



Mount Kilimanjaro Trek **TANZANIA**

 **Activity:** Trek **Grade:** 5 Extreme **Duration:** 8 Days

The highest freestanding mountain in the world, Kilimanjaro is also the highest mountain on the African continent at 5896m. Its snow-capped summit rises high above the dusty African plains; huge permanent glaciers flow down from the summit, spectacular views and beautiful ice formations are the reward for pushing your limits both physically and mentally.

Our trek takes the Machame route, allowing gradual acclimatisation to the altitude and an excellent chance of reaching the summit. We pass through thick forest, moorland and scree en route to Uhuru Peak, the highest point. This is a challenging trek at altitude, climbing one of the most impressive mountains in the world.

“*An amazing experience, and one that I’ll never forget! It was very well organised, and I felt safe at all times. I would definitely use again!* - Jay-Jay

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive Moshi

Arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport; transfer to Moshi town, where we can admire the views of Kibo, the crater at the summit and the youngest of Kilimanjaro’s three volcanic cones. We check in and relax, with time to sort out our kit for tomorrow before dinner and a briefing. **Night hotel.**

Day 2: Machame Gate – Machame Camp

One hour’s drive from Moshi lies the gate to the Machame route, where we complete park formalities, meet our crew of porters and start to climb! The first section of the route climbs steadily and passes through magnificent, dense rainforest. This path is less well-trodden so it can get somewhat overgrown in places and it is often wet and muddy underfoot. **Night camp: Machame Camp (3100m).**
Trek approx 18km / 5-7 hours

Day 3: Machame Camp – Shira Caves

Our route continues on up through the forest until we reach the steep ascent onto the Shira Plateau, where there are rewarding views of the mountain. Looking back, you will be able to see Mt Meru rising high above Arusha town in the distance.

Night camp: Shira Caves (3840m).
Trek approx 9km / 4-6 hours



CHALLENGE GRADING

Our trips are graded from Challenging (Grade 1) to Extreme (Grade 5).

This trek is graded Extreme (5). Main challenges lie in the strenuous terrain, extremes of temperature and the altitude at which we trek.

Many factors influence the Challenge Grading, such as terrain, distances, climate, altitude, living conditions, etc. The grade reflects the overall trip; some sections will feel more challenging than others. Unusual weather conditions also have a significant impact, and not all people are tested by the same aspects.

Our grading levels are intended as a guide, but span a broad spectrum; trips within the same grade will still vary in the level of challenge provided.



Day 4: Shira Caves – Barranco Hut

Now on high moorland, the landscape changes the entire character of the trek. We traverse the southwest side of Kilimanjaro, passing underneath the Lava Tower and the final section of the Western Breach and finally reach camp at Barranco Hut (3900m), a tin shack where we pitch our tents. The day has been spent at altitude (up to 4600m), but we have followed the mountaineering code of 'walk high, sleep low' to aid your body's acclimatisation to altitude.

Night camp: Barranco Hut (3900m).

Trek approx 15km / 8-10 hours

Day 5: Barranco Hut – Barafu Camp

Our day starts by descending into the Great Barranco, a huge ravine. We then exit steeply, up the Great Barranco Wall, which divides us from the southeastern slopes of Kibo. It's a climb over rock, not technical, but long and tiring. Passing underneath the Heim and Kersten glaciers, we head towards the Karanga valley, which is our last stop for fresh water before the summit. Scree now forms the terrain as we walk through arid and desolate land towards camp.

Night camp: Barafu Camp (4600m).

Trek approx 18km / 7-9 hours

Day 6: Barafu Camp – Summit – Millennium Camp

We avoid walking too long in the heat of the sun today by starting while it's dark, and walk steeply upwards to the summit glaciers. We will be climbing scree for 4 to 5 hours but gain incredible height over a short distance. The views are spectacular. We should be on the crater rim at Stella Point (5739m) as the first rays of the sun hit us. Spectacular ice cliffs within the crater surround us and the views to jagged Mawenzi – Kilimanjaro's secondary but more technical peak – and beyond are breathtaking. Another hour's walking takes us to the summit, Uhuru Peak (5896m); Uhuru means freedom in Swahili. We begin our descent by returning to Stella Point and then descending on scree slope and track back to Barafu Camp for breakfast, before finally heading down to camp for a long well-earned rest. On our descent we have fabulous views of the plains and Mawenzi. **Night camp: Millennium Camp (3720m).**

Trek approx 20km (7km climb); 10 – 12 hours

Day 7: Millennium Camp – Mweka Gate – Moshi

A gentle trek takes us down through the rainforest to Mweka Gate, where we complete park formalities and receive certificates, which you can hang up with pride! We are then met by our vehicles and return to the hotel in Moshi, where you can treat yourself to a welcome shower (and a cold beer or two!) before our big celebration. **Night hotel.**

Trek approx 10km; 5 hours

Day 8: End of service

Depending on whether the arranged time is suitable, the option to join the main group airport transfer is available.

Ngorongoro Safari or Zanzibar Extension Available – Each adds 3 Extra Days Extend your stay with a game park safari at the renowned Ngorongoro Crater, or on the beautiful beaches of Zanzibar. **See website for further information.**

Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.

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