

kilimanjaro summit climb, tanzania



At 5,895m, Mt. Kilimanjaro is one of the largest volcanoes ever to break through the Earth's crust. Your challenge is to reach its summit.

Your trek starts in the rainforests of Lemosho Glades and heads upwards as you acclimatise on Shira Plateau. From here you will catch a glimpse of your goal – Kibo, Kilimanjaro's main ice-capped peak. You continue via the beautiful Southern Flank, Barranco Wall and Barafu Route.

Temperatures drop at night, allowing you to enjoy the crisp cool air under the star-studded African skies. During the days you'll rise higher; often looking down on a sea of clouds.

The expedition has been carefully planned to ensure that you acclimatise as much as possible to the altitude and your chances of making it to the summit are maximised. Our operations teams have one of the highest success rates (96%) of trekkers reaching the summit, but don't underestimate the challenge ahead. On the final night before the summit climb you shall need to rise at around midnight to commence the final trek in the moonlight up the scree slopes to Stella Point. Your aim is to reach this point by dawn and continue around the rim to the highest point - Uhuru Peak. This is likely to be the toughest day that most trekkers have ever experienced, involving 4248ft/1,295m of ascent, 7,038ft/2,145m of descent, and 12-15 hours walking.

All times below are fitness and weather dependant and are given for actual walking times and do not include lunch stops etc.

Day 1: International Departure

You will depart from London on a direct Kenya Airways or British Airways night flight to Nairobi, Kenya. Our Charity Challenge representative will be there to assist you with the check-in and any last minute questions. The flight arrives in Nairobi the following morning.

Day 2: To West Kilimanjaro

You will land at Jomo Kenyatta Airport and be met by a Charity Challenge local agent, who will transfer you (4hrs by land) to Tanzania, for a welcome buffet lunch under the slopes of Longido. You will continue cross-country to the bush camp, situated a few kilometres from the authentic Maasai village of Tinga Tinga. Arrive mid to late afternoon for a kit check and the possibility of a visit to the nearby Maasai village. Overnight in the West Kilimanjaro Camp with a candlelit dinner.

Day 3: Rainforest Trek (2,800m)

This morning you will register at the main gate before being driven to Lemosho Glades where you start the 3-5hr trek at 6,500ft through the rainforest to Big Tree Camp at around 9,186ft/2,800m. This is an unspoiled and exciting wilderness route, which takes the climb to true wilderness zones. Your trek today will be along a little used track known as Chamber's Route. In places the vegetation is so undisturbed by humans that it grows right across the narrow track. Flora and fauna are richer here than on other more popular routes through the rain forest. Dinner and overnight at Big Tree Camp or nearby in the rain forest.

Day 4: Acclimatisation Trek (3,500m)

Today is a full days trek with a height gain of over 2,000ft/600m, taking you to a lunch stop at a beautiful valley just outside the Shira Crater at around 10,000ft/3,050m. After lunch you cross into the Shira Caldera, a high altitude desert plateau rarely visited by man. Shira is the third of Kilimanjaro's volcanic cones. It is filled with the lava flow from Kibo and its rim is eroded and blasted away by weather and volcanic action. You will camp & have dinner at Shira One (11,480ft/3,500m).

Today expect the first close views of Kibo - the dramatic summit cone of Kilimanjaro! Expect this trek to take 7-8 hours.



Day 5: Shira Plateau (3,800m)

Today consists of a 5-6 hour trek east across Shira Plateau to Shira Two via Shira Cathedral (12,730ft/3,880m). The views from the top of this ridge are very special. Those with vertigo should take care. Overnight dinner & camp at Shira Two which is located at around 12,470ft/3,800m.

Day 6: Southern Flank (3,900m)

Southern flank, passing down the Barranco Valley to the camp at Barranco Wall. Here you will camp & take dinner at 12,795ft/3,900m and only 330ft higher than your previous night's camp at G&M2, but the walk will have taken you to 14,565ft/4,440m over the ridge or to 14,930ft/4,550m over Lava Tower offering valuable altitude acclimatisation. The camp at Barranco is one of the most spectacular on Kilimanjaro. Today's trek will take approximately 7-10 hours.

