

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING

The mountain's ecosystems are as strikingly beautiful as they are varied and diverse. On the lowland slopes, much of the mountain is farmland, with coffee, banana, cassava, and maize crops grown for subsistence and cash sale. Trekking the highest mountain in Africa Mt. Kilimanjaro, small one the Mt. Meru and Mt. Oldonyo Lengai makes the best trekking experience in the world.

MOUNT KILIMANJARO

The word Kilimanjaro is derived from the words "Kilima" and the word "Njaro". Kilima is a Swahili word meaning "Little Mountain" (which is ironic as it is not little at all). There are different theories regarding the origin of the word Njaro. Some say it is a Swahili word meaning 'shinning' and some say it is a Chagga (native tribe in the Kilimanjaro region) word meaning 'caravan'.

Kilimanjaro is composed of three distinct volcanic cones: Kibo 5,895 m; Mawenzi 5,149 m; and Shira 3,962 m (13,000 ft). Uhuru Peak (Gilman's point) is the highest summit on Kibo's crater rim.

Two of its three peaks, Mawenzi and Shira, are extinct while Kibo, its highest peak, is dormant and could erupt again. The last major eruption has been dated to between 150,000 and 200,000 years ago.

But there is so much more to Kilimanjaro than her summit. The ascent of the slopes is a virtual climatic world tour, from the tropics to the Arctic.

Even before you cross the national park boundary (at the 2,700m contour), the cultivated footslopes give way to lush montane forest, inhabited by elusive elephant, leopard, buffalo, the endangered Abbot's duiker, and other small antelope and primates. Higher still lies the moorland zone, where a cover of giant heather is studded with otherworldly giant lobelias.

Above 4,000m, a surreal alpine desert supports little life other than a few hardy mosses and lichen. Then, finally, the last vestigial vegetation gives way to a winter wonderland of ice and snow – and the magnificent beauty of the roof of the continent. You can access Kilimanjaro via several routes of depending to the kind of experience you may desire, though some routes can be technical and chances of summit may be minimal;

LEMOSHO ROUTE

Trekking Kilimanjaro Lemosho is a premium route for Kilimanjaro climb and trek provided from 6 to 8 days. Climbing through different climate zones it starts on heaths and winds further across alpine meadows to ascend to the arctic zone near Uhuru Peak. The descent, in turn, passes through rainforest. All this makes this route the most scenic on Kilimanjaro. Lemosho offers the smoothest acclimatization and the highest success rates of 85%, 90% and 95% for 6, 7 and 8-day tours, respectively. The total distance covered on Lemosho Route is 46 km (28.5 miles). Masero Tours recommends this trail for those ready to pay a bit extra for high-altitude drop off by a vehicle.

7 days Lemosho Route Itinerary

Day 1 Arusha (1400m) – Londorossi Gate (2100m) – Mti Mkubwa camp (2750m)

Hiking time: 3 hours
Habitat: Montane forest

After eating breakfast at your hotel, your guide will brief you on the day. You will drive two hours from Arusha (1400m) to Londorossi Park Gate (2100m). In the village near Londorossi Gate, you will receive a packed lunch and can buy mineral water for the hike. Then the final 45 minutes of the drive leading up to the gate will be on a bumpy forest track requiring 4WD vehicles. At the entrance gate, the guides and porters distribute the supplies and register with the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA). You are now ready to begin your 3-hour hike into the rain forest. Be on the look out for Colobus monkeys! Along the way, you will stop for an afternoon lunch break and arrive at Mti Mkubwa ("Big Tree") Campsite (2750m) in the early evening. The porters, who arrive at the campsite before the clients, will set up your tent and boil water for drinking and washing. The chef will prepare a snack then dinner for the clients. At nighttime, mountain temperatures may drop to freezing so be prepared!

Day 2 Mti Mkubwa Camp (2750m) – Shira 2 Camp (3840m)

Hiking time: 6.5 hours
Habitat: Moorland

After an early morning breakfast, you will begin your ascent out of the rainforest and into the heather moorland zone. You will cross many streams and walk over a plateau that leads to Shira 2 Camp (3840m). At this campsite, you will be next to a stream and have a spectacular view of the Western Breach and its glaciers in the East. Similar to the first night, your tents will be set up prior to arriving at camp and the porters will prepare drinking and washing water for you. You will enjoy evening snacks then dinner prepared by our chef. Be prepared for a cold night as temperatures drop below freezing at this exposed camp.

Day 3 Shira (3840m) – Lava Tower (4630m) – Barranco Camp (3950m)

Hiking time: 7 hours
Distance: Approximately 15 kilometers
Habitat: Semi desert

Following an early morning breakfast, you will leave the moorland environment and enter the semi desert and rocky landscape. After 5 hours of walking east, you will be come face to face with the Lava Tower (4630m). Packed lunches are served at the Tower and hikers have the option of climbing the massive Lava Tower weather permitting. At this point of the hike, it is normal for hikers to start feeling the effects from the altitude including headaches and shortness of breath.

After lunch, you will descend from Lava Tower (4630m) to the Barranco Campsite (3950m). The 6800m descent gives hikers a huge advantage to allow their bodies to adjust to the conditions of high altitude. The descent to camp takes around 2 hours to reach. It is located in a valley below the Breach and Great Barranco Wall ("Breakfast Wall"). Drinking and washing water and dinner will be served as hikers view the sun setting.

Day 4 Barranco Camp (3950m) – Karanga Camp (3950m)

Hiking time: 4-5 hours
Distance: Approximately 5 kilometers
Habitat: Alpine desert

This is a short hiking day meant for acclimatization. After an early morning breakfast, it is now time to conquer the Great Barranco Wall! Although it may look intimidating at first glance, hikers state that this Class 2 hike is usually much easier than they anticipated. At the top of the Wall, you will have a view of Heim Glacier and will be above the clouds. The trail then winds up and down in the Karanga Valley. You will spend the night at Karanga Camp (3950m) and enjoy dinner and washing at the site.

Day 5 Karanga Camp (3959m) – Barafu Hut (4600)

Hiking time: 2-3 hours
Distance: Approximately 4 kilometers
Habitat: Alpine desert

After breakfast, you will begin your ascent. The trail intersects with the Mweka Route, which is the trail used to descend on the final two days. As you continue hiking for an hour, you will reach Barafu Hut. This is the last water stop for the porters because there is no accessible water at Barafu Camp (4550m). The word “barafu” in Swahili means “ice” and this camp is located on a rocky, exposed ridge. Tents will be exposed to wind and rocks so it is important for hikers to familiarize themselves with the campsite before dark. An early dinner will be served so hikers can rest before attempting the summit the same night. Your guide will brief you in detail on how to prepare for summit night. Get to sleep by 19:00!

