



Mount Kilimanjaro Shira Route

This route is sometimes used to drive up to a high altitude on the Shira Plateau. The roadhead at about 3600m is about 6-7 hours drive from Moshi (depending on weather conditions, if it is wet the track beyond the Londrossi National Park gate, 2250m, could become impassable.) There are campsites at the roadhead and the Shira Hut, 3840m, on the Machame Route is just 1 hour's walk away. **This route is not recommended for walking as it simply follows a road. Beware of starting your ascent of Kili by driving here, you will probably suffer from altitude sickness unless you are already acclimatised.**

We will pick you up at the airport and taking you to Springlands Hotel where you can relax by the pool or go for an evening monkey-viewing forest walk. You then go up your chosen route. We do not charge you extra if you are on your own! You will have a guide, a cook and porters to carry as much of your equipment as you want. We organise year round trips on any route. On the last day you return to the hotel for a clean up, final meal and overnight, this is a good time to have a sauna or maybe a massage. Everything is included in our prices except for drinks, tips and the hotel is on a B&B basis.

For high seasons (Christmas - New Year and July - August) please book in advance to avoid disappointment.

Now take a look at the routes available up the mountain ranging from the least demanding Marangu

to the rugged and spectacular Umbwe or long and wild Lemosho. The Machame Route is a popular one as it combines the beautiful and varied scenery with plenty of opportunities to acclimatise.

If you are not accustomed to camping and mountain walking you could consider the Marangu Route as the most suitable. This follows easy angled paths through magnificent rain forests to the Mandara Hut. Shortly beyond it passes Maundi Crater, a fine view point located at the edge of the forest belt. Above you enter the moorlands with their fine giant heathers stands, groundsels, lobelia and other exotic tropical high altitude plants. The next hut is the Horombo Hut, soon after this hut you reach the Saddle, a high altitude desert separating the rugged Mawenzi summit from Kibo. The final ascent starts from the Kibo Hut and involves steep paths on loose scree. There is fresh running water at all the huts apart from Kibo where it will be carried by your porters. You will be accommodated generally in 4 person clean huts with mattresses.

The other routes are all more demanding as regards steepness and in places involve some scrambling. Accommodation is in tents and there is no running water at the campsites though warm water for washing is provided. The scenery more than compensates for these difficulties. Whichever route you choose it is essential to allow enough time for acclimatisation to the altitude.

Although Mt. Kilimanjaro can be climbed throughout the year it is worth avoiding the two rainy seasons (late March to mid-June and October to the beginning of December) when the route becomes slippery. Probably the best time to visit is January to February and September to October when there is usually no cloud.

Mount Kilimanjaro (19340') (5895m) lies just 3 degrees south of the equator and is one of the highest volcanoes in the world. It rises some (15000') (4572m) above the surrounding plains and savannahs. The Kilimanjaro National Park covers some 1864 sq. Km (720 sq. miles) The base of this immense mountain has diameter of 80 Km (48 Miles) and the outstanding features are its three major volcanic centers: Shira (4160m) in the west. Mawenzi (5280 m) to the east and the permanently snow-capped Kibo in the middle.

In climbing, the terrain passes from a tropical to an arctic climate in just a few days. The encircling rain forest ensures the fertility of the lower lying shambas and is rich in birdlife. Above the rain forest lies the Alpine Meadow, a beautiful moorland, offering many splendid views. Exotic plants such as the giant Lobelia and the fork-like Groundsel are to be seen.

The latter blooming once every 50 – 70 years. Leaving the Alpine Meadow we reach the Alpine Desert and eventually the "snows of Kilimanjaro".

Mt. Kilimanjaro by the Shira Route

The Shira Plateau is one of the most fascinating and scenic areas on Kilimanjaro. It is well worth a visit just to explore the ridges and moorland. However, the road to Shira is only accessible by 4-wheel-drive vehicles and can become impassable during wet periods.

The drive to and from Shira offers magnificent views of the Great Rift Valley, studded with mountains. Among them Mt. Meru and Longido are especially prominent. The Shira zone of parasitic cones extends along to the north of the road, from plain to plateau. The vegetation changes along the track are striking. The plateau is grassland, heath and moor, with especially large senecios (up to 10 meters high) in valleys near the Cone. Elands can often be seen on the plateau, and you may see signs of buffaloes, leopards and other animals.

The Shira Cone rises about 200 meters above the plateau. Beyond it, to the west, is the Shira Ridge, a steep rise reaching almost 400 meters above plateau level at its trig point. The southern ridge of the Shira Plateau has two dramatic peaks called Cathedral and the Needle.

Shira Route then Uhuru Point by the Arrow Glacier This is a really steep, hard but short route to the summit from Arrow Glacier Camp which is itself reached in about 4 hours from the Barranco Hut. From December to February crampons and ice axes may be needed.

