



Mount Meru Itinerary

Mount Meru is one of Africa's most spectacular and underrated trekking peaks. A towering dormant volcano that offers an unforgettable adventure for trekkers seeking challenge, beauty, and solitude in the mountains. Standing at 14,980 ft/4,566m, Meru is the fifth-highest mountain on the African continent and provides a stunning, uncrowded add-on to Kilimanjaro.

The route to the summit winds through a breathtaking variety of ecosystems: from lush parkland and dense montane forest, alive with the calls of exotic birds, to the surreal beauty of the giant heather and alpine moorland zones. The final approach is along a dramatic, narrow ridge offering jaw-dropping views of Meru's crater and ash cone thousands of feet below, with the majestic Mount Kilimanjaro rising on the horizon.

As you ascend, you'll trek through Arusha National Park, home to over 400 bird species and a wide range of wildlife, including elephants, buffalo, Colobus monkeys, giraffe, and more: making this one of the most diverse and scenic treks in East Africa. With Ian Taylor Trekking, you benefit from expert guides, personalized service, and the highest safety standards, ensuring your Mount Meru climb is not just a hike—but the adventure of a lifetime.

BRIEF ITINERARY:

Day 1: Arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport

Day 2: Drive and hike to Miriakamba Hut

Day 3: Saddle Hut

Day 4: Miriakamba Hut

Day 5: Saddle hut to Arusha

Day 6: Departure or onward journey to Kilimanjaro

DETAILED DESCRIPTION:

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: Miriakamba Hut 2,515m/ 8,250 feet

After breakfast, you'll transfer to the Momella Gate in Arusha National Park, where your adventure begins with registration at the park entrance. From here, you'll set off with your expert guides and an armed park ranger, trekking across sweeping open grasslands often dotted with herds of buffalo, giraffe, and warthog. As the trail ascends, you'll enter the enchanting montane forest—alive with the haunting calls of Colobus monkeys and the echoing cries of hornbills overhead. The path winds through lush vegetation and rich biodiversity before arriving at Miriakamba Hut, perched on the edge of Mount Meru's dramatic crater. Enjoy a hot dinner and a peaceful overnight stay at Miriakamba Hut, surrounded by the sounds of the forest and the cool mountain air. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.

Day 3: Saddle Hut 3,570m/ 11,713 feet

Begin your day with an early start to witness a breathtaking sunrise over distant Mount Kilimanjaro, casting golden light across the landscape. After breakfast, venture into the heart of the Meru Crater for a rare and unforgettable foot safari through a primeval landscape, surrounded by towering 200-foot crater walls and dramatic volcanic formations. This surreal environment offers a glimpse into the raw power of nature, with excellent opportunities to spot wildlife in one of Africa's most unique high-altitude settings. From here, the ascent continues via the rocky outcrop of Little Meru, offering sweeping views and a chance to acclimatize before summit day. You'll arrive at Saddle Hut (3,570m / 11,712ft), nestled just below the summit ridge of Mount Meru, where you'll enjoy a hot dinner and rest in preparation for the final push to the top. Overnight at Saddle Hut. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.

Day 4: Miriakamba Hut 2,515m/ 8,250 feet

At midnight, you'll be awakened for the final ascent—an unforgettable summit push under a canopy of stars. With your guide leading the way, you'll climb steadily up the narrow ridgeline, which at times drops sharply into the crater on one side and plunges into the valley on the other. This dramatic and exposed route offers both challenge and exhilaration as the darkness slowly gives way to the first light of dawn. Reaching the summit of Mount Meru (4,566m / 14,980ft) at sunrise is an awe-inspiring moment, with panoramic views stretching across the crater and all the way to Mount Kilimanjaro glowing in the morning light. After soaking in the



views and celebrating your achievement, you'll descend along the same ridge—now alive with wind and sunlight—passing Saddle Hut before continuing to Miriakamba Hut. Here, a well-earned celebration dinner and a restful night await. Dinner and overnight at Miriakamba Hut. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.

Day 5: Return to Arusha

After a leisurely final descent through the lush lower slopes of Mount Meru, you'll arrive back at Momella Gate (1,500m / 4,920ft), where you'll receive your well-deserved summit certificate—an enduring reminder of your incredible journey. Before departing the park, enjoy a scenic game drive through Arusha National Park, with the chance to spot elephants, giraffes, zebras, and a variety of birdlife in their natural habitat. From there, you'll return to Arusha for your final night in the hotel on a shared basis.

Mount Meru Package includes:

- Mount Meru Park entrance fees and camping fees
- 2 nights hotel in Arusha (on a shared basis) B&B
- Services of trained professional English-speaking Mountain guides, cooks, and porters.
- All food for the duration of the climb
- Portage of 1 bag (maximum 15 kgs/33lbs) per person
- Safety equipment e.g. Oxygen cylinder
- Oximeter for checking blood for clients daily
- 5 days a week office support

Mount Meru Package does not include:

- Tips to the guides, cook and porters (recommended USD \$150)
- Visa Fees
- International flights
- Bar bills and laundry
- Personal Travel Insurance (Compulsory)
- Optional trips (e.g. a Safari Extension or Kilimanjaro Climb)