

# Climbing Kilimanjaro: Machame Route

Abercrombie & Kent  
EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA



## ITINERARY

### 1 Arrive in Arusha

On arrival climbers are collected from Kilimanjaro International Airport and transferred to Airport Planet Lodge for the night.

**Overnight:** Rivertrees Country Inn

**Meal Plan:**

### 2 Machame Camp

After breakfast, you are driven to Machame village on the lower slopes of Kilimanjaro where you begin the climb. Today is spent trekking through giant fig and rubber tree forests, where you may catch glimpses of Colobus and blue monkeys as they chatter and swing through the branches above you as if championing you on. The dense forest is alive with other creatures and many of Kilimanjaro's unique and mystical plants. As you emerge from the forest and begin to peep over treetops to extensive plains below, you reach the day's destination: Machame Camp.

Start: 5906 ft/1800 m | End: 9302 ft/2835 m | Distance: 7 miles/11 kilometres | Time: 5 - 7 hours

**Overnight:** Bronze: Lite Camping | Silver: Luxury Camping | Gold: VIP Camping

**Meal Plan:** B,L,D

### 3 Shira Camp

You are awakened at 6am with a hot drink and, weather permitting, a stunning view of Uhuru Peak. Today, you trek out of the forest and up into heath and moorland - the abrupt change in landscape a clear demonstration of Kilimanjaro's famed '4 seasons in 4 days'. This Hagenia zone is savannah carpeted with tall grasses, bearded heather and rugged terrain of volcanic lava, caves and foamy streams, all flanked by the mountain's famous giant groundsels. The day's destination is the rocky Shira Plateau, where you will spend the night at Shira Camp.

Start: 9302 ft/2835 m | End: 12304 ft/3750 m | Distance: 3 miles/5 kilometres | Time: 4 - 6 hours

**Overnight:** Bronze: Lite Camping | Silver: Luxury Camping | Gold: VIP Camping

**Meal Plan:** B,L,D

### 4 Barranco Camp

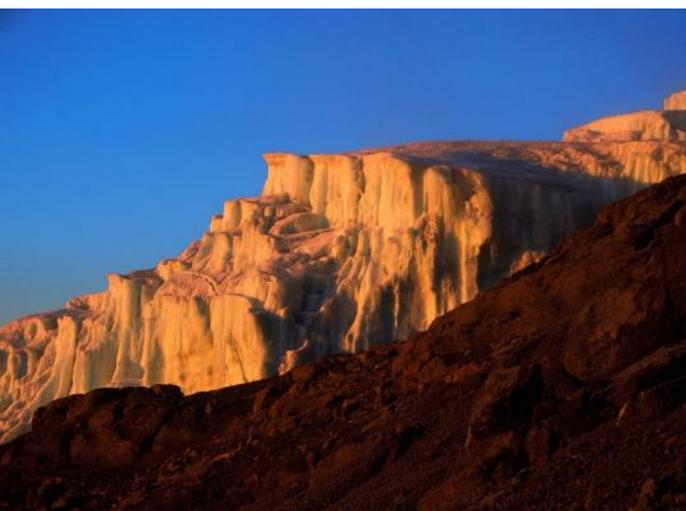
This morning, as you cross the Shira Plateau, a spectacular view of Kibo peak rears ahead. Eventually, you'll meet the Lava Tower - a freestanding rock that rises 325 feet into the sky - and begin your descent through the immense Grand Barranco canyon. Winding through the gorge you'll encounter more enormous groundsels, their strange fingered-trunks stretching far taller than the climbers, as well as several miniature waterfalls fed by mountain streams. The night is spent at Barranco Camp, the most picturesque camp on the route, tucked beneath the snow-capped Great Barranco Wall and enveloped by lush landscape

Start: 12304 ft/3750 m | End: 12796 ft/3900 m | Distance: 6 miles/10 kilometres | Time: 6 - 8 hours

**Overnight:** Bronze: Lite Camping | Silver: Luxury Camping | Gold: VIP Camping

**Meal Plan:** B,L,D





### 5 Karanga Camp

Today, is intended as a short, acclimatization day. At first, you are confronted with ascending the Great Barranco Wall, and then the path winds down into pretty Karanga Valley, where malachite sunbirds can be seen amongst the flowers, their green plumage brilliant in the sunlight. You spend the night at Karanga Camp, which has no increase in elevation to allow for lots of acclimatization time.

