

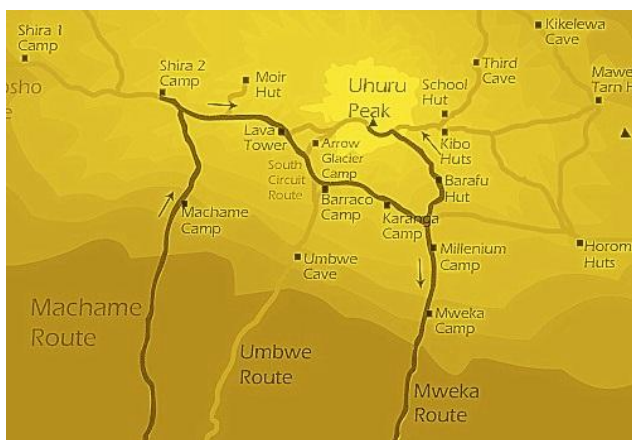


Trip Itinerary

KILIMANJARO – MACHAME & CRATER CAMP – 8 DAYS

Highlights

- Get away from the crowds and sleep on the roof of Africa
- Fantastic option if you are fit and acclimatise well
- Visit Kilimanjaro's remaining glaciers
- See the sunset over Africa and be first to the rim for the sunrise
- Avoid the busy overnight hike to the summit



Day 3: Shira Camp Via Lava Tower to Barranco Camp

Elevation (m): 3850m to 4600m to 3950m, Distance: 12 km, Time: 6-7 hours, Habitat: Semi-desert

This is a very important day for acclimatization and will help your body prepare for summit day. This will be our toughest day so far and you may start to feel the symptoms of altitude. We will ascend to Lava Tower at 4600m and take our lunch there to acclimatize. Following this we descend to spend the night at Barranco campsite. This offers great photographic opportunities of the Western Breach and Breach Wall. The camp is situated in a valley below the Breach and Great Barranco Wall, which will provide you with a memorable sunset while you wait for your dinner.

Day 4: Barranco Camp to Karanga Camp

Elevation (m): 3950m to 3930m, Distance: 7 km, Hiking Time: 4 hours, Habitat: Alpine Desert.

Today starts with a short, but fun, scramble, to the top of the Great Barranco Wall. We then traverse over scree to the Karanga Valley (3930m) beneath the icefalls of the Heim, Kersten and Decken Glaciers. We will stay overnight at Karanga campsite.

Day 5: Karanga Camp to Barafu Camp

Elevation (m): 3930m to 4600m, Distance: 6kms, Hiking Time: 3 hours, Habitat: Alpine Desert

We leave Karanga campsite behind to meet the junction connecting with the Mweka descent Trail. From here we continue up to the Barafu Hut. You have now completed the Southern Circuit, which offers views of the summit from many different angles. At camp, we can rest, enjoy dinner, and prepare for the summit day. The two peaks of Mawenzi and Kibo are to be clearly seen from this position.

Day 6: Barafu Camp to Summit (sleeping in Crater Camp)

Elevation (m): 4600m to 5895m (and down to 5790m), Distance: 8kms, Time: 7-8 hours, Habitat: Alpine Desert

You will be woken at 07:00 and we will eat a hearty breakfast before starting our summit ascent between the Rebman and Ratzel glaciers. We will 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 part of the trek. At Stella Point (5732m), we will stop for a short rest and will be rewarded with the most magnificent views (weather permitting). At Uhuru Peak (5895m), we will have reached the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro and the continent of Africa. After celebrating with a few summit photos we begin our descent into Kibo Crater to camp for the night. The scenery is breathtakingly

Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Machame Gate to Machame Camp

Elevation (m): 1800m to 3000m, Distance: 11km, Time: 5-7 hours, Habitat: Montane Forest

Drive from the Hotel to the Mount Kilimanjaro National Park Gate. Once you reach the park gate, you will sign in at the Park office and make your final preparations to start the climb. Our path takes us through rain forest on a winding trail up a ridge to Machame Camp where we will camp overnight.

Day 2: Machame Camp to Shira Camp

Elevation (m): 3000m to 3850m, Distance: 9km, Time: 4-6 hours, Habitat: Moorland

After breakfast, we start walking, leaving the rainforest behind, and continue our ascent, crossing a small valley and up to a steep rocky ridge, covered with heath. Our route now turns west onto a river gorge. Time for rest, dinner, and overnight at the Shira campsite.

and depending on the time of year you will see the fast receding glaciers set amidst either sandy, desert or snowy conditions.

