

## **Kilimanjaro**

Elevation: 19,340 feet

Guide Service: Alpine Ascents International (AAI)

Fundraising minimum: \$10,000.00 USD

Crowned by eternal snows, the mighty Kilimanjaro is the highest free-standing mountain in the world and dominates its landscape unlike any other mountain. Located in Tanzania, this extinct volcano looms over five ecosystems and large game reserves and is certainly one of the world's most impressive sights. The terrain is nothing short of dramatic. As one of the most fascinating and diverse regions on earth, Kilimanjaro has attracted both climbers and nature enthusiasts with its magnetism. The ascent up this great peak is non-technical by nature, and it affords a full mountaineering experience (with all the rigors and rewards) for those in strong physical condition.

### **Climbing skill level**

No prior climbing experience is required.

### **Physical conditioning**

This climb requires strength and endurance. Being in sound physical condition is the single most important aspect for this high-altitude climb.

## **Kilimanjaro Climb Itinerary**

**Day 1:** Depart country of origin for Kilimanjaro International Airport, Tanzania. (JRO).

**Day 2:** Arrive in Tanzania. Airport pick-up and transfer to New Arusha Hotel in Arusha, Tanzania.

**Day 3:** Rest day. We spend the day relaxing after our international flights. Sightseeing and shopping at the Cultural Heritage Center. Upon return we have a thorough equipment check and orientation including principles of Leave No Trace environmental ethics. Overnight at the New Arusha Hotel.

**Day 4:** We travel by Land Cruiser to the Machame trailhead, winding through coffee fields and small forests of ferns and flowers. After registering with the park service, we meet our porters from the Chagga Tribe, indigenous to the slopes of Kilimanjaro. They are an integral part of our African journey and become friends and provide insight into their culture and society. Our climb begins on the edge of a rain forest (elevation 5,800 feet). Below the watchful eyes of the monkeys, we trek seven hours to the Machame Camp (10,000 feet) and set camp for the night.

**Day 5:** Leave the Machame Hut, cross a small valley and begin our ascent. The environment changes from heath forest to moor lands. These moor lands are littered with two species of giant groundsel, Senecios and Lobelia. Halfway up the trail we meet a river gorge and ascend across the Shira Plateau (12,300 feet). We sleep at Shira Camp.

**Day 6:** Today we climb to 14,800 feet while crossing a ridge and view the plains far below. Here we eat lunch and admire the ancient glacier ice of the Breach Wall before dropping to our 12,800 feet campsite at Great Barranco.

**Day 7:** We climb up and over the Great Barranco, topping out at about 14,500 feet before dropping to our camp at the Karanga River at about 13,000 feet. This completes another day of acclimatization as we pass below the famous Breach Wall, the largest ice and rock face in Africa. The Breach Wall climbing route, known as "The Icicle," was first climbed in the early 1970s by Reinhold Messner. Daytime temperatures can reach 80°F, while evening temperatures often drop below freezing.

**Day 8:** From the Karanga River, we climb about five to six hours to our high camp at Barafu (14,650 feet). As we wind through beautiful and rarely traveled regions, we enter a high desert plateau, littered with volcanic boulders. Looking south, we view the desert plains as the pinnacles of Mowenzi Peak tower before us. At Barafu we prepare for the summit attempt. While our cook staff prepares the food, we spend our time packing and preparing for the early morning, 2 a.m. departure.

**Day 9:** Summit day! Awake at midnight and prepare gear for the ascent. We climb wearing headlamps until the predawn light is reflected off the African plains. Following a distinct ridge, we approach the crater's rim and then traverse northwest along the rim to the main summit, Uhuru Peak (19,340 feet). From here we view the Bismarck Towers, rock pinnacles along the rim, and the hanging Rebman Glaciers.

As the sun rises over Africa, we are privy to a panorama of incredible views. To the north stands the second highest mountain on the continent, Mt Kenya (17,056 feet), with its unique twin summits. The southern exposure reveals the sprawling plains of Tanzania and East Africa and Mowenzi Peak. After enjoying the view from the top, we descend to Barafu, pack camp, and begin our traverse down the Mweka route on the southern side of the mountain.

**Day 10:** The sunrises are exquisite as we awaken below the towering mountain. We descend through the lush green landscape of the Mweka route into the thickest jungle we have yet encountered. The environment becomes primordial, with 20 foot-tall fern trees creating a prehistoric atmosphere. After reaching the Mweka Gate we drive to Arusha and enjoy a celebratory dinner. Overnight at the New Arusha Hotel.

**Day 11:** (Safari itinerary subject to change). Begin the safari to Tarangire National Park. This beautiful valley overlooks African grassland, sprinkled with acacia and baobab trees and is known for its variety of large mammals. Here we overnight comfortably in a deluxe safari lodge.

**Day 12:** We drive on to Lake Manyara National Park and observe antelopes, baboons and gazelles as they are stalked by lions, cheetahs and hyenas. Lake Manyara is world-renowned for its ornithology and vast game reserves. After lunch we may visit a Masai village where we observe the tribal dance and local life styles of the nomadic herders of the region. We then travel to Ngorongoro Crater and overnight comfortably in a deluxe safari lodge perched on the rim of the crater.

**Day 13:** We spend the morning in Ngorongoro Crater, one of the world's most incredible natural wonders. Here we encounter herds of zebra, antelope, buffalo, elephant, rhino, cheetah and hippo. After lunch we continue our journey to Olduvai Gorge, "The Cradle of Mankind," where we visit the interpretive museum that explains the significance of recent hominid discoveries. We proceed with a game drive through Serengeti National Park en route to a deluxe safari lodge and dinner.

**Day 14:** Team members enjoy a morning game drive in the Serengeti. There is an option for a spectacular sunrise balloon ride. We have lunch at the lodge and then fly back to Arusha for a farewell dinner and preparation for late-night international departures.

#### Special Notes:

- International round-trip airfare to Tanzania or Kenya not included.
- Tanzanian and Kenyan visas not included.
- Meals and lodging outside the listed itinerary not included.
- Excess baggage charges and airport taxes not included.
- International vaccinations not included.
- Charges incurred as a result of delays beyond the control of AAI not included.
- Single room supplement not included.
- Tips and gratuities not included.
- Climbers will be responsible for all items on the [AAI gear list](#).
- Meals, porter assistance and all group climbing equipment (climbing ropes, technical hardware, and tents) will be provided by AAI.

## Kilimanjaro Climb Gear List

For a current list of required gear please visit <http://www.alpineascents.com/kilimanjaro-g.asp>.