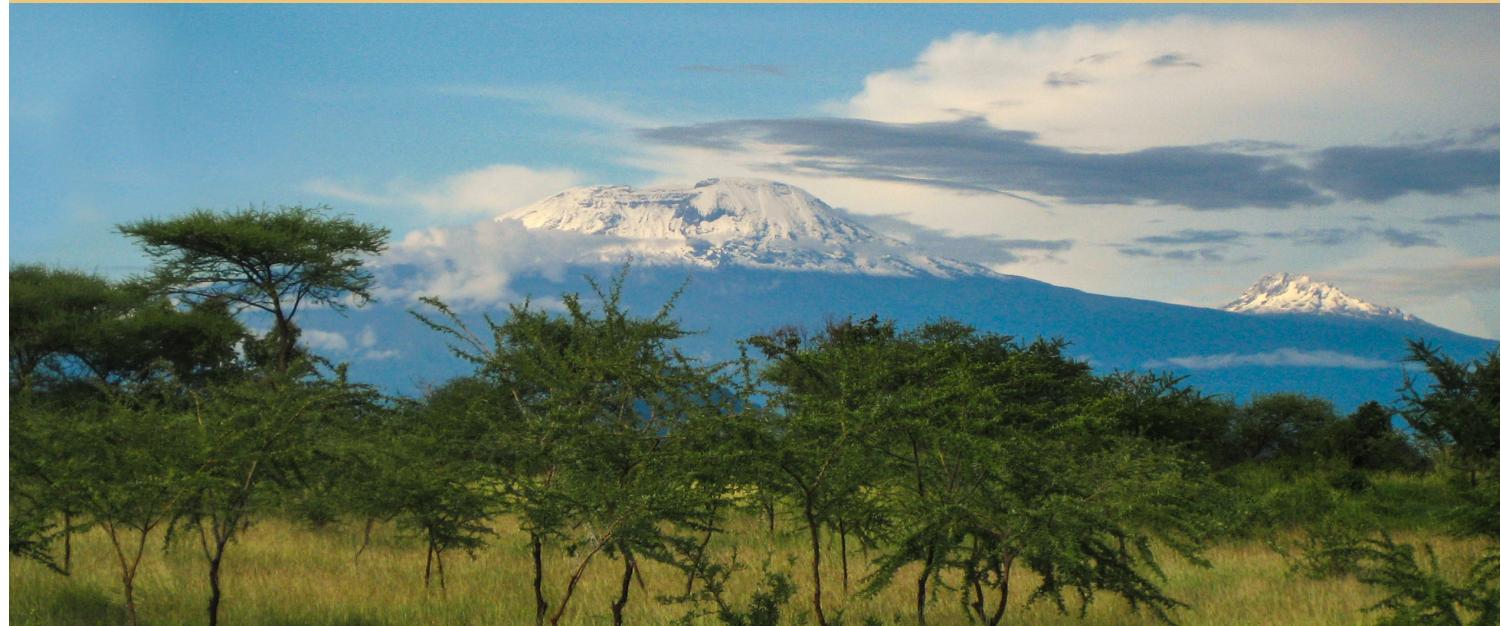




Feel at home in Africa

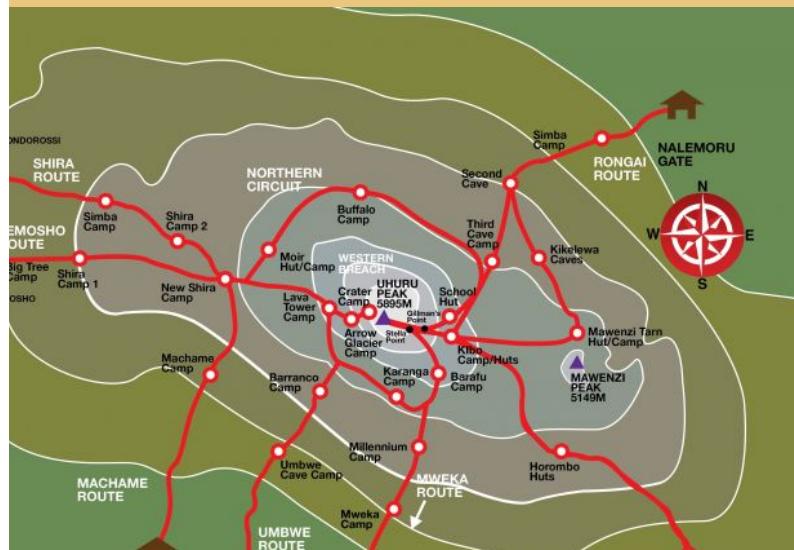
Climbing Kilimanjaro



Mount Kilimanjaro is the tallest free-standing mountain in the world. We say it looks like a bundt cake, with icing on the top! All this snow and glacial ice, yet it is right next to the equator. That makes for a climb of a lifetime: 4 climate zones; 5 vegetative zones; and a 50+ degree Celsius temperature swing!

