

KILIMANJARO



Climb Kilimanjaro "the roof of Africa"
17-27 September 2016

CHALLENGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Climb the highest mountain in Africa
- Follow the popular Machame Route
- Dramatic scenery & panoramic views
- Watch sunrise from the 'Roof of Africa'
- Fulfil a huge personal achievement

FACT FILE

- **Best Time to Go:** Late June - October and January - early March
- **Trek Days :** 7 days (11 days in total)
- **Level:** Very Challenging
- **Accommodation:** Hotels and camping

DETAILED ITINERARY

"as wide as all the world, great, high, and unbelievably white in the sun." - Hemmingway

Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain on the African continent located in the north-east of Tanzania. Climbing Kilimanjaro is a challenge to say the least and is one of the mountains almost every trekker and mountaineer in the world wants to attempt. Kilimanjaro is 5895m (19,341ft) high, more or less 24 miles wide and 49 miles long; it is more ecosystem than mountain. It dwarfs other regional landmarks like Mt. Meru and Mt. Kenya and dominates the savannah of East Africa. The mountain consists of three snow-capped peaks: Shira, Mawenzi, and Kibo (the highest point of which is Uhuru). We will be climbing Mount Kibo peak in this challenge on the spectacular Machame Route to the rocky summit - the most popular path due to its impressive views and wide variety of habitats.

Day 1

London – Kilimanjaro

Overnight flight from London to Kilimanjaro.

Day 2

Kilimanjaro – Moshi

On arrival in Tanzania we transfer to Moshi, the gateway to Kilimanjaro National Park. This afternoon is free to relax and acclimatize. Tonight after dinner we hear more about the challenge ahead.

Day 3

Machame Gate – Machame Camp

An exciting day as our adventure begins. We transfer 50 minutes from Moshi to the Mount Kilimanjaro National Park Gate. We pass the village of Machame on the lower slopes of the mountain. After completing the necessary registration we set out on the first stage of the trek. The trail winds through rainforest and could be muddy and slippery. Gaiters and trekking poles are a good idea here. We continue trekking until we reach Machame Camp.

5-7 hours trekking / Elevation: 1645m – 2865m

Day 4

Machame Camp - Shira Camp

After breakfast, we leave the rainforest and ascend across a moorland valley. The terrain becomes more rugged and rocky as we trek along a steep ridge covered with heather. The route then turns west into a dramatic river gorge. We spend tonight at Shira campsite.

4-6 hours trekking / Elevation: 2865m – 3810m

Day 5

Shira Camp - Barranco Camp

Today is the first of our acclimatization treks. From the Shira Plateau we continue trekking up a ridge on semi-desert terrain, passing the junction which leads to the peak of Kibo. En-route we pass a lava tower, known as the "Shark's Tooth" and the impressive Arrow Glacier which stands at an altitude of 4876m. We continue down to the Barranco Hut at an altitude of 3962m. Here we rest, enjoy dinner and overnight. Although we end the day around the same altitude as when we started, this day is very important for acclimatization and will help your body prepare for summit day.

6-8 hours trekking / Elevation: 3810m – 3962m

Day 6

Barranco Camp - Karanga Camp

Today is the second of our acclimatization treks. After breakfast, we leave Barranco and continue on a steep ridge through alpine desert passing the Barranco Wall. Our destination is the Karanga Valley campsite. This is a short day and the afternoon is free to relax and adjust to the altitude.

4-5 hours trekking / Elevation: 3962m – 3993m

Day 7

Karanga Camp - Barafu Camp

We set off from Karanga past the junction which connects with the Mweka Trail. From there we continue climbing through alpine desert to Barafu Hut. It can be slow-going and cold due to the high altitude. On arrival at Barafu, we have completed the South Circuit, which offers magnificent views of the summit from many different angles. In the distance the horizon is punctuated by the magnificent peaks of Mawenzi and Kibo. The afternoon is free to rest ready for tonight's ascent to the summit.

4-5 hours trekking / Elevation: 3993m – 4663m

Day 8:

Barafu Camp - Summit - Mweka Hut

Our final ascent is at night with head torches at the ready. We set off between midnight and 2.00am and follow a slow zigzagging climb to the summit between the Rebmann and Ratzel glaciers. We then continue through heavy scree towards Stella Point on the crater rim. This is the most mentally and physically challenging section of the whole trek. At Stella Point (5669m) we stop for a short rest and (weather permitting) will be rewarded with the most magnificent sunrise you are ever likely to see. From Stella Point, we may encounter snow on the remaining one hour ascent to the summit. At Uhuru Peak (5895m), we have reached the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro and the continent of Africa – an incredible achievement! (Faster trekkers may see the sunrise from the summit). We then start our descent to Mweka Hut campsite, stopping at Barafu for lunch. Mweka Camp is situated in the upper forest and mist or rain can be expected. This evening we enjoy our last dinner on the mountain and a well-earned sleep.

7-8 hours ascent & 4-6 hours descent / Elevation: 4663m – 5895m – 3048m

Day 9

Mweka Camp - Mweka Park Gate

Today the descent is rapid. In 3-4 hours we reach Mweka Park Gate. After saying farewell to the local team we transfer to the hotel in Moshi (1 hour) to relax, rebalance and celebrate our achievement.

3-4 hours trekking / Elevation: 3048m – 1645m

Day 10

Moshi - Kilimanjaro airport - London

This morning is free in Moshi before transferring to the airport for the overnight flight back to London.

Day 11

London

Arrive back in the UK.

This is a complex itinerary and may be subject to change.

© Copyright of Classic Tours



Please note this is a complex itinerary which is subject to change
© Copyright Classic Tours