Day 6 summit attempt Barafu Camp (4600m) – Uhuru Peak (5895m) – Mweka (3100m)

Hiking time: 8 hours to reach Uhuru Peak, 7-8 hours to descend to Mweka

Distance: Approximately 7 kilometers ascent and 23 kilometers descent
Habitat: Stone scree and ice-capped summit

Your guide will wake you around 23:30 for tea and biscuits. You will then begin your summit attempt. The route heads northwest and you will ascend over stone scree. During the ascent, many hikers feel that this is the most mentally and physically challenging part of the climb. In about 6 hours, you will reach Stella Point (5685m), located on the crater rim. After enjoying the magnificent sunrise, you will continue ascending for about 2 hours on a snow-covered trail to Uhuru Peak (5895m). Reaching the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro is a lifetime accomplishment! You will be able to spend a short time on the summit taking photographs and drinking tea before the descent to Barafu begins. The hike down to Barafu Camp takes about 3 hours.

At camp, you will rest and enjoy a hot lunch in the sun. After eating, you will continue descending down to Mweka Hut (3100m). The Mweka Trail will lead you through the scree and rocks to the moorland and eventually into the rain forest. Mweka Camp (3100m) is located in the upper rain forest, so fog and rain should be expected. You will have a dinner, wash, and rest soundly at camp.

Day 7 Mweka Camp (3100m) – Mweka Gate (1980m)

Hiking time: 3 hours
Distance: Approximately 15 kilometers
Habitat: Forest

Following a well-deserved breakfast, your staff will have a big celebration full of dancing and singing. It is here on the mountain that you will present your tips to the guide, assistant guides, chef(s), and porters. After celebrating, you will descend for three hours back to Mweka Gate. The National Park requires all hikers to sign their names to receive certificates of completion. Hikers who reached Stella Point (5685m) receive green certificates and hikers who reached Uhuru Peak (5895m) receive gold certificates. After receiving certificates, hikers will descend into the Mweka village for 1 hour (3 kilometers). You will be served a hot lunch then you will drive back to Arusha for long overdue showers and more celebrations.

8 Days Kilimanjaro Climbing

Day 1 Lemosho Route 8 days – Arusha (1400m) – Londorossi Gate (2100m) – Forest camp (2750m)

Distance: 6 km
Hiking Time: 3-4 hours
Habitat: Rain Forest

After eating breakfast at your hotel, your guide will brief you on the day. You will drive two hours from Arusha (1400m) to Londorossi Park Gate (2100m). In the village near Londorossi where you will complete entry formalities. Then drive to the Lemosho trailhead (another hour to reach the trailhead). Upon arrival at trailhead, we eat lunch, then commence through undisturbed forest which winds to the first camp site.

Day 2 Lemosho Route 8 days – Forest Camp (2750m) – Shira 1 Camp (3540m)

Hiking time: 5.5 hours

Habitat: Moorland

Distance: 8 km

We continue on the trail leading out of the forest and into a savannah of tall grasses, heather, and volcanic rock draped with lichen beards. As we ascend through the lush rolling hills and cross several streams, we reach the Shira Ridge before dropping gently down to Shira 1 camp. The view of Kibo from across the plateau is amazing.

Day 3 Lemosho Route 8 days – Shira 1 (3540m) – Shira 2 (3840m)- Moir Hut (4114)

Hiking time: 5-7 hours

Distance: Approximately 15 kilometers

Habitat: moorland

This spectacular camp we will be going to today is located beneath the Northern Ice Fields of Kilimanjaro. It is a gentle walk east toward Kibo's glaciated peak, across the plateau which leads to Shira 2 camp on moorland meadows by a stream. Then we continue to Moir Hut, a little used site on the base of Lent Hills. A variety of walks are available on Lent Hills making this an excellent acclimatization opportunity. Shira is one of the highest plateaus on earth.

Day 4 Lemosho Route 8 days – Moir Hut (4114)- Lava Tower (4600)-Barranco Camp (3950m)

Hiking time: 7 hours

Distance: Approximately 7 kilometers

Habitat: Semi Desert

From Moir hut, 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 16,000ft. We now continue down to the Barranco Hut at an altitude of 13,000ft. 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 Lemosho Route 8 days – Barranco Camp (3950m) – Karanga Camp (4235m)

Hiking time: 4-5 hours

Distance: Approximately 5 kilometers

Habitat: Alpine desert

This is a short hiking day meant for acclimatization. After an early morning breakfast, it is now time to conquer the Great Barranco Wall! Although it may look intimidating at first glance, hikers state that this Class 2 hike is usually much easier than they anticipated. At the top of the Wall, you will have a view of Heim Glacier and will be above the clouds. The trail then winds up and down in the Karanga Valley. You will spend the night at Karanga Camp (3950m) and enjoy dinner and washing at the site.

Day 6 Lemosho Route 8 days – Karanga Camp (4235m) – Barafu Hut (4600)

Hiking time: 3-4 hours

Distance: Approximately 4 kilometers

Habitat: Alpine desert

After breakfast, you will begin your ascent. The trail intersects with the Mweka Route, which is the trail used to descend on the final two days. As you continue hiking for an hour, you will reach Barafu Hut. This is the last water stop for the porters because there is no accessible water at Barafu Camp (4550m). The word "barafu" in Swahili means "ice" and this camp is located on a rocky, exposed ridge. Tents will be exposed to wind and rocks so it is important for hikers to familiarize themselves with the campsite before dark. An early dinner will be served so hikers can rest before attempting the summit the same night. Your guide will brief you in detail on how to prepare for summit night. Get to sleep by 19:00!

Day 7 Lemosho Route 8 days – summit attempt Barafu Camp (4600m) – Uhuru Peak (5895m) – Mweka (3100m)

Hiking time: 8 hours to reach Uhuru Peak, 7-8 hours to descend to Mweka

Distance: Approximately 7 kilometers ascent and 23 kilometers descent

Habitat: Stone scree and ice-capped summit

Your guide will wake you around 23:30 for tea and biscuits. You will then begin your summit attempt. The route heads northwest and you will ascend over stone scree. During the ascent, many hikers feel that this is the most mentally and physically challenging part of the climb. In about 6 hours, you will reach Stella Point (5685m), located on the crater rim. After enjoying the magnificent sunrise, you will continue ascending for about 2 hours on a snow-covered trail to Uhuru Peak (5895m). Reaching the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro is a lifetime accomplishment! You will be able to spend a short time on the summit taking photographs and drinking tea before the descent to Barafu begins. The hike down to Barafu Camp takes about 3 hours.

