



## KILIMANJARO CLIMB MACHAME ROUTE ITINERARY

10 Days / 9 Nights • 7 Days on the Mountain

### Summary

This trek starts above the picturesque mountain village of Machame to the south of Kilimanjaro. After passing through the forest and into the moorland zone, we encounter an easy rock scramble and eventually emerge onto the Shira Plateau. We will then proceed clockwise below the southern face of Kibo, climb Lava Tower for magnificent 360 degree vistas, ascend the Great Barranco Wall, a challenging and exhilarating scramble, and approach Uhuru Summit from Barafu and the ridge that abuts the South East Valley. This approach provides incredible views of Mawenzi, Kilimanjaro's remnant volcanic cone.

### Day 1: Arrival/Mbahe Farm House

Your trip leader will pick you up upon your arrival at the Kilimanjaro International Airport. A car will take you to Mbahe Village, located in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, approximately 2 hours from the airport. Accommodations are in the rustic cottages at Simon's Mbahe farm house.

### Day 2: Mbahe Farm House (6,000')

You have the morning to rest and relax. You can enjoy delicious "homebrew" coffee, grown and roasted on the farm, and meals made with fruits and vegetables from the garden. Your trip leader will provide a climb orientation and equipment check. This is also a day to take a guided tour around Mbahe Village, the Mtuy family farm, and to swim in the waterfall on Simon's land. We will all gather together for dinner. B.L.D.

### Day 3: Machame Gate (6,000') to Machame Camp (9,950'), 6.6 miles

After breakfast we will drive to the Machame Gate, where you will meet your other guides and mountain crew and enter the Kilimanjaro National Park. We begin our climb at 6,000 feet, walking for a few hours through thick and undisturbed tropical forest. With luck we may see the colobus monkeys that live in the forest. B.L.D.

### Day 4: Machame Camp (9,950') to Shira Camp (12,620'), 3.5 miles

Today is an easy paced acclimatization day. We will hike over streams, a river gorge, and moorlands. Camp is located on the Shira Plateau, providing expansive views of Kilimanjaro. There is a conditioning hike in the afternoon where you can enjoy the clusters of giant lobelias and senecios that grow at this elevation. B.L.D.

### Day 5: Shira Camp (12,620') to Lava Tower Camp (15,230'), 4.4 miles

Today is another acclimatization day as we have a mostly uphill climb of 5 hours to an elevation over 15,000 feet. We will pass through the alpine moorland zone where plants are extremely hardy and consist of lichens, grasses, and heather, to reach Kilimanjaro's alpine desert zone. You will have a spectacular view of the steep Western Breach which we will not be doing on this climb. After an early afternoon rest we will take a 2 hour round-trip adventure climb up the Lava Tower. This scramble will help prepare you for the climb tomorrow. B.L.D.

### Day 6: Lava Tower Camp (15,230') to Karanga Valley Camp (13,250'), 5.9 miles

Today we will climb the Great Barranco rock wall - not too steep but challenging for some - which our guides make safe and accessible for everyone. We will go *pole pole* (meaning "slowly" in Kiswahili). You will be able to see the breathtaking Heim Glacier. We descend into the Karanga Valley and then to our camp on a ridge above the valley, where you will be able to enjoy a rest and have a sponge bath with warm water. B.L.D.

**Day 7: Karanga Valley Camp (13,250') to Barafu Camp (15,360'), 2.4 miles**

As we begin trekking today the trail turns steadily uphill. The temperature will grow colder and the landscape more sparse as we work our way to Barafu Camp. *Barafu* means "ice" in Kiswahili. Hiking time is 4 to 5 hours. The Camp is set on an exposed ridge and is the staging point for our push to the summit. After an early dinner we will rest. At midnight, under the stars and hopefully a brightly shining moon, we will begin the final ascent. We are going to go *pole pole* and drink plenty of water and tea, refuel with small snacks, and enjoy this final climb to the summit. B.L.D.

**Day 8: Barafu Camp (15,360') to Uhuru Peak (19,340') to Millennium Camp (12,530'), 8.3 miles**

We will reach Uhuru Peak, the summit of Kilimanjaro at 19,340 feet, around 8 a.m. At this early hour, before the clouds close in, you will have spectacular views of Africa in all directions. The hiking time is 7 to 8 hours. Tea and snacks will be served on the top. After a brief stay of 20-30 minutes and photos all around, we will descend 2 to 3 hours to our Barafu Camp for lunch, rest, and to pick up belongings. Then we continue downhill 3 to 4 hours to the edge of the Mweka Forest. Tonight's camp is 7,000 feet below the summit! It is a long descent and trekking poles are recommended. Eat, share your experiences of the climb, and sleep soundly. Congratulations, you made it to the Roof of Africa! B.L.D.

**Day 9: Millennium Camp (12,530') to Mweka Gate (5,380'), 8.5 miles; Mbahe Farm House**

Our last day is another descent of 7,000 feet with 4 to 5 hours of hiking to the trailhead at Mweka Gate. The trail is steep in places and may be slippery if wet; again we recommend that you use trekking poles. At the gate we will temporarily say goodbye to our mountain crew and enjoy a picnic lunch. The trip leaders will take you back to Simon's Mbahe Village farm house for a hot shower and a celebration dinner with the whole team. B.L.D.

**Day 10: Mbahe Farm House/Departure**

Today is a rest and relaxation day at the farm house. Optional activities include light hiking, swimming, exploring the village and local school, visiting with the neighbors, drumming, tasting homemade banana beer, or shopping in Moshi Town. For those returning home you will be transferred to the Kilimanjaro International Airport today to catch your flight. Those continuing on safari will pack lightly for the continuation of your African adventure tomorrow. B.L.

---