Start: 12796 ft/3900 m | End: 13108 ft/3995 m | Distance: 3 miles/5 kilometres | Time: 4 - 5 hours

**Overnight:** Bronze: Lite Camping | Silver: Luxury Camping | Gold: VIP Camping

**Meal Plan:** B,L,D

### 6 Barafu Camp

Today, is another short day, spent trekking through strangely-beautiful lunar desert with views of both Mawenzi and Kibo peaks towering – intimidating as well as encouraging – ahead. You overnight at Barafu Camp, also known as Base Camp, and spend the afternoon resting and preparing for the much-anticipated summit day.

Start: 13108 ft/3995 m | End: 15332 ft/4673 m | Distance: 2.5 miles/4 kilometres | Time: 4 - 5 hours

**Overnight:** Bronze: Lite Camping | Silver: Luxury Camping | Gold: VIP Camping

**Meal Plan:** B,L,D

### 7 Mweka Camp

On summit day, you are woken up at around midnight to start one of the most physically difficult challenges of your life. The group will ascend the path, flanked by Ratzel and Rehman glaciers, step by step, ensuring that everyone goes at a safe, slow pace – pole pole (slowly, slowly) the guides will softly urge in Kiswahili, on careful watch for signs of altitude sickness.

After about 6 hours you reach Gilman 's Point which lies on the rim of Kilimanjaro 's crater. From here you can watch as the sun rises majestically above snow and clouds – a truly extraordinary sight. From Gilman 's Point, it takes another 2 hours, and lots of willpower, to push through to Uhuru Peak. Uhuru means 'freedom' in Kiswahili - named after the moment Tanzania gained its independence in 1961. From here, you can finally admire Africa from her highest vantage point and revel in the enormous challenge you have just conquered. After taking photos and soaking up as much of this spellbinding, spilling view as you can, the descent begins. Stopping at Barafu Camp for breakfast, continue to Mweka Camp in the upper forest where you will spend your final night on 'the Roof of Africa'.

Start: 15332 ft/4673 m | End: 10171 ft/3100 m | Distance: 11 miles/18 kilometres | Time: 14 - 16 hours

**Overnight:** Bronze: Lite Camping | Silver: Luxury Camping | Gold: VIP Camping

**Meal Plan:** B,L,D

### 8 Depart

On your last day, you hike mainly through forest, trekking downhill - a pleasant change after summit day. At Mweka Gate you pick up your well -deserved certificate before being transferred by an A&K driver to your hotel. Here you will relax in the day room and enjoy a hot shower and lunch. In the evening, you are driven to Kilimanjaro International Airport for your flight.

**Dayroom:** Rivertrees Country Inn

**Meal Plan:** B



## OVERVIEW

- 1 NIGHT - ARUSHA
- 1 NIGHT - MACHAME CAMP
- 1 NIGHT - SHIRA CAMP
- 1 NIGHT - BARRANCO CAMP
- 1 NIGHT - KARANGA CAMP
- 1 NIGHT - BARAFU CAMP
- 1 NIGHT - MWEKA CAMP

## INCLUDES

- Transfers
- Pre-climb night accommodation & day room
- Mountain Accommodation
- Private Safety Devices - pulse oximeter, first aid kit, evacuation stretcher, oxygen
- Meals
- Crew - mountain guides, camp crew, cooks, porters

## EXCLUDES

- Meals not specified
- Champagnes, cognacs, fine wines, premium brand spirits, cigars
- Touring and excursions
- All items of personal nature, telephone calls, curio shop purchases
- Gratuities
- International flights

## PLEASE NOTE

- From rates are per person sharing and subject to availability and change
- Transfers and guiding with an English speaking driver/guide
- Seasons are subject to camp seasons