At camp, you will rest and enjoy a hot lunch in the sun. After eating, you will continue descending down to Mweka Hut (3100m). The Mweka Trail will lead you through the scree and rocks to the moorland and eventually into the rain forest. Mweka Camp (3100m) is located in the upper rain forest, so fog and rain should be expected. You will have a dinner, wash, and rest soundly at camp.

Day 8 Lemosho Route 8 days – Mweka Camp (3100m) – Mweka Gate (1980m)

Hiking time: 3 hours

Distance: Approximately 15 kilometers

Habitat: Forest

Following a well-deserved breakfast, your staff will have a big celebration full of dancing and singing. It is here on the mountain that you will present your tips to the guide, assistant guides, chef(s), and porters. After celebrating, you will descend for three hours back to Mweka Gate. The National Park requires all hikers to sign their names to receive certificates of completion. Hikers who reached Stella Point (5685m) receive green certificates and hikers who reached Uhuru Peak (5895m) receive gold certificates. After receiving certificates, hikers will descend into the Mweka village for 1 hour (3 kilometers). You will be served a hot lunch then you will drive back to Arusha for long overdue showers and more celebrations.

MACHAME ROUTE

Kilimanjaro Climbing 7 Days Machame Route, Machame route, or (Whiskey Route) at a total length of 65km, is one of the most popular for Kilimanjaro climbers. We, at Masero Tours, would recommend the short 6-day programme only to those with climbing experience, reasonable level of fitness and a yearning for a challenge. The main difficulty lies in an altitude gain of over 2,000m (6,600 feet) in 24hrs including summiting, resulting in a 7% drop in success rates. If you are planning to take Machame Route in November, April or May, the path may be eroded by rain making the climb more difficult. The 7-day programme, on the other hand, offers success rates of 85% due to gradual acclimatization and will suit anyone aspiring to climb Kilimanjaro.

7 days Machame Route Itinerary

Day 1 Machame route 7 days – Machame Gate (1490m) – Machame Camp (2980m)

Hiking time: 7 hours

Distance: Approximately 18 kilometers

Habitat: Montane forest

After an early breakfast at your hotel, you will be picked up from Arusha (1400m) and driven to the Machame Village. In the village, you can buy mineral water and will receive a packed lunch. From the village, depending on the road conditions, you will either continue driving 3 kilometers or walk to the Machame Gate (1490m). At the gate, the porters will organize and pack the belongings for the hike while you and your guide register with the Tanzania National Park (TANAPA). You will then begin your ascent into the rainforest. During this section of the hike, you should expect rain, mud, and fog. Also, be on the look out for wildlife, including Colobus monkeys! About halfway up the trail you will have a lunch break and you will reach the Machame Camp (2980) in the late afternoon or early evening. The porters and chef, who move very fast up the mountain, will reach camp before you and set up your tents, boil drinking water, and prepare snacks for your arrival. After washing up, a hot dinner will be served. For overnight, mountain temperatures may drop to freezing so be prepared!

Day 2 Machame route 7 days – Machame Camp (2980m) – Shira Camp (3840m)

Hiking time: 6 hours

Distance: Approximately 9 kilometers

Habitat: Moorland

After an early morning breakfast, you will start your ascent leaving the rain forest and entering the heathland moorland vegetation. You will cross many streams and walk over a rocky ridge onto the Shira plateau that leads to Shira Camp (3840m). At this campsite, you will be next to a stream and have a spectacular view of the Western Breach and its glaciers in the East. Similar to the first night, your tents will be set up prior to arriving at camp and the porters will prepare drinking and washing water for you. You will enjoy evening snacks then dinner prepared by our chef. Be prepared for a cold night as temperatures drop below freezing at this exposed camp.

Day 3 Machame route 7 days – Shira (at 3840m) – Lava Tower (at 4630m) – Barranco camp (at 3950m)

Hiking time: 7 hours

Distance: Approximately 15 kilometers

Habitat: Semi-desert

Following an early morning breakfast, you will leave the moorland environment and enter the semi desert and rocky landscape. After 5 hours of walking east, you will be come face to face with the Lava Tower (4630m). Packed lunches are served at the Tower and hikers have the option of climbing the massive Lava Tower weather permitting. At this point of the hike, it is normal for hikers to start feeling the effects from the altitude including headaches and shortness of breath.

After lunch, you will descend from Lava Tower (4630m) to the Barranco Campsite (3950m). The 6800m descent gives hikers a huge advantage to allow their bodies to adjust to the conditions of high altitude. The descent to camp takes around 2 hours to reach. It is located in a valley below the Breach and Great Barranco Wall ("Breakfast Wall"). Drinking and washing water and dinner will be served as hikers view the sun setting.

Day 4 Machame route 7 days – Barranco Camp (3950m) – Karanga Camp (3950m)

Hiking time: 4-5 hours

Distance: Approximately 5 kilometers

Habitat: Alpine desert

After an early morning breakfast, it is now time to conquer the Great Barranco Wall! Although it may look intimidating at first glance, hikers state that this Class 2 hike is usually much easier than they anticipated. At the top of the Wall, you will have a view of Heim Glacier and will be above the clouds. The trail then winds up and down in the Karanga Valley. This is an ideal hiking day for acclimatization.

Day 5 Machame route 7 days – Karanga Camp (3959m) – Barafu Hut (4600m)

Hiking time: 2-3 hours

Distance: Approximately 4 kilometers

Habitat: Alpine desert

Following breakfast, you will leave Karanga Camp (3959m). The trail intersects with the Mweka Route, which is the trail used to descend on the final two days. As you continue hiking for an hour, you will reach Barafu Hut. This is the last water stop for the porters because there is no accessible water at Barafu Camp (4550m). The word "barafu" in Swahili means "ice" and this camp is located on a rocky, exposed ridge. Tents will be exposed to wind and rocks so it is important for hikers to familiarize themselves with the campsite before dark. An early dinner will be served so hikers can rest before attempting the summit the same night. Your guide will brief you in detail on how to prepare for summit night. Get to sleep by 19:00!

Day 6 Machame route 7 days – Summit Attempt

Barafu camp (4600m) – Uhuru Peak (5895m) – Mweka (3100m)

Hiking time: 8 hours to reach Uhuru Peak, 7-8 hours to descend to Mweka

Distance: Approximately 7 kilometer ascent and 23 kilometer descent

Habitat: Stone scree and ice-capped summit

Your guide will wake you around 23:30 for tea and biscuits. You will then begin your summit attempt. The route heads northwest and you will ascend over stone scree. During the ascent, many hikers feel that this is the most mentally and physically challenging part of the climb. In about 6 hours, you will

reach Stella Point (5685m), located on the crater rim. After enjoying the magnificent sunrise, you will continue ascending for about 2 hours on a snow-covered trail to Uhuru Peak (5895m). Reaching the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro is a lifetime accomplishment! You will be able to spend a short time on the summit taking photographs and drinking tea before the descent to Barafu begins. The hike down to Barafu Camp takes about 3 hours.

