

8 Days Machame Route

Kilimanjaro International Airport, you are met by a member of your guide team and transferred by road to your hotel in Arusha. After a long day of travel, we enjoy a quick meal before retiring.

Transfer Time - 50 min

Meals - Dinner

Accommodation - Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge FB

The hotel has 139 rooms including: 30 chalets with 60 rooms, 72 rooms in the main building, 7 presidential suites.

Accommodating up to 350 guests, all rooms have spacious en suite bathrooms, telephones and most of them have Jacuzzis. The luxury rooms comprise of spacious beds, with some rooms having a magnificent view of both Mt Meru and Mt Kilimanjaro. All the rooms have mini bars, satellite TV's, tea/coffee making facilities, safe deposit lockers. Some rooms can comfortably accommodate disabled guests and are close to the reception and public areas.



DAY 2: Arusha National Park

A day to acclimatize to the time zone, on this day we recommend our clients to go to Arusha National Park, for a guarder walk by game rangers. Nothing strenuous by a chance to enjoy game while walking in the National Park with picnic lunch boxes from Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge. Back to your lodge for dinner and overnight.

DAY 3: Machame Gate to Machame Camp

Elevation (m) : 1830m to 3100m
 Elevation (ft) : 6000ft to 10,200ft
 Distance : 18km
 Hiking Time : 5-7 hours
 Habitat : Montane Forest

The drive to the gate of Mount Kilimanjaro National Park. The journey passes through the village of Machame, which is located on the lower slopes of the mountain.

We now leave the park gate and walk through the rain forest on a winding trail up a ridge. Lower down, the trail can be muddy and slippery. Gaiters and trekking poles are a good idea here. We continue a short distance until we reach the Machame Camp.

DAY 4: Machame Camp to Shira Camp

Elevation (m) : 3100m to 3840m
 Elevation (ft) : 10,200ft to 12,600ft
 Distance : 9km
 Walking Time : 4-6 hours
 Habitat : Moorland

After breakfast, we leave the glades of the rain forest and continue on an ascending path, crossing the little valley walking along a steep rocky ridge, covered with heather, until the ridge ends. The route now turns west onto a river gorge. Time for rest, dinner, and overnight at the Shira campsite.

DAY 5: Shira Camp to Lava Tower to Barranco Camp

Elevation (m) : 3840m to 4630m to 3860m
 Elevation (ft) : 12,600ft to 12,700ft
 Distance : 15 km
 Walking Time : 5-7 hours
 Habitat : Semi-desert



From the Shira Plateau, we continue to the east up a ridge, passing the junction towards the peak of Kibo. As we continue, our direction changes to the South East towards the Lava Tower, called the "Shark's Tooth." Shortly after the tower, we come to the second junction which brings us up to the Arrow Glacier at an altitude of 4876m / 15,997 ft. We now continue down to the Barranco Hut at an altitude of 3860m / 12,664. Here we rest, enjoy dinner, and overnight. Although you end the day at the same elevation as when you started, this day is very important for acclimatization and will help your body prepare for summit day.

DAY 6: Barranco Camp to Barafu Camp

Elevation (m) : 3860m to 4600m
Elevation (ft) : 12,700ft to 15,100ft
Distance : 13km
Hiking Time : 8 hours
Habitat : Alpine Desert

After breakfast, we leave Barranco and continue on a steep ridge up the Barranco Wall, through the Karanga Valley (lunch at 4200m / 13,779 ft), and the junction which connects with the Mweka Trail. We continue up to the Barafu Hut. You have completed the South Circuit, which offers views of the summit from many different angles. Here we make camp, rest, enjoy dinner, and prepare for the summit day. The two peaks of Mawenzi and Kibo are to be seen from this position.

DAY 7: Barafu Camp to Summit to Mweka Hut

Elevation (m) : 4600m to 5895m (and down to 3100m)
Elevation (ft) : 15,100ft to 19,300ft (and down to 10,200ft)
Distance : 7km ascent / 23km descent
Hiking Time : 6- 8 hours ascent / 7-8 hours descent
Habitat : Stone scree and ice-capped summit

Very early in the morning (midnight to 2am), we continue our way to the summit between the Rebmann and Ratzel glaciers. You head in a northwesterly direction and ascend through heavy scree towards Stella Point on the crater rim. This is the most mentally and physically challenging portion of the trek. At Stella Point (5685m / 18,652 ft), you will stop for a short rest and will be rewarded with the most magnificent sunrise you are ever likely to see (weather permitting). From Stella Point, you may encounter snow all the way on your 1-hour ascent to the summit. At Uhuru Peak, you have reached the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro and the continent of Africa. Faster hikers will see the sunrise from the summit. It can be very cold at night at these elevations, but it will be quite warm by the end of the hiking day. You will want clothing for both extremes with you. From the summit, we now make our descent continuing straight down to the Mweka Hut camp site, stopping at Barafu for lunch. You will want gaiters and trekking poles for the loose gravel going down. Mweka Camp is situated in the upper forest and mist or rain can be expected in the late afternoon.

Later in the evening, we enjoy our last dinner on the mountain and a well-earned sleep.

DAY 8: Mweka Camp to Arusha

Elevation (m) : 3100m to 1830m
Elevation (ft) : 10,200ft to 6000ft
Distance : 15 km
Hiking Time : 3-4 hours
Habitat : Forest

After breakfast, we continue the descent down to the Mweka Park Gate to receive your summit certificates. At lower elevations, it can be wet and muddy. Gaiters and trekking poles will help. Shorts and t-shirts will probably be plenty to wear (keep rain gear and warmer clothing handy).

From the gate, continue another hour to Mweka Village. A vehicle will meet you at Mweka village to drive you back to hotel.

Updated : IABS - 021109