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KILIMANJARO · LINDO TRAVEL & TOURS

6 Days Kilimanjaro Climbing via Machame Route – The Whiskey Route Adventure

Machame Route · 6 days

6 Days Kilimanjaro Climbing via Machame Route, one of the most scenic and adventurous ways to reach the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain at 5,895 metres above sea level. Popularly known as the Whiskey Route, Machame is famous for its breathtaking landscapes, diverse ecological zones, and spectacular mountain views.

Your journey takes you through lush tropical rainforests, beautiful moorlands, the expansive Shira Plateau, and the dramatic alpine desert. Along the way, you will experience some of Kilimanjaro's most iconic landmarks, including the impressive Lava Tower and the famous Barranco Wall. Accompanied by experienced mountain guides and a dedicated support crew, you will gradually make your way towards the summit of Uhuru Peak.

The adventure reaches its climax with an unforgettable midnight summit attempt, where you will climb towards Stella Point before continuing to Uhuru Peak (5,895m). Standing on the Roof of Africa is an extraordinary achievement and a moment you will remember for a lifetime. With professional mountain support, freshly prepared meals, and comfortable mountain camping arrangements, Lindo Travel & Tours will make your Kilimanjaro climbing experience memorable and rewarding.

Arrival

ARRIVAL

Arrival Day: Welcome to Tanzania

Upon arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO), you will be warmly welcomed by our Lindo Travel & Tours representative and transferred to your hotel in Moshi or Arusha. Depending on your arrival time, you can relax and enjoy the surroundings of your accommodation.

Later, you will meet your professional mountain guide for a pre-climb briefing, equipment check, and final preparations for your upcoming Mount Kilimanjaro adventure. Your guide will explain the trekking schedule, altitude considerations, and important safety guidelines. Enjoy a relaxing evening and a good night's rest before beginning your six-day climb via the famous Machame Route.

Arrival accommodation options

Midrange: Panama Garden Resort

Day-by-day itinerary

DAY 1

Moshi - Machame Gate to Machame Camp (3,010m)



Your Kilimanjaro adventure begins with breakfast at your hotel before meeting your mountain guide and driving to Machame Gate, the starting point of the famous Machame Route. Upon arrival, you will complete the park registration formalities while your mountain crew organizes the equipment and prepares for the climb. After a short briefing, you will begin your trek towards Machame Camp.

Today's trail takes you through the beautiful tropical rainforest, where towering trees, lush vegetation, and the sounds of mountain wildlife create an exciting introduction to Mount Kilimanjaro. The path gradually climbs through the forest, with occasional muddy and slippery sections, particularly during the rainy season. Your guide will maintain a comfortable walking pace to help you settle into the trekking rhythm.

After approximately 5–7 hours of hiking, you will reach Machame Camp (3,010m), situated near the upper edge of the rainforest. Your mountain crew will have prepared your campsite, and you will enjoy a freshly cooked dinner before resting for the night.

Elevation: 1,800m to 3,010m

Distance: Approximately 11km

Hiking time: 5–7 hours

Accommodation options

Standard: Machame Camp

DAY 2

Machame Camp to Shira Camp (3,840m)



After breakfast, you will leave Machame Camp and continue ascending through the beautiful heath and moorland vegetation. The trail becomes steeper as you climb along rocky ridges, gradually leaving the dense rainforest behind. As you gain altitude, the vegetation changes, revealing giant heathers, unique mountain plants, and increasingly impressive views of the surrounding landscape.

Today's trek takes you towards the spectacular Shira Plateau, one of the most beautiful sections of the Machame Route. Along the way, you will enjoy breathtaking views of Mount Meru and the western slopes of Kilimanjaro, weather permitting. The open landscape provides excellent opportunities for photography as you approach the higher mountain environment.

After approximately 4–6 hours of trekking, you will arrive at Shira Camp (3,840m), where your mountain crew will welcome you and prepare your evening meal. Enjoy the magnificent mountain scenery, relax at camp, and get ready for the next stage of your Kilimanjaro adventure.

Elevation: 3,010m to 3,840m

Distance: Approximately 5km

Hiking time: 4–6 hours

Accommodation options

Standard: Shira Camp

DAY 3

Shira Camp to Lava Tower to Barranco Camp (3,960m)



After breakfast, you will leave Shira Camp and continue trekking eastwards across the spectacular alpine landscape towards Lava Tower. Today's route gradually ascends through a semi-desert environment, offering impressive views of Kilimanjaro's volcanic formations and rugged mountain terrain. As you gain altitude, the air becomes thinner, making it important to walk slowly, stay hydrated, and follow your guide's instructions.

One of the highlights of today's trek is reaching Lava Tower (approximately 4,630m), a dramatic volcanic rock formation that provides an important acclimatization opportunity. Here, you will stop for lunch and spend some time at a higher elevation before beginning the descent towards Barranco Camp. This climb-high, sleep-low approach is an important part of altitude acclimatization on Mount Kilimanjaro.