At camp, you will rest and enjoy a hot lunch in the sun. After eating, you will continue descending down to Mweka Hut (3100m). The Mweka Trail will lead you through the scree and rocks to the moorland and eventually into the rain forest. Mweka Camp (3100m) is located in the upper rain forest, so fog and rain should be expected. You will have a dinner, wash, and rest soundly at camp.

Day 7 Machame route 7 days – Mweka camp (3100m) – Mweka Gate (1980m)

Hiking time: 3 hours

Distance: Approximately 15 kilometers

Habitat: Forest

Following a well-deserved breakfast, your staff will have a big celebration full of dancing and singing. It is here on the mountain that you will present your tips to the guide, assistant guides, chef(s), and porters. After celebrating, you will descend for three hours back to Mweka Gate. The National Park requires all hikers to sign their names to receive certificates of completion. Hikers who reached Stella Point (5685m) receive green certificates and hikers who reached Uhuru Peak (5895m) receive gold certificates. After receiving certificates, hikers will descend into the Mweka village for 1 hour (3 kilometers). You will be served a hot lunch then you will drive back to Arusha for long overdue showers and more celebrations.

6 days Machame Route Itinerary

Duration: 6 days 5 nights

Best time to travel: all year round

Pre day : Arriving in Tanzania

Our Kilimanjaro adventure starts the Moment you land at Kilimanjaro international Aiport, You will be met by our staff at the airport and transferred to Arusha in the peaceful surrounds of our comfortable pre and post trek accommodation in Arusha – Kigongoni Lodge, from where there are great views of the mountain. You can relax by the pool before your briefing with the Guides, who will provide the essential information for your trek to the roof of Africa.

Day 1 Machame Gate (1490m) – Machame Camp (2980m)

Hiking time: 7 hours

Distance: Approximately 18 kilometers

Habitat: Montane forest

After an early breakfast at your hotel, you will be picked up from Arusha (1400m) and driven to the Machame Village. In the village, you can buy mineral water and will receive a packed lunch. From the village, depending on the road conditions, you will either continue to drive from the village to the Machame gate, but if not, the muddy 3 km walk will take about 1 hour to complete. After registering at the gate office, you start your ascent and enter the rain forest almost immediately. There is a strong possibility of rain in the forest, which will transform the trail into a very soggy, muddy and slippery experience. You will have a welcome lunch stop about half way and will reach the Machame camping area in the late afternoon.

Your porters (arriving at the camp site long before you) will have erected your tent on your arrival. In the evening the porters will boil drinking and washing water and the cook will prepare dinner, before you retire to your tent for the night. Night temperatures can already drop to freezing point at this campsite.

Day 2 Machame camp (2980m) – Shira camp (3840m)

Hiking time: 6h

Distance: Approximately 9 kms

Habitat: Moorland

You rise early at Machame camp and after breakfast you climb an hour or so to the top of the forest and then for 2 hours at a gentler gradient through the moorland zone. After a short lunch and rest, you continue up a rocky ridge onto the Shira plateau. By now you will be able to see in an easterly direction, the Western Breach with its stunning glaciers. You are now due west of Kibo and after a short hike you will reach the Shira campsite at 3 840m. The porters will boil drinking and washing water, before serving dinner. The night at this exposed camp will even be colder than the previous night, with temperatures dropping to well below freezing.

Day 3 Shira (at 3840m) to Lava Tower (at 4630m) to Barranco camp (at 3950m)

Hiking time: 7h

Distance: Approximately 15 kms

Habitat: Semi-desert

The route now turns east into a semi desert and rocky landscape surrounding Lava Tower, where you reach an altitude of 4630m after about a 5 hours walk. Lunch is served in a designated area before ascending the rocky scree path to Lava Tower (4630m). This is definitely the toughest day so far. It is normally around this point, where for the first time, some climbers will start to feel symptoms of breathlessness, irritability and headaches. After lunch you descent again by almost 680m to the Barranco camping area and after reaching the high altitude of 4600m at Lava Tower, the true acclimatisation benefit of this day becomes clear. This descent to Barranco camp takes about 2 hours

and offers great opportunities to take some beautiful photographs of the Western Breach and Breach Wall. The camp is situated in a valley below the Breach and Great Barranco Wall, which should provide you with a memorable sunset while you wait for the preparation of your dinner.

Day 4 Barranco camp (3950m)- Barafu camp (4550m)

Hiking time: 7h

Distance: Approximately 13 kms

Habitat: Alpine desert

After spending a night at the Great Barranco Wall (a very imposing sight at first), you make your way up this awesome looking obstacle, which in the end normally turns out easier than what you anticipated. Topping out just below the Heim Glacier, you now appreciate just how beautiful Kilimanjaro really is. The route then heads down through the Karanga Valley over intervening ridges and valleys, and then joins up with the Mweka route. This is the preferred route down from the summit, so remember it. Turn left up the ridge and after another hour or so, you reach Barafu Hut.

The last water stop on the route is the Karanga Valley, as there is no water at Barafu camp. Barafu is the Swahili word for “ice” and it is a bleak and inhospitable camping area to spend the night. Totally exposed to the ever-present gales the tents are pitched on a narrow, stony, and dangerous ridge. Make sure that you familiarise yourself with the terrain before dark to avoid any accidents. The summit is now a further 1345m up and you will make the final ascent the same night. Prepare your equipment, ski stick and thermal clothing for your summit attempt. This should include the replacement of your headlamp and camera batteries and make sure you have a spare set available as well. To prevent freezing it will be wise to carry your water in a thermal flask. Go to bed at round about 19h00 and try to get some precious rest and sleep.

Day 5 (Summit attempt) Barafu camp (4550m) – Uhuru Peak (5895m) – Mweka (3100m)

Hiking time: 8h to reach Uhuru Peak, 7 – 8h to descend to Mweka

Distance: Approximately 7 kms ascent – 23 kms descent

Habitat: Stone scree and ice-capped summit

You will rise around 23h30, and after some tea and biscuits you shuffle off into the night. You will head in a north-westerly direction and ascend through heavy scree towards Stella Point on the crater rim. For many climbers, this 6-hour walk to Stella point is mentally and physically the most challenging on the route. At Stella Point (5685m) 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 will normally encounter snow all the way on your 2-hour ascent to Uhuru Peak. The time you will spend on the summit will depend on the weather conditions. Do not stop here for too long, as it will be extremely difficult to start again due to cold and fatigue. Enjoy your accomplishment and a day to remember for the rest of your life. The walk back to Barafu from the summit, takes about 3 hours. Here you will have a well earned but short rest and collect the rest of your gear. The route is not difficult and will take you down the rock and scree path into the moorland and eventually into the forest. The camp is situated in

the upper forest and mist or rain can be expected in the late afternoon. Dinner and washing water will be prepared.

