

TANZANIA

7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS

Kilimanjaro Machame Route — 7-Day Whiskey Trail

Climb Kilimanjaro on the Machame Route, the mountain's most popular camping route: seven days through rainforest, the Shira Plateau, Lava Tower and the Barranco Wall, with good acclimatisation before the summit push via Stella Point.

EDITORIAL OVERVIEW

Experience Overview

The Machame Route is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful ways to the summit of Kilimanjaro. Nicknamed the “Whiskey Route” because it is tougher than the Marangu “Coca-Cola Route”, it is a camping route that crosses the mountain's southern flank with a wide variety of landscapes.

Climb high, sleep low

The seven-day itinerary follows the “climb high, sleep low” principle that helps the body acclimatise: on day three you climb to Lava Tower at 4,630 m and then descend to sleep at Barranco Camp. This gentle profile gives the 7-day Machame one of the better summit success rates of the shorter routes.

From rainforest to the Roof of Africa

From Machame Gate you climb through moss-draped rainforest onto the Shira Plateau, cross below the Western Breach to Lava Tower, scramble up the Barranco Wall with views of the southern ice fields, and continue via Karanga to Barafu Camp. Summit night leads up to Stella Point on the crater rim and on to Uhuru Peak (5,895 m) before descending via the Mweka Route. Your KINAPA-licensed lead guide, assistant guides, porters and cook look after every detail, with daily health checks.

SIGNATURE MOMENTS

Highlights

- ★ One of Kilimanjaro's most scenic and popular routes
- ★ “Climb high, sleep low” acclimatisation via Lava Tower (4,630 m)
- ★ The Barranco Wall scramble with views of the southern ice fields
- ★ Sunset over the Shira Plateau and Mount Meru
- ★ A good summit success rate for a 7-day route
- ★ Professional KINAPA-licensed mountain team
- ★ Private cook preparing hearty mountain meals

SAFARI ROUTE

Journey Route

Follow your journey across Tanzania's iconic landscapes

SAFARI ROUTE OVERVIEW

Route map will appear once destinations are assigned.

ROUTE SUMMARY

Route summary will appear once destinations are assigned.

Itinerary

Your day-by-day journey through Tanzania

DAY 1

Machame Gate to Machame Camp (2,835 m)



After a briefing and kit check at your hotel in Moshi, drive to Machame Gate (1,800 m), register with Kilimanjaro National Park and meet your mountain crew. The trail climbs steadily through lush rainforest, often muddy and misty, with giant ferns, moss-covered trees and the calls of turacos and blue monkeys. Your guide keeps a slow, steady pace to help your body begin to acclimatise. Arrive at Machame Camp at the edge of the forest, where your crew has set up the tents and prepared hot water and a meal. Distance about 11 km, walking time 5–7 hours. Overnight: Machame Camp (Full Board)



DAY 2

Machame Camp to Shira Cave Camp (3,750 m)

Leave the forest behind and climb a steep, rocky ridge through giant heather and moorland. As the vegetation thins, the views open up across the lowlands and towards the summit of Kibo. The path eases as you reach the Shira Plateau, an ancient collapsed caldera, and arrive at Shira Cave Camp. In the late afternoon, the sunset over Mount Meru floating above the clouds is often spectacular. Distance about 5 km, walking time 4–6 hours. Overnight: Shira Cave Camp (Full Board)

DAY 3

Shira Camp to Barranco Camp via Lava Tower (3,960 m)

This is an important acclimatisation day. Climb east across alpine desert to Lava Tower, a 90-metre volcanic plug at 4,630 m, where you stop for lunch and let your body feel the altitude. Then descend into the Barranco Valley through a strange landscape of giant groundsels to Barranco Camp, which lies beneath the towering Barranco Wall. Sleeping lower than the day's high point helps your body adapt. Distance about 10 km, walking time 6–8 hours. Overnight: Barranco Camp (Full Board)





DAY 4

Barranco Wall to Karanga Camp (3,995 m)

Start the day by climbing the Barranco Wall, a steep 250-metre rock face that looks intimidating but is a non-technical scramble with handholds. From the top, the views of the southern ice fields and the plains below are superb. The trail then crosses a series of ridges and valleys to Karanga Camp, the last water point on the route. A shorter day gives you more time to rest and acclimatise. Distance about 5 km, walking time 4–5 hours. Overnight: Karanga Camp (Full Board)

DAY 5

Karanga Camp to Barafu Camp (4,673 m)

A short but steady climb over rocky ground brings you to Barafu Camp, the base camp for the summit, perched on an exposed ridge. Arrive around lunchtime and spend the afternoon resting, drinking plenty of water and preparing your clothing and equipment. Your guides check your health and explain the plan for the night. After an early dinner, go to bed as early as possible. Distance about 4 km, walking time 4–5 hours. Overnight: Barafu Camp (Full Board)





DAY 6

Summit Night — Uhuru Peak (5,895 m) and Descent to Mweka Camp

Wake around midnight and begin the climb by headtorch up the steep scree slopes. It is cold and slow, and your guides set a steady rhythm. After about six hours you reach Stella Point (5,756 m) on the crater rim as the sun rises, and a further hour along the rim brings you to Uhuru Peak (5,895 m), the highest point in Africa. After time for photographs, descend to Barafu Camp for a rest and a meal, then continue down to Mweka Camp in the upper forest. A demanding day of 12–15 hours in total. Overnight: Mweka Camp (3,100 m, Full Board)

DAY 7

Descent to Mweka Gate

Descend through the rainforest to Mweka Gate (1,640 m), where you sign out of the park and receive your summit certificate. Say thank you and farewell to your mountain crew. Distance about 10 km, walking time 3–4 hours. Transfer to your hotel in Moshi or Arusha to celebrate. End of trek.



WHERE YOU'LL STAY

Accommodation

Accommodation recommendations will be finalized with your chosen travel dates.

PACKAGE DETAILS

What's Included

Included

- ✓ All KINAPA park fees
- ✓ KINAPA-licensed lead guide and assistants
- ✓ Porters and private camp chef
- ✓ Quality camping equipment (4-season tents)
- ✓ All meals on the mountain
- ✓ Purified drinking water
- ✓ Pulse oximetry health checks
- ✓ Summit certificate
- ✓ Airport transfers
- ✓ Pre-trek hotel night in Moshi

Excluded

- ✗ International flights
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Travel insurance (mandatory)
- ✗ Personal climbing gear
- ✗ Gratuities for mountain crew
- ✗ Personal snacks

BESPOKE PLANNING

Ready to plan your journey?

Share your preferred travel dates and let us tailor this experience around your pace, interests, and preferences.

VIEW THIS TOUR

PLAN YOUR SAFARI

LESS ON OURSELVES, MORE ON OTHERS

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VIEW ITINERARY

END OF ITINERARY