After approximately 6–8 hours of trekking, you will descend into the beautiful Barranco Valley, arriving at Barranco Camp (3,960m). The campsite is surrounded by impressive mountain scenery, including the famous Barranco Wall. Enjoy dinner prepared by your mountain crew and rest overnight as you prepare for one of the most exciting sections of the Machame Route.

Elevation: 3,840m to 4,630m, descending to 3,960m

Distance: Approximately 10km

Hiking time: 6–8 hours

Accommodation: Barranco Camp

Accommodation options

Standard: Barranco Camp

DAY 4

Barranco Camp to Barafu Camp (4,673m)



After breakfast, your day begins with an exciting ascent of the famous Barranco Wall, one of the most memorable sections of the Machame Route. Although it looks intimidating from the campsite, the climb involves a series of manageable rocky sections that require careful footing and occasional use of your hands for balance. With guidance from your experienced mountain crew, you will gradually make your way to the top, where spectacular views of the surrounding mountain landscape await.

After conquering the Barranco Wall, you will continue through beautiful alpine terrain towards the Karanga Valley. The trail features several ups and downs as you cross ridges and valleys before joining the path leading towards Barafu Camp. This is a demanding day because the usual Karanga Camp overnight stop is skipped on the six-day itinerary, making the trek longer and more physically challenging.

Eventually, you will reach Barafu Camp (4,673m), your final base camp before the summit attempt. Upon arrival, you will enjoy an early dinner and receive a detailed briefing from your guide about the midnight ascent. Prepare your warm clothing, headlamp, and summit equipment before getting some rest. The next stage of your journey will take you to the highest point in Africa.

Elevation: 3,960m to 4,673m
Distance: Approximately 8–9km
Hiking time: 7–9 hours
Accommodation: Barafu Camp

Accommodation options

Standard: Barafu Camp

DAY 5

Barafu Camp to Uhuru Peak (5,895m) to Mweka Camp (3,100m)



Your summit adventure begins around midnight after a light snack and hot drinks. Equipped with warm clothing, headlamps, and determination, you will begin the challenging ascent towards Stella Point (5,756m) on the crater rim. The trail follows a steep path across volcanic scree and rocky terrain, requiring patience, endurance, and a slow, steady walking pace. Your experienced guides will support and encourage you throughout this demanding climb.

As the first light of dawn appears over the African horizon, you will continue from Stella Point towards Uhuru Peak (5,895m), the highest point in Africa. Reaching the famous summit sign is an extraordinary achievement, rewarding your determination with breathtaking views of the surrounding glaciers and the vast African landscape. Take photographs, celebrate your accomplishment, and enjoy this unforgettable moment on the Roof of Africa, weather and conditions permitting.

After spending some time at the summit, you will begin your descent towards Barafu Camp for a short rest before continuing down to Mweka Camp (3,100m). This is a long and physically demanding day, but arriving at Mweka Camp marks the successful completion of your summit adventure. Enjoy a well-deserved dinner and overnight rest after an incredible achievement.

Elevation: 4,673m to 5,895m, descending to 3,100m
Distance: Approximately 15–17km
Hiking time: 12–16 hours
Accommodation: Mweka Camp

Accommodation options

Luxury: Mweka Camp

DAY 6

Mweka Camp to Mweka Gate (1,640m) – Return to Moshi

After breakfast at Mweka Camp, you will begin your final descent through the beautiful tropical rainforest towards Mweka Gate. The trail takes you through lush vegetation, towering trees, and the peaceful surroundings of Kilimanjaro's lower slopes. Having experienced the mountain's different ecological zones over the past several days, you can now enjoy the final part of your trekking adventure at a more relaxed pace.

The descent generally takes approximately 3–4 hours, depending on your walking pace and trail conditions. Upon reaching Mweka Gate, you will complete the official park checkout procedures and receive your Kilimanjaro summit certificate, depending on the highest point you successfully reached. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your achievement with your mountain guides and support crew.

After completing your Kilimanjaro adventure, our driver will meet you for a transfer back to your hotel in Moshi or Arusha. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon and reflect on your incredible journey to Uhuru Peak, one of the greatest trekking achievements in Africa.

Elevation: 3,100m to 1,640m

Distance: Approximately 10km

Hiking time: 3–4 hours

Accommodation options

Midrange: Panama Garden Resort

Departure

DEPARTURE

Departure Day: Farewell Tanzania

After breakfast at your hotel, enjoy your final moments in Tanzania before checking out. Depending on your flight schedule, our driver can transfer you to Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) for your onward journey home or to your next destination. Take with you unforgettable memories of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and conquering Africa's highest peak with Lindo Travel & Tours.

Trip details

Included

- Experienced mountain guides and support crew
- Mountain accommodation and meals
- Park, rescue and camping fees as specified
- Safety briefing and basic medical checks
- Transfers to and from the mountain gate

Not included

- International flights and visas
- Personal trekking gear and expenses
- Tips for mountain crew
- Travel insurance and evacuation cover