Day 6 Mweka camp (3100m) – Mweka Gate (1980m)

Hiking time: 3h

Distance: Approximately 15 kms

Habitat: Forest

Following a well-deserved breakfast, your staff will have a big celebration full of dancing and singing. It is here on the mountain that you will present your tips to the guide, assistant guides, chef(s), and porters. After celebrating, you will descend for three hours back to Mweka Gate. The National Park requires all hikers to sign their names to receive certificates of completion. Hikers who reached Stella Point (5685m) receive green certificates and hikers who reached Uhuru Peak (5895m) receive gold certificates. After receiving certificates, hikers will descend into the Mweka village for 1 hour (3 kilometers). You will be served a hot lunch then you will drive back to Arusha for long overdue showers and more celebrations.

MARANGU ROUTE

Kilimanjaro Trekking 6 Days Marangu Route, the Marangu route – also “Coca-Cola” – is the most popular amongst Kilimanjaro climbers. It is unique in that it provides extra comfort with its permanent huts. Fabulous vistas of Kilimanjaro’s Mawenzi and Kibo peaks are an added advantage of Coca-Cola Route! Marangu Route offers 6 and 5-day itineraries, the latter being the way to go for experienced trekkers. The 6 days Marangu Route itinerary with its longer acclimatization is preferable if this is to be your first climb. Those who climb Kilimanjaro on Marangu can look forward to a trek that covers the distance of 64 km (40 miles) with comfortable conditions resulting in a 92% success rate for the longer programme.

6 days Marangu Route Itinerary

Day 1 Marangu route 6 days – Marangu Gate (1980m) – Mandara Hut (2700m)

Hiking time: 3-4 hours

Distance: Approximately 12 kilometers

Habitat: Montane forest

After an early breakfast at your hotel, you will be picked up from Arusha (1400m) and driven to the Marangu Gate (1980m). At the gate, the porters will organize and pack the belongings for the hike while you and your guide register with the Tanzania National Park (TANAPA). You will then begin your ascent into the rainforest. During this section of the hike, you should expect rain, mud, and fog. Also, be on the look out for wildlife, including Colobus monkeys! After 3-4 hours of ascending, you will reach the Mandara Hut (2700m). Each hut has 6-8 sleeping bunks (sleeps 60 hikers total) with solar generated lighting. Next to the central hut there are flush toilets. The porters, who arrive at the campsite before the clients, will boil water for drinking and washing. The chef will prepare a snack then dinner for the clients. At nighttime, mountain temperatures may drop to freezing so be prepared!

Day 2 Marangu route 6 days – Mandara Hut (2700m) – Horombo Hut (3720m)

Hiking time: 6 hours

Distance: Approximately 15 kilometers

Habitat: Moorland

Following breakfast, hikers will begin their ascent out of the rainforest and into the heathen moorland. Hikers will pass the Maundi Crater and are able to climb up to its rim for a spectacular view of the Kibo Crater. In the moorland, you will spot exotic plants, including giant lobelia and groundsel. After 6 hours of hiking, you will reach Horombo Hut (3720m). Horombo Hut sleeps 120 hikers and is located on a small plateau. Similar to the first night, the porters will prepare drinking and washing water for you. You will enjoy evening snacks then dinner prepared by our chef. Be prepared for a cold night as temperatures drop below freezing at this site.

Day 3 Marangu route 6 days – Horombo Hut (3720m) – Acclimatization day

At Horombo Hut, you will spend the day allowing your body to acclimate to high altitude. You will have the option of doing a day hike to Mawenzi Hut (4600m) for further acclimatization with your guide. Breakfast and dinner will be at the hut and lunch will either be packed or at the hut depending on your preference for the day.

Day 4 Marangu route 6 days – Horombo Hut (3720m) – Kibo Hut (4700m)

Hiking time: 6 hours

Distance: Approximately 15 kilometers

Habitat: Alpine desert

Following an early morning breakfast, you will continue your ascent into the alpine desert habitat. Hikers have the option of 2 trails that lead to Kibo Hut (4700m). The upper route (located to the right of the fork) is the same trail used the previous day for the day hike to Mawenzi Hut. The lower route (located to the left of the fork) is the more popular route because it is a shorter hiking distance (1 hour shorter).

Kibo Hut is located in the “Saddle,” which refers to the area located between the peaks of Mawenzi and Kibo in an alpine desert. There is no water at this camp, but hikers can buy mineral water and soft drinks at the camp office. An early dinner will be served so hikers can rest before attempting the summit the same night. Your guide will brief you in detail on how to prepare for summit night. Get to sleep by 19:00!

Day 5 Marangu route 6 days – Summit Attempt

Kibo hut (4700m) – Uhuru Peak (5895m) – Horombo Hut (3720m)

Hiking time: 8 hours to Uhuru and 6 hours to Horombo

Distance: Approximately 6 kilometers ascent and 21 kilometers descent

Habitat: Stone scree and ice-capped summit

Your guide will wake you around 23:30 for tea and biscuits. You will then begin your summit attempt. The trail is rocky up to Hans Meyer Cave (5150m). You continue your ascent to Gillman's point (5681m). Reaching this section is an impressive achievement as the trail is steep, rocky, and at high altitude. Gillman's is located on the crater rim. From this point, you will usually experience a snow covered trail until you reach the summit, Uhuru Peak (5895m). Reaching the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro is a lifetime accomplishment! You will be able to spend a short time on the summit taking photographs and drinking tea before the descent to Barafu begins. The hike down to Kibo Hut takes about 3 hours.

At Kibo Hut, you will rest and enjoy a hot lunch in the sun. After eating, you will continue descending down to Horombo Hut (3720m). You will have a dinner, wash, and rest soundly at the hut after a strenuous day.

Day 6 Marangu route 6 days – Horombo Hut (3720m) – Marangu Gate (1980m)

Hiking time: 6 hours

Distance: Approximately 27 kilometers

Following a well-deserved breakfast, your staff will have a big celebration full of dancing and singing. It is here on the mountain that you will present your tips to the guide, assistant guides, chef(s), and porters. After celebrating, you will descend for 6 hours back to Marangu Gate (1980m). The National Park requires all hikers to sign their names to receive certificates of completion. Hikers who reached Gillman's Point (5681m) receive green certificates and hikers who reached Uhuru Peak (5895m) receive gold certificates. After receiving certificates, you will drive back to Arusha for long overdue showers and more celebrations.

