



MACHAME ROUTE CLIMBING SUMMARY

The Machame route is offered as a 6 or 7 day trek with two additional nights spent in a hotel in Arusha. We run fixed date open group treks on the route throughout the year with many summit dates tying in with the full moon on Kilimanjaro. Extra days on the mountain can be added for those booking private trips. Due to the ascent and descent over its duration the Machame route offers some of the best acclimatisation and the greatest summit success.

The Machame route is definitely recommended for people experiencing high altitude mountaineering for the first time. A minimum of 6 days on Mount Kilimanjaro is needed, but for more comfort and to increase your chance of success, 7 days are recommended. The Machame route begins on the South West side of the mountain and the trek starts by ascending through the cloud forest to Machame Camp.

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. The route takes in some of the most famous features on Kilimanjaro including the Barranco Wall, the Lava Tower, the Western Breach and the Southern Ice fields. The 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.

Itinerary:

DAY 1

Pick up on arrival and transfer to Sal Salnero Hotel in Moshi – Dinner, Bed and Breakfast.

DAY 2

Machame Gate - Machame Hut.

DAY 3

Machame Hut - Shira Hut - Cave.

DAY 4

Shira Cave – Barranco Camp

DAY 5

Baranco Camp – Barafu Camp

DAY 6

Barafu Camp-Summit-Barafu Camp-Mweka Hut

DAY 7

Mweka Hut – Mweka Gate/Back to the Hotel

Brief Day by Day Detailed Itinerary – 6 Days Trek:

(Approximate length in kilometers: 85 km)

Day 1

Pick and transfer to hotel Sal Salnero Hotel. Arrive for Diner. After diner, you will be given an overall briefing from your guide.

Day 2

Machame Gate to Machame Camp

Elevation: 1.800m to 3.000m –Distance 11 km –Trekking-Time 5-7 hours –Rainforest

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 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 3

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 6:30am 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 4

Shira Camp –Lava Tower (4.600m) –to 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 Shira Camp for a 4-5 hour trek to the well-known land mark 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 5

Barranco Camp via Karanga Camp - Barafu Camp

Barranco Camp (3,950 m/12,960 ft), to Barafu Camp (4,550 m/14,930 ft), 8 hours

After spending a night under the imposing Great Barranco Wall, you climb this awesome obstacle, which turns out to be easier than it looks. Topping out just below the Heim Glacier, you can now appreciate just how beautiful Kilimanjaro really is. The route then heads down through the Karanga Valley and goes over intervening ridges and valleys to join the Mweka Route, which will be your descent route. You have now completed the South Circuit, which offers views of the summit from many different angles. For now, all eyes are still on the summit, so turn left and hike up the ridge for another hour to the Barafu Hut. The last water on the route is in the

Karanga Valley; there is no water at Barafu Camp, even though Barafu is the Swahili word for "ice." The famous snows of Kilimanjaro are far above Barafu Camp near the summit of the mountain. Your tent will be pitched on a narrow, stony, wind-swept ridge, so make sure that you familiarize yourself with the terrain before dark to avoid any accidents. Prepare your equipment and warm clothing for your summit climb. This should include replacing your headlamp and camera batteries, and to prevent freezing, consider carrying your water in a thermal flask. Go to bed by 7 PM, and try to get a few hours of precious sleep.

Day 6 Summit Day!!

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

Elevation 4.600m to 5.732 to 5.895m to 3.100m –Distance 7 km ascent 23 km descent –Trekking-Time 6-8 hours ascent and 7-8 hours descent –stonescree 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 nor ever will see in your life. 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 of 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 you were stood at the top. And after this long day, you can enjoy your dinner and your last day on the mountain.

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 Hotel in Moshi/ARUSHA. After dinner you will be presented with your certificate of achievement. .