



The Mt Kilimanjaro is considered as the most famous feature of Tanzania being Africa's Highest mountain found on North of Tanzania with a height of 5,895 meters to Uhuru Peak, the volcanic formation of the mountain formed 3 large chimneys known as Shira plateau, Kibo saddle and Mawenzi with heights of 5,000m.

Mt Kilimanjaro is a hikers attraction with tourists all over the world attempting to trek it for years and years with great improvements being made to improve its facilities on the mountain and helping on the conservation. The hike up Mt Kilimanjaro offers trekkers 5 different climatic zones with temperatures ranging from +20 c to -30 c to the summit. The climatic zones are namely cultural zone, Rain forest zone, Heather and moorland zone, Alpine desert and snow capped summit zone.

The mountain has 6 official trails used to summit routes with 5 of the trails being camping routes which are Machame route, Lemosho route, Rongai route, Shira route and Umbwe routes respectively and the only non-camping route with accommodation in huts is the Marangu route.

When ascending and descending Mt Kilimanjaro out of 6 routes 4 routes begin at different starting point and descend at the Mweka gate

Best time to climb: December to March (mid-month) and June (mid-month) to October (end)

Age restriction: Minimum age = 12 years

MARANGU ROUTE

Marangu route, commonly known as the “Coca Cola” route due to its popularity as to date one of the most selected and utilized route. The trail has huts along its route with all the basic necessities. No technical skills are required for this five-day trek. Nevertheless, we would highly recommend all to add an additional day to acclimatization making it a 6 day trek; bearing in mind that even though this may increase climbers chances of reaching the summit, the majority of them do not. This is due to lack of acclimatization due to the fast ascent or the routes reputation of being easy may appeal to those with less experience and training.

ITINERARY 7 DAYS 6 NIGHTS (5 DAYS - 4 NIGHTS ON THE MOUNTAIN)

Day 1 – arrival, transfer to hotel B&B, pre-climb preparation & briefing

Day 2 Marangu gate 1860m – Mandara Hut 2720m

3-4 hours trek – 7 km

Montane forest zone

From the gate, you ascend a cleared ridge trail to Mandara Hut. The cleared trail is the fastest way to Mandara, but opportunities to see wildlife or enjoy the forest are limited due to the heavy foot traffic. An alternative is to ascend along the parallel forest trail and descend on the main trail. The forest trail branches off to the left, a few minutes after the gate, and follows the edge of a stream through the under growth. About halfway (1 hrs from the gate) you can choose to cross the stream and rejoin the main trail, or continue on the forest trail. Both trails continue on opposite sides of the stream, merging about one hour before Mandara Hut Marangu-Mandara Hut. 1830m-2700m. 3-4 hours trek. Transfer to Marangu Gate at an altitude of 1,860m. The path to Mandara Hut, the first overnight stop, passes through rain forest and takes up to four hours.

Day 3 Mandara Hut 2720m – Horombo Hut 3720m

5-6 hours trek – 11 km

Montane forest, heather & moorland zone

From Mandara Hut the trail passes through a short stretch of forest and skirts the base of Maundi Crater, crosses a meadow and a wooded stream, then emerges into grassland. It is well worth the short detour to scramble up to the rim of Maundi Crater for a superb view of the mountain and its surroundings. The trail crosses numerous moorland ravines before ending at Horombo Hut, which is set in a rocky valley with a fine stand of giant sceneries or groundsels. Leaving behind the forest and following the ascending path through alpine meadows on to the slopes of Mawenzi. Horombo Hut is reached after about six hours and is 11km from Mandara.

Day 4 Horombo Hut 3720m – Kibo Hut 4700m

5-6 hours trek – 12 km

Heather, moorland & alpine desert zone

From Horombo Hut there are two trails to the Saddle. The right fork is very stony and eroded and is the most direct route to the Saddle and Mawenzi. From the Saddle (about 2 hrs from Horombo), there are trails to Mawenzi Hut (hr) or Mawenzi Tarn Hut (2 hrs) and across the length of the Saddle to Kibo Hut (3 hrs). The left fork from Horombo Hut is an easier trail and emerges on the Saddle much closer to Kibo and about one kilometer from Kibo Hut. The landscape now becomes rockier and Rugged until the Saddle is reached. Kibo Hut is the overnight stay.

