

# Summit Mount Kilimanjaro

Trek to the Roof of Africa following the Machame Route



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# Mount Kilimanjaro Trek, Machame Route

## 14 to 23 September 2018

### Conquer the tallest freestanding volcano in the world

Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa (5895m/19,340') and is situated on the northern Tanzanian border, the classic photograph being taken from Amboseli National Park in southern Kenya. The mountain is a designated national park and is administered from the Marangu Gate on the south side, and all expeditions are obliged to complete formalities before proceeding. The two principle peaks of the massif are Kibo, a volcanic crater, and the seldom visited and lower Mawenzi (5149m). The highest point on Kibo is known as Uhuru; Gillman's Point is a subsidiary blip on the rim at 5685m.

Kibo dominates the game-filled Kenya plains to the north and the fertile lands around Arusha in Tanzania to the south. You will ascend the mountain via the Machame Route which rises from the Tanzanian side of the mountain and is arguably the most spectacular and beautiful of all the routes on Kilimanjaro. The route is challenging but does not require any technical climbing and should be within the compass of any moderately fit person who has done sufficient training.

George Mallory coined the now legendary epithet 'because it's there' as the reason for attempting Everest. For Kilimanjaro read 'because you can'!



# Detailed itinerary

## 14 September: Depart London to Nairobi

## 15 September: Nairobi to Arusha

Arrive Nairobi and join connecting flight to Kilimanjaro airport. Upon arrival transfer to hotel where we will meet our guides, have our trek briefing and prepare for the challenge ahead.

## 16 September: Machame Gate to Machame Camp 6-7hrs (3000m)

After an early breakfast at the hotel, we are transferred to Machame Gate on the south side of Kilimanjaro. On arrival we will meet our porters, complete park formalities and have a picnic lunch before beginning the ascent.

The first day's trek takes us gradually up across the forested lower slopes of the mountain to a ridge between two streams, then on a little more steeply to the first night's campsite which lies just above the forest line at an altitude of 3,000 metres.

## 17 September: Machame Camp to Shira Camp

### 6-7hrs (3850m)

From Machame Camp, the path follows a steep moorland ridge north directly towards Kibo. At around 3,600 metres, the path turns west into a gorge, the gradient lessens and you ascend more gradually to the Shira Plateau to the west of Kibo.

## 18 September: Shira Camp 3850m to Barranco Hut 6-8hrs (3950m)

The path continues to climb directly up the ridge towards Kibo, before forking east and descending into the Barranco Gorge.

## 19 September: Barranco Hut to Barafu Camp

### 8-10hrs (4600m)

Today we climb the Barranco Wall (steep but not technical) and then follow the Kibo South Circuit into the Karanga Valley. We then follow the Mweka Route, and then turn north for the final ascent to Barafu Camp. Wind and cold can be factors as the altitude steadily increases, but the aim is to reach Barafu in plenty of time for rest before the assault on the summit.

## 20 September: Summit day, 12-16hrs

This is an extremely long and challenging day, walking up to 16 hrs. Rise shortly after midnight and climb steeply for about seven hours over scree and rock towards the Rebmann Glacier and Stella Point on the rim of the crater. The early departure is designed to give us the maximum chance of reaching Stella Point to watch the dawn break over Africa.

At Stella Point we join the final leg of the main route from Kibo Hut, and it is a further hour or two around the rim of the crater to Uhuru Peak at 5895 metres. On a clear day, the views across the plains of Kenya and Tanzania are fitting reward for what will have been a genuine test of your physical and mental endurance!

We descend to Barafu for lunch and a quick rest before heading down to Mweka Camp at 2950 metres.



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## 21 September: Mweka Camp to Mweka Gate 4-5hrs (1500m)

After the exertions of the day before, many find the last day quite tiring, but the trek down through the cloud forest that cloaks the lower slopes of Kilimanjaro is very beautiful and we could get to see a troop or two of the wonderful Colobus monkeys. There will be a short wait at Mweka to wind up park formalities. We then continue by vehicle to our hotel, and a well-earned celebration dinner.

## 22 September: Depart Kilimanjaro for London

Transfer to Kilimanjaro airport for afternoon flight to London\*.

## 23 September: Arrive London, UK

\* NB: flight times depend on the airline.

### Grade

Tough

### Best time of year

June to October

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*This itinerary is complex and subject to change*