Day 7: Barranco Wall & the Karanga Valley (3,900m)

Early morning you will start with a climb up Barranco Wall (13,680ft/4,170m with an immediate height gain of 700ft) to admire the views of Mount Meru and the plains far below. You will continue across the ridges and valleys to Karanga Camp at 12,800ft/3900m, where you will have lunch. This day should take 4-6 hours. In the afternoon there will be an important optional trek up the scree slopes towards the southern ice fields. Again, this altitude-acclimatising walk is highly recommended, and will aid your chance of summit success.

Day 8: Barafu Ridge (4,600m)

After breakfast trek up to the Barafu Ridge Camp (15,090ft/4,600m). The 3-5 hr trek up to Barafu Ridge Camp is tough due to the altitude. You should reach camp well ahead of most other climbers on this route because they will mainly be starting from far back at Barranco. Depending on your condition: either take an afternoon rest or a short acclimatisation walk to a high point and then return. You will have an early dinner then rest again until midnight, when you commence your push for the summit.

Day 9: Summit Day (5,895m)

You will need to rise at around midnight (if you've managed to get to sleep!) to commence the trek up the scree slopes to Stella Point, continuing around the rim to the highest point Uhuru Point. Be sure to wear all your layers of thermal clothing. It can seem mild at first; but as you reach the exposed ridges, wind chill causes the temperature to plummet. It is worth preparing a flask of hot drink for summit night as it is much easier to take in liquid that is warm during the freezing conditions. First light is apparent around 0530hrs and this really gives you hope to push on upwards. You should reach Stella Point (18,865ft / 5,750m - on the crater rim) just after dawn; then after a short rest continue for another hour or so round to Uhuru Point. After reaching Kilimanjaro's summit (19,340ft/5,895m) and having enjoyed the amazing views, you will then return via Stella Point and descend the scree slopes via Barafu Ridge Camp for a few hours rest and then on to Millenium Camp (12,305ft/3,750m).

The walk-off can seem "endless" and will try your patience; but you should be mentally prepared for this. This is to be the toughest day that most trekkers have ever experienced, involving 4,248ft/1,295m of ascent, 7,038ft/2,145m of descent, and 12-15 hours walking. It is however VICTORY DAY!!!! You will have a final camp meal and overnight at Millenium Camp. There is the possibility of a coke and a beer at this camp!



Day 10: Descend to Mweka Gate

Today you will start early & walk down through the beautiful rainforest to Mweka Gate. This is a long walk-off on a pretty gently sloping track that takes you from the lower heath into the rainforest and finally down to the farms and plantations near Kidia. The path continues for 5-7hrs (7hrs in the rain, 5hrs in the dry) until you reach the gate for a picnic lunch, presentation of certificates and triumphant photos. After lunch you will be driven to your lodge (approx 2 hours) for a well-appreciated shower and a large, celebratory dinner. Naturally the bar will be open until late.

Day 11: International Travel

This afternoon you will transfer to Nairobi airport for your KQ or BA flight to the UK, which arrives back in London Heathrow early the following morning.

Day 12: Arrive Home

You will arrive back in London in the morning.

N.B. The itinerary is there as a guide and may change due to unusual weather patterns, wildlife movements, the strength of the group and so on. We will do our very best to keep to the set itinerary however we cannot be held responsible for any last minute changes that might occur. In all such circumstances, your expedition leader will have the final say.

Should you suffer from vertigo, it is worth considering that on most mountain treks there will be occasional exposure to sheer drops. Therefore you should discuss the particular itinerary of your choice with a member of our team.

