




Kilimanjaro
Climbing Company

climb
Kilimanjaro

7 Day MachameRoute



MachameRoute 7 Day Trek



Climbing Summary

The Machame route is the busiest route on the mountain and in peak season there can be up to 150 treks ascending the route on a daily basis. It goes by the nickname of „ The Whiskey route “although” no whiskey is available. The route begins on the South West side of the mountain and the trek starts by ascending through the rain forest to Machame Camp. It takes you in some of the most famous features on Mt. Kilimanjaro including the Barranco Wall, the Lava Tower, the Western Breach and the Southern Ice fields. The Machame route joins with the South Circuit path and ascends the mountain via Barafu Camp and Stella Point. Descent is via Mweka Route with a camp at either Millennium or Mweka camp during the descent.



Day 1

Machame Gate to Machame Camp

Elevation: 1.800m to 3.000m

Distance 11 km

Trekking-Time 5-7 hours

After breakfast in your hotel you will be given an overall briefing from your guide. At 9am you will be met by the rest of our guides and porters. Following a final cross-check of equipment and supplies, our staff will drive you to the Machame Gate. Anything you do not want to take with you on the mountain can be left at a lock up in the hotel. Once at the gate you will be given a packed lunch and after registration with the Kilimanjaro Park office your climb will begin with ascending into the rainforest. During the day at about half way up we will have a break and you can enjoy your packed lunch. We will reach the Machame Camp in late afternoon. After your arrival and registration at Machame Camp you will be taken to your camp and tent which has already been set up by the porters who ran ahead, where you will be greeted with boiled drinking water and hot washing water. Once you have freshened up and settled in, a hot dinner will be served in the mess-tent.



Day 2

Machame Camp to Shira Camp

Elevation: 3.000m to 3.850m

Distance 9 km

Trekking-Time 4-6 hours

Moorland

You will be woken up after your first night on the mountain with a nice cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate at 6:30 am in your tent. After breakfast we leave the rainforest and continue our ascent crossing a small valley into open moorlands where the vegetation is sparse with small shrubs and up to a steep rocky ridge. After a short break, our route turns onto a river gorge and up towards Shira Plateau where you will catch your first glimpse of the Western Breach and its stunning glaciers. Continuing on to Shira Camp, where the cook will welcome you with boiled drinking water and hot washing water. You can then put your feet up with some snacks and a hot lunch. After lunch, there is plenty of time to explore the Shira caves, take pictures, write your journal or just relax and rest until being served your hot evening meal. Due to the camp being very exposed it can get very cold and sometimes windy.



Day 3

Shiria Camp – Lava Tower (4.600m)
Barranco Camp
Elevation: 3.850m to 4.600m to 3.950m
Distance 12 km
Trekking-Time 6-7 hours
Semi-desert

Your daily morning wake up with a hot drink will be followed by a hot breakfast and then we pack up leave Shiria camp for a 4-5 hour trek to the well-known landmark of Lava Tower (4.600m) for acclimatization. Once reaching Lava Tower we will have a short break for lunch for some bonus acclimatization before starting a 2 hour descent by 650m to Barranco Camp. This is following the golden rule of acclimatization „ climb high and sleep low“. This will be our toughest day so far but the climb offers multiple terrific opportunities for photos. As we descend through the valley, the amazing sight of the Giant Groundsels is bound to stop you in your tracks. Barranco Camp gives you a beautiful view of the Western Breach and Breach Wall and be prepared with your camera while you are waiting for dinner for what could be one of the most spectacular sunsets you have ever seen as the sun drops down into the valley.



Day 4

Barranco Camp to Karanga Camp
Elevation 3.950m to 4.600m to 3.930m
Distance 7 km
Trekking-Time 4-5 hours
Alpine Desert

Today the climb has a technical challenge! We start to climb Baranca wall – also known by its nickname „breakfast wall“, meaning after climbing this wall your breakfast has been burned away. Don` t worry, it is much easier than it looks and the view down to Moshi is fantastic. After crossing Karanga Valley we arrive at our camp for the night. Once again you will be welcomed with boiled washing water and some snacks, followed by a hot lunch. This is the last place for the porters to collect water for the rest of the ascent.

While they are doing that you will have the option to talk a short hike to help with acclimatization and then relax into the evening with a lovely hot dinner.

“Pole Pole”



Day 5

Karanga Camp to Barafu Camp

Elevation 3.930m to 4.600m

Distance 6 km

Trekking-Time 3 hours

Alpine-Desert

Today we complete the „Southern Circuit“ and make our ascent to Barafu Hut and enjoy again a spectacular view of the summit. We will arrive at the camp very early and you will get served a hot lunch. In the afternoon our guides will give you a final briefing to prepare you for the summit day. Time to relax and enjoy the nice spirit in the camp and perhaps some reflection on what you have accomplished so far! It is also a good time to cross check and prepare your equipment and clothing. Dinner will be served very early to give you ample time to rest and sleep. Good food, lots of water and sleep are the keys to a successful summit. We advise you to be to bed before 7pm to be rested for your wake up hot drink at around 11:30pm.



Summit Night

Barafu Camp – Stella Point – Uhuru Peak
(5.895m)

Elevation 4.600m to 5.732 to 5.895m

3.100m – Distance 7 km ascent

Trekking-Time 6-8 hours

tone scree and ice field – glaciers

The wake-up tea will be served at 11:30pm with the departure at midnight.

After a hot drink and some biscuits we will start the challenge for the summit. Our initial 6 hour climb begins in the dark with only our headlamps and guides to show us the way through the thick scree and winding pathways of Ratzel and Rebmann Glaciers until we reach Stella Point. Many say this is the most challenging part of the entire climb but you will be rewarded with what is perhaps the most emotional and beautiful sunrise you have seen or ever will see in your life.



Congratulations!

Uhuru Peak (5.895m) – Mwenka Hut
23 km descent
Trekking-Time 7-8 hours descent
stone scree and ice field – glaciers

After taking some pictures at the sign, and a short rest we will join the last part of the Marangu route to continue 1 - 2 more hours to reach your ultimate goal - the summit – the highest peak of Africa – Uhuru Peak at 5.985 m. Congratulations!! You are now standing on the “Roof of Africa”. Our guides will take pictures of you at the world famous Uhuru sign and post it on Facebook for your family and friends at home. After a few minutes spent at the summit, due to the altitude and cold, it is important to start our descent. We will descend through sliding scree and winding pathways for about 3 hours back to Barafu camp.

On reaching Barafu camp the rest our team will congratulate you and welcome you with a hot lunch. You will have the chance for a longer break before we start the next descent to Mweka camp. Trekking poles are very useful in this part of the descent. In the camp you will have a last fantastic view on the summit – finding it hard to believe that only a few hours ago



Day 7

Mweka Camp to Mweka Gate
Elevation 3.100m to 1.800m
Distance 10 km
Trekking-Time 3 - 4 hours
Rainforest

Once again you will be woken for your final celebratory breakfast where our team will thank and congratulate you in their unique, special way! This is also the opportunity for you to say thank you for their support and encouragement and show your appreciation by giving a tip to each of them or to the team. We will then set off for the final 3 hour scenic descent to Mweka gate. At the gate you will get the chance to have a celebratory beer while the equipment is loaded in the van and then it is off to a restaurant in Moshi for lunch where you will be presented with your certificate of achievement. After lunch you will be dropped off at the hotel where you can relax under a long, well deserved hot shower.