The air starts getting quite thin and you will be running short of breath. It is a tough, but rewarding uphill to the rocky, craggy slopes at the camp. Barafu means ice in Swahili and it is extremely cold at this altitude. So, go to bed early because we will be waking you at midnight for the final leg to Uhuru Peak.

Day 7: BARAFU TO UHURU PEAK (19,341 ft.) TO MWEKA CAMP (9,550 ft.) SUMMIT DAY!*Summit time: 7 hrs, Elevation change: +1300 m (4,264 ft)**Estimated distance: 5 km (3 miles), Final Elevation: 5896 m (19,340 ft)**Descent time: 5 hrs, Elevation change: -2800 m (-9,184 ft)**Estimated distance: 12 km (7.5 miles), Final Elevation: 3100 m (9,551 ft)*

Waypoint	Kibo crater rim	S3 04.682 E37 21.759	18471 ft GPS Altitude
Waypoint	SUMMIT	S3 04.585 E37 21.240	19098 ft GPS Altitude

Dress warmly, because we start climbing around midnight, on the steepest and most demanding part of the mountain. The moon, if out, will provide enough light, and we will reach the Crater rim by sunrise, after a 7 hour hike, and welcome a new dawn.

From the Crater rim, rugged Mawenzi Peak is a thrilling sight with the Kibo saddle still in darkness beneath you, and the crater's ice-walls looming ahead. We continue to Uhuru Peak (1-2 hrs.) This is the highest point in Africa, and the world's highest solitary peak (19,340 ft). It is the best view in Africa! The descent is invigorating. It is a good idea to have a little rest periodically as you continue down back to Barafu Camp (4 hours), and then down the Mweka route to Mweka camp (5 hours). This is where we spend our last night on the mountain.

Day 8: MOSHI*Descent time: 4 hrs, Elevation change: -1250 m (4,100 ft)**Estimated distance: 10km (6 miles), Final Elevation: 1828 m (5,996ft)*

Waypoint	Millenium Camp	S3 07.918 E37 22.339	12599 ft GPS Altitude
Waypoint	Mweka Hut	S3 09.383 E37 22.027	10204 ft GPS Altitude
Waypoint	Mweka Gate	S3 13.176 E37 20.479	5423 ft GPS Altitude

In the morning, we walk down to the road head. This takes about 3 1/2 hours. After a lunch, it is time to say "kwaheri" to the porters. We then get a lift back to the Hotel for a shower and rest. Your trip includes transportation back to Kilimanjaro International Airport for your flight home.

Optional Add-ons for your trip:

Before or after your trek up Kilimanjaro, you may want to extend your trip. Tanzania is a country with incredible scenery, a rich blend of African and European culture, world-renowned safari's, and idyllic beaches. We can arrange a complete itinerary for you to experience:

Safari - Tanzania is a country of history, Great White Hunters and the intrepid explorers of the past. Tanzania, the largest country in East Africa, offers the ultimate exotic adventure in a spectacular world. Legendary names like Serengeti and Ngorongoro present the finest experience of safari.

Tanzania's extensive networks of National Parks protect and conserve an area that affords one of the highest concentrations of wildlife in the world where literally millions of animals eternally roam in search of grassland. A safari with MEM offers the full flavor of the sights and experiences. See and feel the real Africa. Enjoy privacy and freedom in an area with abundant wildlife.

Zanzibar - Zanzibar Island is approximately 95 km long and located 35km from the Tanzania mainland. Few countries in the world equal Zanzibar's long white sand beaches. The warm aquamarine waters provide the backdrop for excellent diving and snorkeling. With a history steeped in the slave trade and as an important trading post for cloves and spices, the island is now a popular tourist destination.

Zanzibar's old quarter, Stone Town, is a fascinating maze of narrow streets and alleyways which lead past old houses, mosques, ornate palaces, shops, and bazaars. Many buildings in the Stone Town date from the 15th-century slave boom. A feature of many houses in Stone Town is a brass-studded door and elaborately carved frame. Come experience this unique blend of African, Middle East, and European culture in a spectacular setting!

Mt Meru - Mount Meru is an active volcano located just 70 kilometers (44 miles) west of Mount Kilimanjaro. It reaches 4,566 meters (14,978 feet) in height. Mount Meru is the topographic centerpiece of Arusha National Park. Its fertile slopes rise above the surrounding savanna and support a forest that host's diverse wildlife, including nearly 400 species of birds, and also monkeys and leopards. We can add a 3-day trek up Kilimanjaro to help you acclimatize and experience a unique and exhilarating hike.

Contact us and we can arrange your dream vacation!