Optional: Ngorongoro, Serengeti & Tarangire Safari Extension

Day 1 - Ngorongoro Crater

Early morning drive to Ngorongoro Crater with picnic lunch in the Crater, followed by an afternoon of top class game viewing. Ngorongoro Crater is the Eighth Wonder of the World. The Ngorongoro Conservation Area is remarkable for the Ngorongoro Crater itself. Twelve miles wide, it is the world's largest intact caldera. Before its collapse two million years ago, the volcano is believed to have been higher than Mount Kilimanjaro. Its grassland-covered and forested rim is the habitat of herds of elephant. The grassy crater floor is home to buffalo, wildebeest, zebra, gazelle, and hartebeest as well as the endangered black rhino. Hippos wallow in the marshes and ponds. Lion, hyena, and jackal are common. Birdlife is prolific. Olduvai Gorge, where early hominoid fossils have been found, is known as the "birthplace of mankind". Dinner and overnight at your Crater Highlands Lodge.

Days 2 & 3 – Serengeti game Drive

Drive to Serengeti with picnic lunch enroute. The Serengeti is one of the world's last great wildlife refuges. This vast area of land supports the greatest remaining concentration of plain game in Africa, on a scale unparalleled anywhere else in the world. The Park contains an estimated three million large animals, most of which take part in a seasonal migration that is one of nature's wonders. The vegetation in the Serengeti ranges from the short and long grass plains in the south, to the acacia savannah in the centre and the wooded grass land concentrated around tributaries of the Grumeti and Mara rivers. The western corridor is a region of wooded highland and extensive plains reaching to the edge of Lake Victoria. The Seronera Valley in the Serengeti is famous for the abundant lion and leopard that are regularly seen. Two nights Wildlife Lodge with optional hot air balloon safari on morning of Day 3 or Day 4.

Day 4 - Lake Manyara or Tarangire

Game drive as you leave the Serengeti and cross the Crater Highlands to Lake Manyara or Tarangire.

Lake Manyara Park offers a blend of woodland, open bush, and lake. The Mahogany and sausage trees are alive with blue monkeys and vervets. Elephants feed off fallen fruit while bushbuck, waterbuck, baboons, aardvark, civet, the shy pangolin and leopard, all make their home in the forest. Lake Manyara is a magnet for birdlife and a kaleidoscope of different species can be found around its shores, including huge flocks of flamingoes. The large variety of mammals, reptiles, birds

and the different types of vegetation, all within a small area make Lake Manyara a diverse and particularly memorable place to visit. Tarangire National Park boasts a vast number of baobabs that first capture the eye as you enter Tarangire National Park. The gently rolling countryside is dotted with these majestic trees, which seem to dwarf the animals that feed beneath them. Tarangire National Park covers approximately 2600 square kilometers and, in the dry season, is second only to Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area in concentrations of wildlife. The park is spectacular in the dry season when many of the migratory wildlife species come back to the permanent waters of Tarangire River. Huge herds of wildebeest, zebras, elephants, eland and oryx gather to stay in Tarangire until the onset of the rains when they migrate again to new grazing areas. Overnight near Manyara in Eunoto lodge or Kirurumu Camp; or in Tarangire Sopa or Tarangire Safari lodge. Full board basis.



Day 5 - International Departure

Leisurely breakfast and game drive enroute to Arusha (approx 3 hours). Lunch and the shuttle bus transfer to Nairobi airport where you board your flight to Heathrow are included.

Day 6 - Arrive UK

Arrive back at London Heathrow today.

Cost: £875 per person sharing (based on 2 or more people in twin accommodation)

Single Supp: £75 (NB: there must be a minimum of 2 persons for this extension to run)

Optional Hot Air Balloon Safari with Champagne Breakfast in the Bush.

Cost: £260 pp

All safaris include: park fees, services of qualified English-speaking driver/guide, 4WD vehicle with VHF radio communication, all meals on safari. All safari accommodations are based on tented camps or Sopa Lodges which are a range of four star lodges all well located within the National Parks. Rooms are very spacious and comfortable; food and service are also good. All the lodges have swimming pools and large bar/restaurants. If you would like to book the above extension or have any extension enquiries please call the Charity Challenge office on 020 8557 0000 or email flights@charitychallenge.com. All bookings are subject to availability and group booking limitations. We therefore ask you to consider your travel plans as soon as possible and if you want to extend your challenge, please put in your request immediately.