Day 7: Kibo Crater to Mweka Hut

Elevation (m): 5790m to 3100m), Distance: 23km descent, Time: 7-8 hours descent, Habitat: Stone screed and ice-capped summit and Moorland

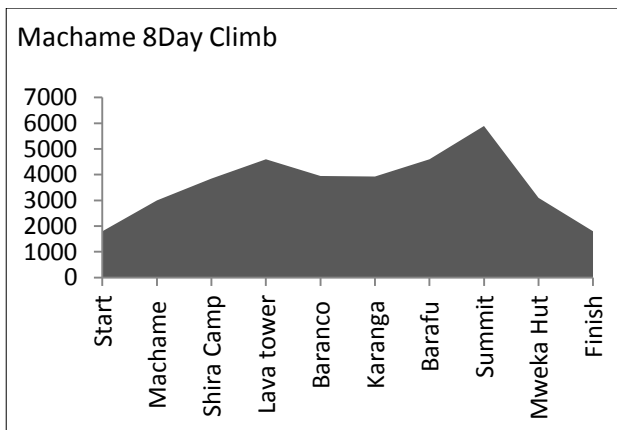
From here, we start an hour before dawn to trek over to the rim to catch the spectacular African sunrise. We then descend down to the Mweka Hut camp site, via Barafu for lunch. Trekking poles will be needed for the loose gravel going down to Mweka Camp (3100m). Later in the evening, we will enjoy our last dinner on the mountain and a well-earned sleep.

Day 8: Mweka Camp to Hotel

Elevation (m): 3100m to 1800m, Distance: 8 km, Time: 3-4 hours, Habitat: Forest

We depart after breakfast descending 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 be suitable (keep rain gear and warmer clothing handy).

Topography



Summary

Sleeping in Kibo Crater is a unique wilderness experience that is a fabulous option for the more adventurous climber. You get away from all the crowds and are likely to find you are the only group sleeping on the roof of Africa. The trip gives you time to visit Kilimanjaro's remaining glaciers, see the sunset over Africa and be the first to the rim for the sunrise. You also get to avoid the busy overnight hike to the summit as you can climb up during the day.

It is certainly not for the faint-hearted though and must only be undertaken by those who have acclimatized well. There are obvious dangers of sleeping at 5730m above altitude as there is a higher risk of suffering from altitude related symptoms. In order to best minimise this risk we summit first prior to sleeping in the crater, thereby ensuring that we observe an imperative principle of acclimatisation, 'climb

high, sleep low', at this critical altitude.

Please note we only offer the crater camp options on the Machame, Shira and Lemosho routes as the acclimatisation on other routes is not sufficiently good. You should also be aware that amongst those requesting to spend a night in the crater; some climbers change their minds while on the mountain after consulting with the guide and agreeing that they have failed to obtain a sufficiently safe level of acclimatisation for this option.

Kilimanjaro, with its three volcanic cones, Kibo, Mawenzi, and Shira, is an inactive stratovolcano in north-eastern Tanzania and the highest mountain in Africa at 5,895 metres or 19,341 feet (the Uhuru Peak). Mount Kilimanjaro is considered to be the tallest freestanding mountain in the world, rising 4600 m (15,100 feet) from the base. The name Kibo in Kichagga means "spotted" and refers to rocks seen on snowfields

The Kibo summit is the best preserved crater on the mountain; its southern lip rises to 5895m and is known as Uhuru Peak. Kibo is also the only one of the three summits which is permanently covered in snow due to the large glaciers that cover much of its surface.

Kibo are actually 3 volcanic craters on Kibo. Kibo Crater itself measures 1.9 x 2.7 km and forms a broken ring where lava flows have breached the craters rim. One of the other craters within Kibo is Reusch Crater whose inner crater measures 1.3km in diameter. There are still signs of volcanic activity, including fumaroles, the smell of sulphur from Reusch Crater. The third crater, the Ash Pit, is much smaller measuring only 130m deep by 140m wide.

The Furtwängler Glacier on Kilimanjaro is a remnant of the ice cap that once covered the mountain. These has retreated dramatically over the last century with over 80% glacial retreat. The glacier is named after Walter Furtwängler, who along with Ziegfried Koenig, were the fourth to ascend to the summit of Kilimanjaro in 1912.

The Machame route is known as the "Whiskey" route and is now very popular as it offers excellent acclimatisation, with good opportunities to "walk high, sleep low", and as a result has a high summit success rate.

It starts with an interesting and steep approach from the southwest, ascending up to Shira Plateau where it joins both the Lemosho and Shira routes to the summit of Kilimanjaro. It passes through five diverse climatic zones with some of the most beautiful views on Kilimanjaro, from the expansive Shira Plateau, to Lava Tower, the Great Barranco Wall and Kilimanjaro's Southern Icefield.

Although overall Machame has a great success rate some people are concerned about a small section of scramble up the Barranco Wall- this is not as tricky at all and you will be helped by your guide team every step of the way. On the most precarious part you have to take one stride around a rock outcrop but this is quite easy. The fact is thousands of



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people use this route safely every year.

There are high numbers of climbers on this route but this can be easily overcome by hitting the trail early. Machame's stunning scenery certainly is worth it!

Sleeping in tents at designated campsites is the only accommodation option on Machame. The team's cook will prepare all meals which are eaten in a large dining tent.