

kilimanjaro summit climb, q&a



how big is the group?

Each group is intended to be a minimum of 16 people in order to run and a maximum of approximately 25 people.

how do we get to Tanzania?

You will be flying overnight from London to Nairobi and subject to availability flying directly onto Kilimanjaro airport. Your flight tickets will be issued to you upon departure at the airport, please ask your challenge leader to reconfirm your flights for you. If we cannot get the flight to Kilimanjaro airport you will be transferred overland from Nairobi to Arusha or Marangu, this transfer can take from 6-9hrs depending on the road conditions. If you choose to book your own flights you must confirm with the Charity Challenge office before paying otherwise you may be liable for your included group flights (please contact flights@charitychallenge.com for further assistance).

what's the luggage allowance?

As no formal clothes are needed, luggage should be kept to the absolute minimum - details on what to pack are provided in your Kit List. You will need to carry a daypack during the day while the porters carry your main rucksack. You will need a day sack of about 35litre capacity. NB: You should take a soft-sided bag or rucksack for the porters to carry as they often carry luggage on their heads and hard suitcases are too unwieldy. Your main pack should be 70-90 litres capacity. The maximum weight each porter will carry is 15kgs and your luggage will be weighed at the gate before commencing the climb. If you have more than 15kg an extra porter will need to be hired and could cost up to an extra \$100. On your outward journey, please wear your trekking gear, hiking boots, and carry a spare change of clothing in your hand luggage.

what will the accommodation be like?

You will be camping on the mountain in two person tents, which will be supplied and erected by us. At the end of the climb, you will be staying in more comfortable accommodation at a lodge in Arusha or Marangu. If you are travelling with a friend or partner who you wish to share with, please let Charity Challenge know in advance.

do we need to take our own sleeping bags and mats?

Yes, you will need to bring a warm sleeping bag (four season with fleece liner), and it would certainly help your chances of a comfortable night's sleep if you bring a good thermarest-sleeping mat. Also see Kit List.

what are the toilet/washing facilities like?

We provide simple toilet tents at all camps. It's a square tent, with a bucket and a toilet seat. In the camps we have to use the long drops provided by the National Parks, which are very basic and not monitored regularly. Your camp team will provide washing bowls of warm water as you arrive at camp at the end of the day's trekking, you will need bio-degradable soap for washing with. You should take plenty of toilet paper and wet wipes with you as well as anti-bacterial hand gel.

will my valuables be safe?

While we will do everything to provide adequate safety for the group and security for your possessions, the general rule

is that if you don't need it, don't bring it. This includes jewellery, necklaces, rings and even watches. Your passport and money should be kept on you at all times. The main luggage should not contain valuables and items not required on the mountain. These may be left at the lodge in Arusha to be returned to you once you have climbed the mountain. You will be given a receipt for items left at the camp. These will be kept in the safe and will be perfectly secure.

what is the food and drink like?

There will be a hot breakfast (eg: porridge, eggs, toast, tea and coffee) to start the day, a packed lunch on the mountain or at your camp and a filling hot meal in the evening (eg: soup, followed by rice, potato or pasta and sauce, and usually fruit for dessert.) There will be ample drinking water, as we will be filling up from local water sources. All the water is boiled so iodine drops or tablets are optional whilst trekking. If you do happen to use water from the stream or from hotels it may be best to purify it first. The porters will collect water each morning and evening for drinking and cooking. Please let Charity Challenge know prior to departure if you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies.

who will be leading the group?

We employ a number of Red Cross first aid qualified challenge guides, all of whom speak fluent English. When the guides first qualify they gain the Kili National Parks (KINAPA) award in first aid, which is basic but tough. All guides are also trained in incident management and challenge leadership. They will be ultimately responsible for the running of the itinerary and the safety of your group. The itinerary is there as a guide and may change due to unusual weather patterns, 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 challenge leader will have the final say.

how fit do I need to be?

Training and a good level of fitness is definitely required, as this challenge is rated as Extreme, due to the basic facilities, high altitude, and terrain. Don't forget the impact of temperature extremes and high altitude; and remember that you will be trekking for a number of days. Anyone who leads a fairly active and moderately healthy lifestyle should be OK, but the more you exercise before the challenge, the more you will get out of it. See Fitness Training notes.

what happens if I fall ill, can't keep up or there is an emergency?

The event is not run as a race and there is always a large discrepancy in people's walking ability. This is allowed for. There will always be a staff member at the back of the group to ensure you are not left behind and can take things at your own pace. If you are unable to continue on foot, you will be carried off the mountain. If you are climbing via our western approach routes, then we are able to get a 4x4 up to the Shira Plateau (3,800m) to take you down. There is a hospital at Marangu and Moshi, which is situated at the beginning of the popular route. Quality medical services are available in Nairobi.

what is included in the cost of the challenge?