Option 1 without additional acclimatisation day

Day 1 Moshi (915 m/3,000 ft)

Arrive at the Kilimanjaro International Airport. You will be met at the airport and transferred to the Springlands Hotel or similar hotel in Moshi for your overnight.

Day 2 Moshi (915 m/3,000 ft) to Shira Gate (1,830 m/6,000 ft) to Shira Camp 2 (3,840 m/12,600 ft) 18 km, 5-7 hours Montane Forest

After breakfast and a briefing from your guide, leave Moshi and drive for several hours to the Shira Gate on the western side of Kilimanjaro, register with the national park. Begin hiking, and enter the rainforest immediately. Your walk through the rainforest is on a winding muddy trail up a ridge. At these lower elevations, it can be wet and muddy, so gaiters and

trekking poles will help. Stop halfway for lunch, and reach the Shira Camp in the afternoon. Unpack, rest, and have some tea or coffee. Dinner is served during the early evening at 7 PM.

Day 3 Shira Camp 2 (3,840 m/12,600 ft) to Lava Tower (4,630 m/15,190 ft) to Barranco Camp (3,950 m/12,960 ft) 15 km, 7 hours Semi-Desert

After breakfast, you will hike east up a steepening path above the highest vegetation toward Kilimanjaro's looming mass. After several hours, you walk through a rocky landscape to reach the prominent landmark called Lava Tower at 4,630 m/15,190 ft. This chunky remnant of Kilimanjaro's earlier volcanic activity is several hundred feet high, and the trail passes right below it. For extra credit, the sure-footed can scramble to the top of the tower. After a lunch stop near Lava Tower, descend for 2 hours below the lower cliffs of the Western Breach and Breach Wall to Barranco Camp at 3,950 m/12,960 ft. There are numerous photo opportunities on this hike, especially if the walls are festooned with ice. Barranco Camp is in a valley below the Breach and Great Barranco Walls, which should provide you with a memorable sunset while you wait for your dinner. On this day, be careful to notice any signs of altitude sickness.

Day 4 Barranco Camp (3,900 m/12,800 ft) to Karanga Camp (4,200 m/13,780 ft) 7 km, 4 hours Alpine Desert

After breakfast, we continue up a steep ridge to the great Barranco Wall, then you climb this imposing obstacle, which turns out to be easier than it looks. Topping out just below the Heim Glacier, you can now appreciate just how beautiful Kilimanjaro really is. With Kibo's glaciers soaring overhead, you descend into the lush Karanga Valley to the Karanga Valley campsite. From the camp, you can look east and see the jagged peaks of Mawenzi jutting into the African sky. After a hot lunch in camp, your afternoon is at leisure for resting or exploring. After two long days, this short day is very important for your acclimatization, since your summit push is about to start.

Day 5 Karanga Camp (4,200 m/13,780 ft) to Barafu Camp (4,550 m/14,930 ft) 13 km, 8 hours Alpine Desert

In the morning, you hike east over intervening ridges and valleys to join the Mweka Route, which will be your descent route. Turn left toward the mountain and hike up the ridge through a sparse landscape for another hour to the Barafu Hut where you will receive a hot lunch. The last water on the route is in the Karanga Valley; there is no water at Barafu Camp, even though Barafu is the Swahili word for "ice." The famous snows of Kilimanjaro are far above Barafu

Camp near the summit of the mountain. Your tent will be pitched on a narrow, stony, wind-swept ridge, so make sure that you familiarize yourself with the terrain before dark to avoid any accidents. Prepare your equipment and warm clothing for your summit climb, and drink a lot of fluids. After an early dinner, go to bed for a few hours of precious sleep.

Day 6 Summit Day! Barafu Camp (4,550 m/14,930 ft) to Uhuru Peak (5,895 m/19,340 ft) to Mweka Camp (3,100 m/10,170 ft) 7 km up, 23 km down 8 hours up, 7-8 hours down Scree and seasonal snow

You will rise around 11:30 PM, and after some steaming tea and biscuits, you shuffle off into the night. Your 6-hour climb northwest up through heavy scree between the Rebmann and Ratzel glaciers to Stella Point on the crater rim is the most challenging part of the route for most climbers. At Stella Point (5,685 m/18,650 ft) you stop for a short rest and a chance to see a supremely sanguine sunrise. At Stella Point you join the top part of the Marangu Route, but do not stop here too long, as it will be extremely difficult to start again due to cold and fatigue. Depending on the season and recent storms, you may encounter snow on your remaining hike along the rim to Uhuru Peak. On the summit, you can enjoy your accomplishment and know that you are creating a day that you will remember for the rest of your life. After your 3-hour descent from the summit back to Barafu Camp, you will have a well-earned but short rest, collect your gear, and hike down a rock and scree path into the moorland and eventually into the forest to Mweka Camp (3,100 m/10,170 ft). This camp is in the upper forest, so you can expect mist or rain in the late afternoon. Dinner, and washing water will be prepared, and the camp office sells drinking water, soft drinks, chocolates, and beer!

