



MachameRoute

7 Days, 6 Nights

ROUTE OVERVIEW

The second most popular option among the climbers is the Machame route, also known as “the Whiskey Route”. This route offers a wide variety of views, landscapes and experiences. The starting point of the route, Machame Gate, is only a 20-minute drive from Aishi Machame Hotel.

Located on the southern slope of Mt Kilimanjaro, Machame Gate will lead you to the top of Kilimanjaro along the exciting footpath which starts at the tropical forest, then runs through all the climate zones and finishes with the Arctic desert in the summit area. Camps along the trek are favorably located for a smooth and gradual acclimatization transition process.

On the 3rd day Machame Route converges with Lemosho and Umbwe at Barranco camp.

DAY 1 Machame Gate - Machame Hut

You will then begin your hike through the rainforest on a twisted path up the ridge. The trail can be muddy and slippery, so the gaiters and trekking poles could come handy. You will have lunch along the way, as we continue with our trek to Machame Hut campsite.

Elevation 1800meters to 3100meters

Distance: 12 km

Hiking Time: 5-6 hours

Habitat: Rain Forest

DAY 2 Machame Hut - Shira Cave Campsite

Hike to Shira Cave Campsite begins after breakfast. The rainforest will be left behind, and we'll cross the little valley and walk beside the rocky ridge. Lunch will be served along the way, followed by final hike to Shira cave. Later, in the afternoon, acclimatisation walk commence to help you get used to the altitude. Dinner will be served at Shira cave, where you will rest for the day.

Elevation 3100meters to 3840meters

Distance: 6 km

Hiking Time: 4-6 hours

Habitat: Moorland

DAY 3 Shira Cave Campsite to Lava Tower to Barranco Campsite

Today's trek to Barranco campsite starts after breakfast, and our path will be towered by Lava Tower (4600meters), which is also called the Shark's tooth. Your lunch will be served at the Lava Tower, as you'll spend some time at this altitude to get used to it. Then we'll head to Barranco camp, nested at 3950m, and here you will have dinner and spend the night. Despite the fact that this day will end at the same elevation at which it begins, it is very important for acclimatisation of your body for summit day.

Elevation 3840meters to 4600meters to 3950meters

Distance: 12 km

Hiking Time: 8-9 hours

Habitat: Semi-Desert

DAY 4 Barranco Campsite to Karanga Valley Campsite

We depart Barranco after breakfast, continuing on a steep ridge at the base of Barranco Wall toward Karanga Valley campsite. Hot lunch will be served at the camp. Later in the afternoon, you should go for acclimatisation walk. Dinner will be served at Karanga valley, where you will also spend the night.

Elevation 3950meters to 4002meters

Distance: 5 km

Hiking Time: 4-5 hours

Habitat: Alpine Desert

DAY 5 Karanga Valley Campsite to Barafu Hut

You will continue trekking to Barafu after breakfast, from which the view of the summit tends to be different as you shift angles. Once we reach the campsite, you can get the excellent view of the summit, but also enjoy the sight of Kibo and Mawenzi peaks. Dinner will be served early, and you should rest and prepare for the final ascend.

Elevation 4002meters to 4600meters

Distance: 4 km

Hiking Time: 4-5 hours

Habitat: Alpine Desert

DAY 6 Barafu Hut to Uhuru Peak to Mweka Campsite

Hiking to the summit will begin short after midnight, at around 12:30 A.M., as our path twists through heavy scree towards Stella Point at the crater rim. This part of the hike is the most mentally and physically challenging portion of the ascend. Once we reach Stella Point, you will rest and refresh with warm cup of tea or coffee, accompanied by the views of the magnificent sunrise coming above Mawenzi. Going further up, you might encounter snow storm, although it is dictated by the season you are taking for the hike. The summit, Uhuru Peak – the highest point on Kilimanjaro and all of Africa, is just an hour ascend from Stella Point.

From the summit, you will start trekking down to Mweka campsite. Lunch stop will be at Barafu camp, where you can take some rest, before we continue our descend towards Mweka Campsite, which is located in the forest. Here, you will have your last dinner and overnight on the Kilimanjaro.

Elevation 4600meters to 5895meters (and down to 3100meters)

Distance: 5 km ascent / 12 km descent

Hiking Time: 7-8 hours ascent / 4-6 hours descent

Habitat: Arctic

DAY 7 Mweka Campsite to Mweka Gate

Breakfast will be served before we begin hiking down to Mweka Gate, where you'll receive summit certificates. Path on the lower elevations can be rather wet and muddy, so the gaiters and trekking poles might come handy. There will be a vehicle waiting at the gate to take you back to your accommodation in Moshi.

Elevation 3100meters to 1800meters

Distance: 10 km

Hiking Time: 3-4 hours

Habitat: Rain Forest