



7 DAY MACHAME ROUTE ON KILIMANJARO

The 7-Day Machame Route is one of Kilimanjaro's most popular and visually stunning treks—offering dramatic scenery, diverse ecosystems, and excellent acclimatization. Known as the “Whiskey Route,” it takes a challenging yet rewarding path up the mountain, ideal for those seeking a more adventurous climb. With our expert guides, a proven acclimatization schedule, and industry-leading summit success rates, Ian Taylor Trekking delivers a safe, supported, and unforgettable journey to the Roof of Africa.

BRIEF ITINERARY

- Day 1: Arrive at Kilimanjaro Airport – Overnight at hotel in Arusha
- Day 2: Machame Camp
- Day 3: Shira Camp
- Day 4: Barranco Camp
- Day 5: Karanga Camp
- Day 6: Barafu Camp
- Day 7: Uhuru Peak Summit to Mweka Camp
- Day 8: Exit Gate – Overnight at Hotel in Arusha
- Day 9: Transfer to airport for onward journey

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport

You should aim to arrive as early as possible the day before the trek. Once you arrive, you will be picked up from the airport and taken on a 50-minute transfer to the hotel in Arusha, where you will be booked on a shared bed and breakfast basis. You will have a group briefing in the evening with our head guide to prepare you for the journey ahead. Our head guide was named the Mountain Guide of the year in 2019 on Kilimanjaro and you can read more about him here:

<https://iantaylortrekking.com/blog/kilimanjaro-mountain-guide-of-the-year-2019/>.

Day 2: Machame Camp (2,980m/9,777 feet)

After breakfast at the hotel, our local team will be there to pick you up to start the journey! Normally, the meeting time will be 8am, but this will be confirmed at the briefing the night prior. An approximately three-hour drive from Arusha takes us to the Machame Gate, where we will register at the gate and enter Kilimanjaro Park. From the park entrance gate, you will walk for about three to four hours, through a dense forest of fig and rubber trees, begonia flowers, and other tropical vegetation. A stop for hot lunch will be made halfway to this evening's campsite. As you continue your ascent, you will find that the tropical forest has given way to tall grass and giant heather. Once



you reach the Machame Camp, you will have your first dinner on the mountain and get used to the camping environment. The total distance covered today will be approximately 11km/6.8 miles.

Day 3: Shira Camp (3,840m/12,598 feet)

After breakfast, we will begin our day with weather permitting, fabulous views of Uhuru Peak! Today's trek takes you up a steep trail through a savannah of tall grasse volcanic rock, and bearded heather. You will encounter giant groundsel trees as you hike through a ghostly landscape of volcanic lava, caves, and foamy streams.

Lunch will be taken just below the Shira Plateau, about one to two hours from Shira Camp. The hike to the next campsite takes approximately six hours and you will cover approximately 5km/ 3 miles.

Day 4: Barranco Camp (3,900m/ 12,795 feet)

After breakfast you will start crossing the Bastains stream and ascent to the Lava Tower at 4,640m/15,223 feet. Once we reach the Lava Tower we will stop for a hot lunch and rest before we slowly descend to Baranco, the hike takes six to seven hours. Our most spectacular campsite, situated at the foot of the Kibo Peak. As we travel, we will look up to the hanging cliff of the Breach Wall, which has given the likes of Messner some extremely hard climbing – when he took a new route up a hanging icicle draped from the top of the wall. As we descend to Baranco, the southern icefields will come more clearly into view. Sleeping at a similar height as we did the night before, gives excellent acclimatization after reaching a new height record for the trip at the Lava Tower. The total distance is approximately 10km/ 6.2 miles.

Day 5: Karanga Camp (4,010m/ 13,156 feet)

After breakfast, our first challenge is to overcome the Baranco Wall, which is 300m/984ft high and takes us to an altitude of 4,244m/13,924ft. The Baranco Wall will look daunting from the camp, however it is less difficult than it looks! It looks as if it is a steep path, however the path which we take winds its way up the wall and never feels exposed or dangerous. There are short sections of easy scrambling, which are fun and quickly overcome. From the top, the receding Heim Glacier on Kilimanjaro's south face is clearly visible. The route then continues eastwards underneath the Decken and Rebman Glaciers to the Karanga Camp (4050m/13,287ft), which is situated above the Karanga Valley. Today will be a fun four to five-hour trek to the Karanga Camp at (4,050m/13,300ft).