UMBWE ROUTE

The Umbwe Route is widely regarded as the hardest trail, a tough vertical slog through the jungle, in places using the tree roots as makeshift rungs on a ladder. Having reached the **Southern Circular Route**, trekkers can continue north-west to tackle Kibo from the west and the difficult Arrow Glacier Route; or you can follow the Southern Circular Route east round to Barafu and approach the summit from there. The entire walk up and down takes a minimum of five days whether going via the Barafu Campsite (a walk of **27.71km** in total) or via the Western Breach/Arrow Glacier (a total distance of **24.35km**). Either is entirely too rapid, so take six minimum.

5 Days Umbwe Route itinerary

Despite a reputation as the most difficult climb, Umbwe is still just a trek, with **no actual climbing involved**. That said, it is steep, and in places you'll be holding on to tree routes as you haul yourself up the slope.

Nevertheless, the rewards in terms of scenery and solitude are more than ample. Note that the following itinerary is for just five days – **which we advise against**. So please do build an extra day into the itinerary to help you acclimatize properly and give you the greatest chance of reaching the summit of Africa's greatest mountain. Most tour companies will arrange to stop at Karanga Campsite at the end of Day 3 (see below).

The following itinerary assumes you are heading via Barafu Huts and Stella Point to the summit, though this is one of the routes where you can climb to the Crater Rim via the Western Breach and Arrow Glacier.

Day 1: Umbwe Gate to Umbwe Cave Campsite

Distance: 9.91km; **Altitude Gained:** 1293m

As the closest gate to Moshi, getting to the start of the Umbwe trail is uncomplicated. With the Umbwe Route one of the quietest on the mountain, too, it follows that you should be one of the first people to begin your trek on the mountain that day.

Wallowing in the splendid tranquility of this route, most people nevertheless find the first day quite taxing as they march up Kilimanjaro's southern slopes under the humid forest canopy. Thankfully, there are plenty of features, including colobus and blue monkeys as well as *impatiens Kilimanjarii*, the striking red flower that many consider to be the most beautiful on the mountain.

Joining a ridge, you eventually arrive at your campsite for the first night, the wonderful **Umbwe Cave Campsite** (2944m), buried deep in the forest. As with every night on the trek, you will arrive to find your tent already erected and a snack awaiting, with dinner served in the early evening.

Day 2: Umbwe Cave Campsite to Barranco Huts

Distance: 5.26km; **Altitude Gained:** 1042m

There are a couple of surprises awaiting you on this second day. The first is the fact that your guide and myself will already be setting a deliberately slow pace in order to help you acclimatize. The second is that, whilst your campsite last night seemed to be in the heart of the deep, dark forest, it's not long on this second day before the forest starts thinning out and you enter into the heath and moorland zone, with fantastic views down to the valleys on both sides.

Some of Kilimanjaro's most famous plants, including the weird senecios and lobelias, now decorate the trail as we continue our climb, with gorgeous views all around including, for the first time, the Kibo summit itself.

Continuing up the southern slopes, you may find it surprising that the path, for virtually the first time on the entire trek, actually drops for a few minutes as it winds its way round to the **Barranco Campsite** (3986m) – many people's favourite on the entire mountain.

Day 3: Barranco Camp to Barafu Huts via Karanga Valley Distance: **8.5km**; Altitude Gained: **676m**

Today is a short day of only three hours or so, built in to make sure you are fully rested and relaxed in order to prepare you for the extra long day tomorrow. Nevertheless, the start of today is a bit of a shock as you are immediately confronted by the Barranco Wall. Taking over an hour to climb, you may need to use your hands on occasions to haul yourself up the rocks but please don't be over-concerned – this is *not* mountaineering, the wall is not dangerous (I've never heard of anyone falling off it), and nor have I ever heard of anyone failing to complete it.

At the summit of the wall the path drifts and meanders gently to the **Karanga Valley**, a gorgeous little place where malachite sunbirds flit from flower to flower. If we were on a seven-day trek we would find our campsite lies at the top of the other side of the valley, a stiff but short climb up from the Karanga stream. Both lunch and dinner will be served at this campsite. But for a six-day climb we still have another three hours or so to go as we traverse the southern side of Kibo, walking through a spectacular lunar landscape bereft of life on our way to Barafu Camp (4662m), on the south-eastern shoulder of Kibo.

Here we will rest, take lunch and dinner, and try to get some sleep before the rigours of the night ahead....

Night 3/Day 4: Barafu Camp to summit and descent to Mweka Camp

Distance: 4.86km to Uhuru Peak; then 11.5km descent to Mweka Camp **Altitude Gained:** 1233m to Uhuru Peak, then a descent of 2789m.

Arising at around midnight, we begin our slow march up to **Stella Point** (5745m) on the edge of the Kibo crater. It's a steep, slow, cold march and a test of your endurance – this is where you'll earn your Kilimanjaro certificate. Nevertheless, providing you have avoided altitude sickness and have acclimatized well, there is no reason why you shouldn't make it up to Stella Point. This we reach, all being well, at around 5am, though it can be much later depending on your condition.

From Stella Point it is a mere 45 minutes further on, past glaciers and snowfields and with views over the Kibo Crater, to **Uhuru Peak** – at 5895m the highest point in Africa! Here, if we're on time, we can watch the sun rise over the African continent, take photos – and take a breather too!

After a rest at the top, we continue back down to Barafu Camp – a walk that is considerably quicker than it was on the way up! At Barafu we take breakfast and relax for an hour, before continuing our march down the mountain, this time on the Mweka Trail. Today's walk takes us back down through the alpine desert, heath and moorland zones until we once more enter the forest zone via **Millennium Camp** (3827m). There, amongst the trees, we find the **Mweka Campsite** (3106m), our final stop on the trek. We should arrive there at about 4pm – and you have been walking for around 16 hours, less breaks! Exhausting but, if you made it to the top, you'll think it was worth it!

Day 5: Mweka Camp to Mweka Gate

Distance: 9.1km; **Altitude Lost:** 1473m

It's just a couple of hours further now from the campsite to **Mweka Gate** (c1633m), where those who made it to the summit or Stella Point will collect their certificates. A car will be waiting to take you back to your hotel, and a land of warm showers and cold beers. Your trek is at an end.

RONGAI ROUTE

6 Days Rongai Route Trek

6 Days Rongai Route Trek – the Rongai route is the only route that approaches Kilimanjaro from its north eastern side. This less frequented route retains a sense of unspoilt wilderness as you pass through alpine meadows and giant vegetation.

