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KILIMANJARO · LINDO TRAVEL & TOURS

7 Days Kilimanjaro Climbing via Machame Route – The Ultimate Summit Adventure

Machame Route · 7 days

Experience the unforgettable adventure of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro via the 7-day Machame Route, popularly known as the Whiskey Route. This scenic trail offers an exciting journey through different ecological zones, from lush tropical rainforest and open moorland to the spectacular Shira Plateau and rugged alpine desert.

Over seven days, you will gradually ascend towards Uhuru Peak (5,895m), the highest point in Africa. The itinerary includes an important acclimatization day at Karanga Camp, allowing you more time to adjust to the increasing altitude before reaching Barafu Camp for your summit attempt. Along the way, you will experience iconic landmarks such as Lava Tower and the famous Barranco Wall.

Accompanied by experienced mountain guides, professional porters and a dedicated mountain crew, you will enjoy freshly prepared meals, comfortable mountain camping and support throughout the expedition. Whether you are an experienced trekker or taking on your first major mountain challenge, the 7-day Machame Route offers a rewarding opportunity to stand on the Roof of Africa.

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, enjoy the hotel facilities and prepare for your upcoming mountain adventure.

Later, you will meet your professional mountain guide for a pre-climb briefing, equipment inspection and final preparations. Your guide will walk you through the trekking schedule, altitude considerations, safety procedures and important tips for a successful climb.

Enjoy a relaxing evening and a good night's rest before beginning your seven-day journey 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 after breakfast at your hotel in Moshi. You will meet your mountain guide and drive 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 everything for the climb. Once preparations are complete, you will begin trekking towards Machame Camp.

Today's trail takes you through the beautiful tropical rainforest, where towering trees, lush vegetation, colourful wildflowers 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 adjust to the mountain environment.

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 the campsite, and you will enjoy a freshly cooked dinner before settling in for your first night on the mountain.

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. As the forest disappears behind you, the landscape opens into wide mountain scenery, with impressive views of Mount Meru and the western slopes of Kilimanjaro, weather permitting. You will have opportunities to appreciate the changing environment and capture memorable photographs along the way.

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 options

Standard: Barranco Camp

DAY 4

Barranco Camp to Karanga Camp (3,995m)



After breakfast, your day begins with an exciting climb up the famous Barranco Wall, one of the most memorable sections of the Machame Route. From the campsite, the wall looks impressive, but the ascent is manageable with careful footing and guidance from your experienced mountain crew. You will navigate rocky sections, occasionally using your hands for balance, while enjoying spectacular views of the surrounding valleys and mountain slopes.

Once you reach the top of Barranco Wall, you will continue across a series of beautiful ridges and valleys towards Karanga Camp. The trail features several short ascents and descents, with breathtaking views of the southern glaciers and the towering summit of Kilimanjaro. Your guide will maintain a steady pace and allow sufficient time for rest stops along the way.

After approximately 4–5 hours of trekking, you will arrive at Karanga Camp (3,995m). This additional overnight stop is an important feature of the seven-day Machame itinerary, providing more time for acclimatization before the final ascent to Barafu Camp. Enjoy a warm meal, relax at camp and prepare for the next stage of your climb.

Elevation: 3,960m to 3,995m

Distance: Approximately 5km

Hiking time: 4–5 hours

Accommodation options

Standard: Karanga Camp

DAY 5

Karanga Camp to Barafu Camp (4,673m)



After breakfast, you will leave Karanga Camp and continue ascending through the dry alpine desert towards Barafu Camp, your final base camp before the summit attempt. The trail gradually climbs across rocky terrain, with impressive views of the surrounding mountain landscape. Although today's trek is relatively short, the increasing altitude makes it important to maintain a slow and steady walking pace.

As you approach Barafu Camp, the vegetation becomes increasingly sparse, and the landscape takes on a dramatic high-altitude appearance. Upon arrival at camp (4,673m), you will have completed the southern circuit of Mount Kilimanjaro, enjoying remarkable views of both Mawenzi and Kibo peaks. Your mountain crew will prepare a warm meal while you take time to rest and recover.

In the afternoon, your guide will provide a detailed briefing about the summit attempt, explaining the route, expected weather conditions and safety precautions. You will prepare your warm clothing, headlamp, trekking poles and other essential equipment before enjoying an early dinner. Try to get as much rest as possible, as your journey towards Uhuru Peak will begin around midnight.

Elevation: 3,995m to 4,673m

Distance: Approximately 4km

Hiking time: 4–5 hours

Accommodation options

Standard: Barafu Camp

DAY 6

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 celebrating at the summit, you will begin the descent towards Barafu Camp, where you will take a short break before continuing down to Mweka Camp (approximately 3,100m). The descent can be physically demanding after the summit climb, but your guides will help you maintain a comfortable pace. Upon arrival, enjoy a well-deserved dinner and your final night on Mount Kilimanjaro.

Elevation: 4,673m to 5,895m, descending to approximately 3,100m
Distance: Approximately 17km
Hiking time: 10–14 hours

Accommodation options

Standard: Mweka Camp

DAY 7

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



After breakfast at Mweka Camp, you will begin your final descent through the beautiful tropical rainforest towards Mweka Gate. The trail passes through lush vegetation, tall trees and rich forest surroundings, offering a completely different atmosphere from the dry alpine landscapes you experienced during the upper sections of the climb.

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, a well-earned shower and some time to 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 arrange a transfer to Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) for your onward journey home or to your next destination.

Take with you unforgettable memories of the mountain, the friendships made along the trail and the incredible achievement of reaching the Roof of Africa 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