What is involved? Climbing Kilimanjaro is a long, slow walk, mostly on gently sloping terrain over hills and through valleys. It is attainable by all - young and old alike - with basic physical fitness and a healthy dose of mental determination. You are going way up - almost 6 km (20,000 ft) above sea level! For this you will need ample time for acclimatization.

For novice climbers, we highly recommend the 8 day scenic Lemosho Route, with the 7 day Machame Route also being very good. Add a zero to the number of days you climb, and you get an approximate percentage of those making it to the summit (e.g. 5 days climb, only about 50% success). For an extra challenge, add in a Crater Camp overnight.



For the experienced climbers, try the Western Breach!

Sample itinerary of an 8-Day Climb Scenic Lemosho Route



Day 1: Londorossi Gate (2100 m/6900 ft) to Big Tree Camp (2650 m/8695 ft) 2-3 hours walking time

After breakfast at Dashir Lodge, drive to Londorossi Gate, where you will meet your guides and mountain crew and enter Kilimanjaro National Park. Walk through the thick and undisturbed montane forest with beautiful flowers. With luck, you will spot colobus monkeys and signs of elephants.

Day 2: Big Tree Camp to Shira 1 Camp (3480 m/11,420 ft) 4-5 hours

The hike takes you from the montane forest, through a transition zone, and into the heath zone, where the old lava flows are visible.

After a picnic lunch, reach the western edge of the Plateau and your camp. Enjoy the dramatic view of Kilimanjaro and its glaciers.

Day 3: Shira 1 Camp to Shira 2 Camp (3850 m/12,630) via Shira Cathedral 6-8 hours

Today is an easy paced acclimatization hike, with a side trip to panoramic Shira Cathedral. Shira 2 Camp is set only slightly higher on the Shira Plateau, with more expansive views of the peak of Kilimanjaro.

Day 4: Shira 2 Camp to Lava Tower (4640 m/15,220 ft) to Baranco camp (3985 m/13,070 ft) 6-8 hours

Today is another acclimatization day with changing vegetative zones.

Trek up to Lava Tower and the desert zone, passing through the alpine moorland zone where plants are extremely hardy and consist of lichens, grasses and heather. Then after lunch, go back down to Barranco Valley, which is dominated by the beautiful giant senecio and lobelia moorland forest where your camp will be set.

Day 5: Baranco Camp to Karanga Valley Camp (4040 m/13,255 ft) 4-5 hours

Climb the Great Barranco rock wall - not too steep, but challenging. Your guides will help make it safe and accessible. You will be able to see the breathtaking Heim Glacier. Descend into the Karanga Valley and then up to your camp on a ridge above the valley.

Day 6: Karanga Valley Camp to Barafu Camp (4680 m/15,360 ft) – 4-5 hours

Today the trail turns steadily uphill. The temperature will grow colder and the landscape more sparse. Arrive midday at Barafu ("Ice") Base Camp. After an early dinner we will rest early in great anticipation of the summit attempt.

Day 7: Barafu Camp to Uhuru Peak (5895 m/19,340 ft) to Mweka Camp (3170 m/10,400) - 10-16 hrs!

At midnight, literally one foot in front of the other, and with short deep breaths and the mind telling the body to keep going, slowly make your way to the summit. The spectacular view of the rising sun at Stella Point is a welcome diversion from the dizzying effects of altitude you may be experiencing.

Finally plod on to Uhuru Peak. Share high 5's, take a quick photo, and enjoy the moment. Congratulations – You have made it to the Roof of Africa!

Descend to Barafu Camp for lunch and a short rest. Continue on a steep downhill to the edge of the Mweka Forest where you can finally fully relax, eat, and share your experiences of the climb.

Day 8: Mweka Camp to Lemosho Gate (1640 m/5380 ft)

After breakfast, you will have time to share a moment of photos and a song with your climbing crew. Give them great thanks, as they have made it possible for you to experience this incredible journey.

Descend again through the tropical forest to Mweka Gate. Take lunch at Moshi and drive back to Dashir Lodge for a hot shower, a great meal, and a much deserved relaxing evening.