Day 6: Barafu Camp (4,650m/ 15,256 feet)

From Karanga Camp, a 3-hour steady walk takes us to Barafu Camp (4,650m/15,090ft) from where we will set up to make our summit attempt. This is a short day, but included



to give some essential pre-summit acclimatisation, without being too physically exhausting. The air is noticeably thin now, and you will be running short of breath as you climb out of the Karanga Valley. It is a slow tough hike up to the Barafu Camp and we will be moving extremely slow as a group. Barafu means "ice" in Swahili, and you will quickly realize why they gave it that name as it is cold at this altitude. On arrival, we begin to get ourselves ready for our summit attempt. This means preparing all our gear and water for the push up as well as getting as much to eat and drink as possible and going to bed very early. We will cover 4km/2.5 miles today in preparation for tomorrow which will be a big day!

Day 7: Uhuru Peak (5,895m/19,341 feet) to Mweka Camp (3,100m/10,170 feet)

When we awake at 10:30pm in the Barafu Camp, we will get ourselves dressed in all of our warmest summit gear as we will begin walking well before dawn, and the coldest part of the day comes just before sunrise. This summit day proves to be the steepest and most demanding part of the mountain, and we will be taking it very slowly as we move up the trail. The moon may provide some light, but we'll be using head-torches for several hours until the sun rises. We will aim to reach Stella Point on the Crater Rim by sunrise after about 6 to 7 hours of constant uphill walking. At dawn, from the Crater rim, rugged Mawenzi is a thrilling sight, with the Kibo saddle still in darkness beneath you, and the crater's ice-walls looming ahead. From Stella Point, we turn left, and continue along a good path for approximately one hour more, cresting the top of the crater, until we reach Uhuru Peak, the summit of Kilimanjaro! The crater wall stands steeply over the crater floor about 200 feet below us to our right. As the sun rises, light hits the crater floor, illuminating the Furtwangler Glacier and the warmth of the sun will be a welcomed feeling! This will be by far the toughest day you will have on the trek and the views from the summit will make you realize why you decided to put yourself through the pain!

After about twenty minutes or so on the summit, we will begin the long slog back down to the camp on the same trail we came in on. It will take us approximately three hours walking before we arrive back at the camp, and you will be welcomed with tea and brunch and a quick rest before we continue our way down the mountain. We will have another three to four hours of walking from Barafu camp to reach our final destination of the night, Mweka Camp. Having started this extraordinary day out as early as mid-night and not finishing the day until the sun is setting, you can imagine how exhausted your body will be as you rest in celebration of your success on the highest point in Africa!

Day 8: Mweka Camp to Arusha

We will wake early in the morning today to begin our final walk off Kilimanjaro. The walk today will take us approximately 3 - 4 hours to get from the Camp to the Mweka gate. When we arrive at the gate, we will say 'kwaheri' or goodbye to our porters and



take a short 5-minute ride in the vehicle to our final lunch spot, where you will also have a chance to do a little souvenir shopping before getting back in the vehicle for the two-and-a-half-hour journey back to Arusha. Here you will get to enjoy a well-deserved shower and bed to sleep in!

Day 9: Arusha

Today will be spent at leisure in Arusha. You can decide to sit by the pool at the hotel or explore the town of Arusha. We will transfer you back to the airport to catch your international flight home. There is also an option for you to stay on in Tanzania and do one of our Safari options, sampling some of the world's most unique wildlife: <https://iantaylortrekking.com/trek-africa/safari-in-tanzania/>.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Every effort will be made to keep to the above itinerary, but as this is Adventure Travel in a remote mountain region, we cannot guarantee it. Weather conditions, road conditions, vehicle breakdowns and the health of participants can all contribute to changes. The Trek Leader will try to ensure that the trip runs according to plan, but an easy-going nature will be an asset!

What the price includes:

- 1). National Park fees and Peak Permits
- 2). 2 night's hotel B&B on a shared basis
- 3). Airport transfers
- 4). All road transport by private vehicles.
- 5). All camping facilities and meals during the trek (quality menu & tents)
- 6). All portage costs (15kg/33lbs per person)
- 7). All costs for Tanzanian guides, cook staff, camp crew and porters (not including tips)
- 8). 5 days a week professional office support before your trek

What the price does not include:

- 1). International Flights to Kilimanjaro Airport
- 2). Visa fees (\$50 - \$100)
- 3). Bar bills and laundry
- 4). Travel insurance. (Compulsory)
- 5). Optional trips (e.g. a Safari Extension) and sightseeing tours
- 6). Tips (Recommended US\$300 per person)