Your international flights to and from Nairobi, all meals unless otherwise stated in the itinerary, entry into National Parks on the itinerary, all transfers in Tanzania, all accommodation whether in tents or hotel, group first aid supplies, an English speaking challenge leader, relevant back-up facilities, a Charity Challenge T-Shirt, US\$20 to the local community project, and discount from Nomad Travellers Stores for personal equipment. We also make a contribution through Climate Care to offset the equivalent CO2 emissions of your international flight.

what is not included in the cost of the challenge?

The following items are not included in your challenge and will be at your own expense – Tanzanian Visa (£38), Kenyan Transit Visa (approx \$20US each way), a Kenyan Visa will not be necessary if flying through to Kilimanjaro Airport, vaccinations, tips for the local support team (approx \$150US), activities not mentioned in the itinerary, any additional food & drink, personal spending money, travel to and from UK airports and travel insurance.

what shall I do about spending money?

You will not need large amounts of money during this trip and other than at the start and end of the trip, you will be in the mountain away from any foreign exchanges or banks. We recommend that you take a sufficient amount of cash. Travellers' cheques or credit cards should be accepted in the airports. Somewhere in the region of £200 in US dollars should be sufficient to cover presents, tips, drinks and so on.

how much would you recommend for tips?

Tipping is personal and at your sole discretion. You should only tip if you feel that you have received good service. We recommend in the region of \$15-20 per person per day (\$120 - \$150US), and this should be given to the challenge leader at the end of the challenge, who will distribute it among the support team. In the event that a particular member of staff provides extra support you might choose to leave him spare climbing gear. There are different teams on the mountain than the ones providing transfers so the usual for this plus +/- \$5US for the drivers would be sufficient. If you do want to give one member of staff an extra tip, please also leave this until the end and allocate over and above the recommended tipping amount. Make sure you have plenty of \$1 dollar bills for tipping.

should I take gifts or clothes for the locals?

It is a nice gesture to give the local children small gifts, but we actively discourage the giving of sweets or money, as this encourages begging. We invest money into a local community project to help improve local living conditions. Any unneeded kit/clothes can be given to the challenge leader at the end of the trek who will hand it out to the porters on the last day.

what is the weather likely to be like?

Early mornings will immediately warm-up as soon as the sun rises, and the days will be warm and bright. As soon as the sun sets, the temperature drops radically and is often well below zero degrees. On the mountain, you will be trekking in very clear air and will need strong UV protection. Normally January and February are the driest and clearest months to climb. However June through to end October and December are also good but you should expect a little more cloud around the rainforest zone. Whenever you climb, expect convection to send warm air from the hot plains below across the rain forest to precipitate at higher altitudes as rain, sleet, and snow. This happens on some, but not all,

afternoons. Nights are usually clear and frosty, and mornings clear and sunny. Also see Tanzania Fact File.

what do you do to protect the environment?

We keep to small group sizes so that we limit the impact we have on the surrounding environment. We will ensure that all burnable rubbish is burnt and all other rubbish is carried out of the area and disposed of responsibly. We cook using gas cookers rather than campfires so as not to deplete the natural wood resources on the mountain. Finally we follow the local guidelines on cultural and environmental protection and respect issued by the National Park; we leave the wilderness camps clean, carry off glass and tin. We will also be donating US\$20 per participant towards the Community Projects Africa who work in the area. Please see our Responsible Tourism Policy.

can you recommend any literature about the region?

- The Shadow of Kilimanjaro, on foot across East Africa” by Rick Ridgeway
- Meja Mwangi is a well-known Kenyan author whose books are a good introduction to East African literature. His most famous works include Going Down River Road, Kill Me Quick and Carcass for Hounds.
- Shiva Maipaul's North of South: an African Journey is a humorously pessimistic account of a visit to Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia.
- Elspeth Huxley's Flame Trees of Thika tells the story of the white settler experience through the eyes of a young girl.
- Isak Dinesen's Out of Africa covers similar ground from an adult perspective.
- Journey through Tanzania by Amin, Willetts & Marshall is a superb “cocktail” book with great photos.
- Spectrum Guide to Tanzania – Good guidebook with many colour images at a reasonable cost.
- Lonely Planet Guides: East Africa, Africa on a Shoestring, Trekking in East Africa, Swahili Phrasebook

english

Hello
Goodbye
Good evening
Please
Thank you
How are you?
Pleased to meet you
Excuse me
Sorry!
What is your name?
My name is...
I don't understand
Yes
No
How much?
What is the time?

One
Two
Three
Four
Five
Six
Seven
Eight
Nine
Ten

swahili

Jambo
Kwaheri
Osiku
Tafadali
Ashante sana
We ve namna gani
Emu kutana we mazuri sana
Samahani
Si jui
Je na yako nani
Je na yangu...
Si jui
Ndiyo
Hapana
Bayi gani
Sa gani sasa

Moja
Mbili
Tatu
Nene
Tanu
Sita
Saba
Nane
Tisa
Kumi

NB: The information provided above was correct at the time of going to print.