The topography of the Rongai route does not allow for the application of the climb high and sleep low principle and hikers generally suffer more from altitude sickness on the Rongai route compared to other routes (an additional acclimatization day is highly recommended on this route).

More Info: [Nutrition & Health](#) | [Guides & Porters](#)

Day 1: Rongai Gate – First Cave

Elevation (metres): 1950m to 2626m – Distance: 7kms – Hiking Time: 4-5 hrs

After breakfast, drive to Marangu gate for registration before continuing to the Rongai trailhead (3 hrs). Start your Kilimanjaro climb from the Nale Moru village, the trek is initially through plantations then rain forest and finally bush country. The trail is not steep, but rather a gentle hike through beautiful country. Overnight at First Cave campsite; camp facilities include public toilet, wooden table with benches but no hut.

Day 2: First Cave – Kikelewa Camp

Elevation (metres): 2626m to 3600m – Distance: 12 kms – Hiking Time: 6-7 hrs

The trail continues up towards Kibo, passing Second Cave (3450m) en-route, and reaching Kikelewa Cave. The views start to open up and you begin to feel you're on a really big mountain! Water is in the obvious stream below the cave, although you might have to wander downhill to find some. Overnight at Kikelewa camp.

Day 3: Kikelewa Cave – Mawenzi Tarn Camp

Elevation (metres): 3600m to 4330m – Distance: 6 Kms – Hiking Time: 3-4 hrs

A short but steep climb up grassy slopes offers superb views of this wilderness area. The vegetation zone ends shortly before you reach your next camp at Mawenzi Tarn spectacularly situated beneath the towering spires of Mawenzi. Spend the afternoon acclimatizing and exploring the area.

Optional: Extra Day

- You can add an extra day to your trek by staying at Mawenzi Tarn Camp for two nights for acclimatisation purposes.

Day 4: Mawenzi Tarn Camp – Kibo Huts

Elevation (metres): 4330m to 4703m – Distance: 9kms – Hiking Time: 5-6 hrs

Continue ascending on the east side of Kibo crossing the saddle between Mawenzi and Kibo on your way to Kibo Hut. The remainder of the day is spent resting in preparation for the final ascent which begins at midnight. Overnight at Kibo Camp.

Day 5: Kibo Huts – Uhuru Peak – Horombo Huts

Elevation (metres): 4703m to 5895m to 3720m

Distance and Hiking Time:

- Kibo hut – Uhuru Peak (6 kms, 6-8 hrs)
- Decent to Horombo hut (16 kms, 4-5 hrs)

An early start for the Kilimanjaro summit. Just after midnight, start the climb to Gillman's point on the crater rim; this section is very steep with a lot of stone scree, requiring a great physical and mental effort. Continuing, you will then ascend to Uhuru Peak; the summit of Kilimanjaro.

Upon reaching Uhuru Peak, spend a few minutes on the summit taking photos before beginning the descent. Stop for brunch at Kibo hut before proceeding with the descent to Horombo hut, reaching in the afternoon.

Day 6: Horombo Huts – Marangu Gate

Elevation (metres): 3720m to 1970m – Distance: 20kms – Hiking Time: 5-7 hrs

After breakfast you continue the descent, passing the Mandara hut, down to the Marangu gate. This is also where successful climbers receive their summit certificates; climbers who reached Gillman's Point (5681m) are issued with green certificates and those who reached Uhuru Peak receive gold certificates. You now drive back to Moshi for a long overdue hot shower, dinner and celebrations!

SHIRA ROUTE

6 Days Shira Route Trek

6 Days Shira Route Trek – the Shira route is another path that approaches Kilimanjaro from the west. It is nearly identical to the Lemosho route; however, we highly recommend the Lemosho route over the Shira route due to the high altitude of Shira's starting point. Climbers using Shira should be confident of their ability to acclimatise quickly. The minimum number of days required for this route is six days.

More Info: Nutrition & Health | Guides & Porters

Day 1: Shira Gate – Shira 2 Camp

Elevation (metres): 3,600m to 3,840m – Distance: 10 km – Hiking Time: 4-5Hrs

Drive to Shira Gate for the start of your Kilimanjaro climb. After registering with the park authorities, hike through the rain forest on a winding trail up a ridge to the Shira 2 Camp. At lower elevations the trail can be muddy and slippery; gaiters and trekking poles are a good idea here.

Day 2: Shira 2 Camp – Lava Tower – Barranco Camp

Elevation (metres): 3840m to 4630m to 3950m – Distance: 10kms – Hiking Time: 6-8hrs

After breakfast, trek east on the Shira plateau for two hours before reaching the junction for the Machame route. As we continue, our direction changes to the South East towards the Lava Tower. Shortly after the tower, we come to the second junction which brings us up to the Arrow Glacier from here; we now descend to the Barranco Hut. Although you end the day at almost the same elevation as when you began, this day is very important for acclimatisation.

Day 3: Barranco Camp – Karanga Valley

Elevation (metres): 3950m to 4023m – Distance: 5kms – Hiking Time: 4-5hrs

After breakfast we leave Barranco camp and continue on a steep ridge passing to the great Barranco Wall, climb this imposing obstacle which turns out to be easier than it looks. You can now appreciate how beautiful Kilimanjaro is. Descend to the Karanga valley where you will set camp for the night.

Optional: Extra Day

- You can add an extra day to your trek by staying at Barranco Camp for two nights. Then, you will hike to the Karanga Valley Camp on Day 4, the Barafu Camp on Day 5, summit on Day 6, and finish your descent on Day 7. Adding this day will ease your effort, and amplify your acclimatization.

Day 4: Karanga Valley Camp – Barafu Camp

Elevation (metres): 4023m to 4645m – Distance: 4kms – Hiking Time: 4-5hrs

We continue our climb to the Barafu camp, hike east over the intervening ridges and valleys to join the Mweka route which will be your descent route. Here we make camp, rest and enjoy an early dinner before going to bed early in preparation for summit day.

Day 5: Barafu Camp – Uhuru Peak – Mweka Camp

Elevation (metres): 4645m to 5895m to 3090m

Distance and Hiking Time:

- Barafu Hut – Uhuru Peak (5 kms, 7-8 hrs)
- Decent to Mweka Hut (12 kms, 6-8 hrs)

Just after midnight, start the ascent 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 (4,200m), you will stop for a short rest and will be rewarded with the most magnificent sunrise you are ever likely to experience. From here a further 50 minutes' walk leads to Uhuru Peak, the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

After a short time at the summit, start your descent to the Barafu camp for a rest and brunch before continuing with the descent to Mweka camp for your last dinner on the mountain and a well-earned rest.