Day 5 Kibo Hut 4700m – Summit Uhuru peak 5895m – Horombo Hut 3720m

12-16 hours trek – 21 km

Alpine desert, snow, heather & moorland

The trail to the summit lies directly behind Kibo Hut, to the west. It is normal to start this day's climb at 2 am or earlier. (The reason for this is to see the sun rise over Mawenzi from the top of Kibo, the loose stone scree is frozen- making it easier to climb, and you can get back in good time). The first part is an uneven trail, which leads to the Hans Meyer Cave, a good rest point. After that, the trail makes more regular switchbacks most of the way to the top, with a last scramble over rocks to Johannes Notch and Gillmans Point. From there, the trail continues along the rim past Stella Point to Uhuru Peak. An early (2.00am) start to make the steep and demanding final ascent through the snow. By daybreak

you should be at the rim of the crater at 5,685m. Time and weather permitting the final push to Uhuru Peak should take about 45 minutes. At the top there are stunning views of the ice walls offset by rugged rocks. After a fast descent to Kibo Hut for a meal and rest continue to descend to Horombo Hut

Day 6 Horombo Hut 3720m – Marangu gate 1860m 5-6 hours trek – 12 km

An easy descent to Marangu Gate then transfers to Moshi to your Hotel. B&B

Day 7: Departure

Recommended additional day for acclimatization Horombo Hut 3720m (walk to Zebra rocks) 3980m)

MACHAME ROUTE

This is one of the best routes to take due to the chances of reaching the summit and in recent years it has become one of the most popular trails for many trekkers. The route is known to be physically more demanding in comparison with the “Coca Cola” route, hence its nickname the “whiskey route”. The climb physically lasts minimum 6 days (one day longer than the minimum Marangu route) and the success rate for summiting appears significantly higher in terms of percentage. The chances of reaching uhuru peak increases with a recommended extra day for acclimatization, which additionally reduces the number of hours of walking the day before allowing the body time to relax, recuperate and prepare for final summit attempt. Accommodation overnights in campsites.

ITINERARY 8 DAYS 7 NIGHTS (6 DAYS – 5 NIGHTS ON THE MOUNTAIN)

Day 1 – arrival, transfer to Hotel B&B, pre-climb preparation & briefing

Day 2 Machame gate (1800m) - Machame Camp (3000m)

5-7 hours trek – 9km

Montane forest, heather & moorland zone

The drive from Moshi to the Mount Kilimanjaro National Park Gate takes about 50 minutes. The journey passes through the village of Machame, which is located on the lower slopes of the mountain. Once we reach the park gate, climbers are requested to make their final preparations for the climb. Porters will be seen arranging their packs containing the food, water, firewood, and other equipment. Make sure that you have all your daypack items with you as the porters travel very quickly. The guides will be pleased to assist with any additional information. We now leave the park gate and walk through the rain forest on a winding trail to the first camp, which is located at an altitude of 3,048 meters. 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 Hut. Here we make camp, rest, enjoy our dinner, and overnight. We have now reached an altitude of 3,000 meters.

Day 3 Machame Camp (3000m) – Shira Camp (3845m)

5-7 hours trek – 7km

Heather & Moorland zone

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 at 3,658 meters. Time for rest, dinner, and overnight at the Shira campsite. For acclimatization purposes, some parties stay here an extra night.

Day 4 Shira (3845m) - Lava Tower (4630m)-Barranco Camp (3960m)

6-8 hours trek – 10km

Heather & Moorland zone

From the Shira Plateau, we continue to the east, 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 4,876 meters. We now continue down to the Barranco camp at an altitude of 3,860 meters. 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 5 Barranco Camp (3960m) – Barafu (4600m)

7-8 hours trek – 8km

Heather, Moorland & Alpine desert zone

After breakfast, we leave Barranco and continue on a steep ridge passing the Barranco Wall, through the Karanga Valley (4200m), and the junction that connects with the Mweka Trail. We continue to the Barafu Hut, which is located at an altitude of 4,600 meters. 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. This section can also be divided into 2 separate days, where an in between camp will be made in or near the Karanga valley. This makes the summit day a lot easier...

Day 6 Barafu Camp (4600m) - Uhuru Peak (5895m) - Mweka Camp (3100m)

13-15 hours trek – 19km

Alpine desert, snow, heather & moorland zone

Early morning, we continue our way to the summit of Uhuru Peak at 5,985 meters. This part of the climb takes about 6 hours. 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. At Uhuru Peak, we have reached the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro and the continent of Africa. Faster hikers will see the sunrise from the summit. From the summit, we now make our descent continuing straight down to the Mweka Hut campsite at 3,100 meters. This part of the descent takes about 5 hours. You will want gaiters and trekking poles for the loose gravel going down. Later in the evening, we enjoy our last dinner on the mountain and a well-earned sleep.

Day 7 Mweka camp (3100m) - Mweka gate (1800m)

3-4 hours trek – 10km

Heather, Moorland & Montane forest zone

After breakfast, we continue the descent down to the Mweka Park Gate. 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 raingear and warmer clothing handy). A vehicle will meet you at Mweka village to drive you back to hotel in Moshi. Overnight at Hotel B&B.

Day 8: Departure