Day 7 Mweka Camp (3,100 m/10,170 ft) to Mweka Gate (1,980 m/6,500 ft) to Moshi (890 m/2,920 ft) 15 km, 3 hours Forest

After a well-deserved breakfast, it is a short, scenic, 3-hour hike back to the park gate. Don't give your porters any tips until you and all your gear have reached the gate safely, but do remember to tip your staff at the gate. At Mweka Gate, you can sign your name and add details in a register. This is also where successful climbers receive their summit certificates. Climbers who reached Stella Point are issued green certificates and those who reached Uhuru Peak receive gold certificates. From the Mweka Gate, you will continue down to the Mweka Village, possibly a muddy, 3 km, 1 hour hike if the road is too muddy for vehicles. In the Mweka Village you will be served a delicious hot lunch after which you are driven back to Moshi for an overdue hot shower and comfortable

night in our Springlands Hotel or similar hotel.

Day 8 Moshi

Depart for the airport or other destinations in Tanzania or Kenya. A trip to the beaches at Zanzibar is a good way to recuperate. We can arrange many reasonably priced trips and safaris around Moshi and the Kilimanjaro region.

Option 2 with extra acclimatisation day

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Day 4 Barranco Camp (3,900 m/12,800 ft) Extra Day for Acclimatization

Adding this day will ease your effort, and amplify your acclimatization.

Day 5 Barranco Camp (3,900 m/12,800 ft) to Karanga Camp (4,200 m/13,780 ft) 7 km, 4 hours Alpine Desert

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Day 9 Moshi

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Climbing certificates are issued by the Kilimanjaro National Park for successful climbers.

The Various climbs include:

- Springlands Hotel on the first and last night on B&B basis
- Transportation from Moshi to the starting point and return to Moshi
- National Park gate fees
- Hut fees / Camping fees
- Rescue fees / Park Commission
- Guides & Porters salaries
- All meals on mountain
- Government tax

For sodas and other drinks bring smaller Tanzanian bank notes with you, change is scarce on the mountain

Important Points of Interest on Mount Kilimanjaro (Approximate Altitudes in Meters)

- Machame Village 1200
- Umbwe Village 1200
- Mweka Village 1200
- Marangu Gate 1800
- Machame Gate 1828
- Mandara Hut 2743
- Machame Hut 3100
- Mweka Hut 3100
- Horombo Hut 3657
- Shira Hut 3840
- Barranco 3900
- Karanga Valley 4200
- Wedge 4590
- Barafu 4600
- Kibo Hut 4709
- Arrow Glacier 4850
- Gillman's Point 5681
- Great West Notch 5686
- Stella Point 5745
- Uhuru Peak 5895

Make the ascent in a pace that suits you do not rush and rest frequently.

Make Sure that you drink at least 3 – 4 liters of liquid a day, preferably water. The water on the mountain is safe to drink. Take a sip every now and then. You will lose a large amount of fluid through the lungs and by sweating.

Mount Kilimanjaro climbing check list

Documents

- Passport
- Yellow fever certificate
- Entrance visa
- Medical insurance

Clothing

- Jersey
- Waterproof jacket
- Water proof pants
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Jeans
- Warm jacket
- Thermal underwear
- Balaclava
- Gloves

- Sunglasses
- Woolen socks
- Hiking boots
- Light shoes
- Cap/hat
- Towel
- Underwear
- Socks

Equipment

- Sleeping bag
- Day pack
- Water bottle
- Toilet paper
- Torch and batteries
- Pocket knife

Food

- Energy drinks
- Chocolate
- Sweets
- Fruit
- Nuts
- Energy snacks

Photographic

- Camera
- Spare batteries
- Film
- Different lenses
- Video camera
- Binoculars
- Video tapes

First aid/medical

- Aspirin
- Assorted plasters
- Sun protection cream
- Anti malaria tablets
- Insect repellent
- Lip salve
- Water purification tablets
- Antiseptic cream
- Bandages
- Adhesive tape
- Throat lozenges

Personal items

- Toothbrush & paste
- Matches
- Candles
- Soap
- Address book
- Travelers cheques

- Travel insurance

Miscellaneous

- Walking stick
- Notebook
- Pens
- Plastic bags
- Pencils
- Cash dollars (smaller bills)
- Alcohol

TIPPING GUIDELINES:

Chief Guide: US\$15 PER DAY,
Assistant Guide: US\$10 - US\$12 PER DAY,
Cook: US\$ 5 - US\$10 PER DAY,
Porters: 8 - 10 PER DAY.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ONLY
GUIDELINES AND TIPS CAN BE GIVEN
ACCORDING TO SERVICES GIVEN TO
CLIENTS.

"TIPS ARE HIGHLY APPRECIATED AT THE
END OF THE TRIP!!"

Important: Before you travel please check your **Tour Voucher** and **Arrival Information** for the latest joining instructions. This will be sent to you upon receipt of final payment. **All itineraries are subject to change without prior notice.**