Day 6: Mweka Camp – Mweka Gate

Elevation (metres): 3090m to 1640m – Distance: 10Kms – Hiking Time: 4-5hrs

After breakfast, continue the descent to the Mweka Park Gate. Each hiker will receive a well-earned certificate of achievement for the successful climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro. From the gate, continue another hour to Mweka Village. A vehicle will meet you at Mweka village to drive you back to your hotel in Moshi or Arusha. It is time for celebration!

MOUNT MERU

Mount Meru is located in Tanzania and is the fifth highest mountain in Africa. It is a great mountain to climb and offers spectacular scenery, including views of Mount Kilimanjaro. The mountain is unspoilt and less congested compared to Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya.

Standing at 4566 m, Mount Meru is located in Arusha city about 23 km on Arusha-Moshi main road within the Arusha National Park. It's also the second highest Mountain in Tanzania after the Mt. Kilimanjaro which has 5896 m.

4 Days Mount Meru Trekking

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Momella gate to begin the trek of Mt. Meru. Three hours walk gets you to the floor of the Meru Crater. Afternoon explores the Meru Crater. Overnight at Miriakamba Hut. After breakfast Climb to Saddle Hut which will take about three hours along the steep Saddle walls to Saddle Hut. After Lunch explore little Meru. Overnight at Saddle Hut. Early morning ascends to the summit of Mt. Meru which will take up to Five hours.

Explore the summit then descend to Miriakamba Hut for overnight. Descend to Kitoto and proceed to Momella Gate, continue to Momella Wildlife Lodge. Usually, Mt Meru Climb is done in Two nights three days but since descending take about seven hours, some clients might's want to do it in Three Nights Four days. These rates include Park Entrance Fees, Hut, and rescue, Porters, Guides and all Meals. They don't include Accommodation at Momella Wildlife Lodge.

- Momella Gate 1500 m
- Little Meru 3820 m
- Meru Summit 4566 m.

ITINERARY 4 DAYS MERU TREKKING:

Day 1: Drive to Momela Gate Mount Meru

After breakfast drive to Momela Gate, Mount Meru is inside Arusha National Park which will allow you to see animals like buffalo, white colobus monkey, giraffe, Baboons, Warthogs and a number of Bird life. picnic lunch with you, you will start the ascend to the first hut Miriakamba Hut, The walk takes 4-5 hours through the dense rain forest, Dinner and overnight at Miriakamba Hut. alt. (2750mts.)

Day 2: Walking Through Saddle Hut

After breakfast with picnic lunch starts to ascend to Saddle Hut alt. 3750m. The hut is between the two peaks of Mount Meru Little Meru and Big Meru. The walk takes 4 – 5 hours, today if you wish you can discuss with your Guide so you can have hot lunch as a substitute of packed lunch. In the afternoon you will have an acclimatization walk to little Meru, then back to saddle hut for dinner and overnight.

Day 3: Start to trek to summit

After a cup of tea at 1:30 am or 2:00 am, start to climb to the summit which is 4566m. The ascent takes 5 – 6 hours, you will be able to see Mount Kilimanjaro from the top as well as Arusha town and Meru Crater but only if the sky is clear. After a short celebration descends to saddle hut for lunch, then proceed to Miriakamba for dinner and overnight.

Day 4: Descending Towards the Gate

After breakfast, you will keep descending towards the gate where you will meet our driver with a waiting car ready to drive you back to Arusha where the tour ends.

OLDONYO L'ENGAI

Ol Doinyo Lengai, "Mountain of God" in the Maasai language, is an active volcano located in the Gregory Rift, south of Lake Natron within the Arusha Region of Tanzania. Part of the volcanic system of the East African Rift, it uniquely produces natrocarbonatite lava.

Ol Doinyo Lengai is unique among active volcanoes in that it produces natrocarbonatite lava, a unique occurrence of volcanic carbonatite. A few older extinct carbonatite volcanoes are located nearby, including Homa Mountain.

Oldoinyo Lengai Treking.

Oldoinyo Lengai” means “The Mountain of God” in the Maasai language. The summit of this strato-volcano is 2962 metres above sea level, and affords direct views into the caldera of Tanzania’s only officially-certified active volcano, and the world’s only carbonatite volcano; records of eruptions have been maintained since 1883, the largest of which deposited ash 100 kilometres away in Loliondo on the Kenyan border to the north west.

Recent Seismic Activity

Recent volcanic activity began on 12th July 2007 with daily tremors in Kenya and Tanzania, the strongest of which measured 6.0 on the Richter scale. The mountain finally erupted on September 4, 2007, sending a plume of ash and steam at least 18 kilometres downwind and covering the north and west flanks in fresh lava flows. The eruption continued intermittently into 2008, with a major outburst taking place on March 5 2008, and smaller eruptions on 8 and 17 April 2008; activity continued until late August 2008. A visit to the summit in September 2008 discovered lava emission from two vents in the floor of the new crater; by April 2009 this activity appeared to have ceased, but eruptions occurred again in October 2010.

Please see below the short recommended program for oldonyo Lengai trekking, This program can be customized and mixed with Wildlife Safaris to Seregeti-Ngorongoro-Lake Manyara and Tarangire National Park. Please contact us for more details.

Itinerary

3 Days/2Nights Sample Itinerary to Oldonyo Lenagai

Day 1: Arusha to Oldoinyo Lengai.

Depart Arusha after breakfast and drive to Lake Natron. Enjoy a picnic lunch and visit Ngaresero Waterfalls which descend from the Nguruman Escarpment west of Lake Natron. Dinner and overnight at Tented camp-FB

Day 2: Walking Tour around Lake Natron

After a delicious breakfast drive to Lake Natron, an alkaline lake that serves as the principal breeding site for three-quarters of the world's population of Lesser Flamingos. After a tour and activities at Lake Natron we will return to camp for some much needed rest prior to our trek tonight. Just before midnight we will begin our trek.

Day 3: Oldoinyo Lengai Trekking to Arusha.

Escorted by an experienced Maasai guide, your climb will take 5 to 6 hours whereby you will reach the summit in time to witness the amazing sunrise as it illuminates the Great Rift Valley. After exploring the peak you will head back down the mountain to the base where your driver will be waiting for you to take you back to the camp in time much needed rest. We depart for Arusha before lunch and enjoy a picnic enroute. We arrive in Arusha in the early evening where your journey ends upon arrival.

NB: This program can be customized and mixed with Wildlife Safaris to Seregeti-Ngorongoro-Lake Manyara and Tarangire National Park. Please contact us for more details.