



Earthbound Expeditions

Mt Meru and Kilimanjaro Machermo Climb

13 days, from US\$3,471 per person

Duration
13 days

Group size
Unlimited People

Country
Tanzania

Conquering the Highest peak in Africa

Day by day

Day 1

Transfer from Kilimanjaro International Airport to Moshi

Transfer from Kilimanjaro International Airport to Moshi (time and flight details to be confirmed). Pre-climb briefing on trek and overnight Moshi.

Altitude: 890 m On foot: None, arrival day Night: Hotel, Moshi Meals: Dinner

Day 3

Trek to Saddle Hut

Trek to Saddle Hut, Continue through the forest, steeply climbing than the previous day and the path winds up through the rainforest. If it has been raining, some of the steeper sections may be muddy and care must be taken. A clearing in the trees on Elephant Ridge offers great views to the summit and down into the crater. We continue upwards through grassy clearings to reach Saddle Hut (3570m), on a wide col between the slopes of Meru and Little Meru. The short walk to the summit of Little Meru is rewarding for the views across to Meru's summit, Overnight at Saddle Hut. (3570m)

Altitude: 3,570 m On foot: 3–4 hrs Night: Hut, Saddle Hut Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4

Sunrise at Mt Meru–Miriakamba Hut

Sunrise at Mt Meru, After a quick breakfast at about 2 Am, we start the walk to the summit by the light of Our head torches, with the aim of watching the sunrise over the africa's highest mountain Kilimanjaro and the African plains from the top. After about an hour we reach Rhino Point, from where there are great views across to Kili and down to the base of the ash cone. From Rhino Point there is a short scramble across rocks on to the crater rim. Summit about 7 am. After signing the summit register, under the Tanzanian flag, we take some time out to enjoy the sunshine on the summit and then begin the long descent to Miriakamba Hut. A long day, but excellent preparation for the bigger climb to come Return to Miriakamba Hut (2470m)

Altitude: 4,566 m at Socialist Peak On foot: 10–12 hrs Night: Hut, Miriakamba Hut Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5

Meru Gate–Moshi

Breakfast head down to the Meru Gate where we collect the Certificate then drive to Aurisa National park for Game drive. Evening arrive at the Moshi.

Altitude: 890 m On foot: 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Moshi Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6

Machame park–Machame Camp

Introduction to your head guide for the climb at the Mountain Inn reception. You will then drive to the Machame park gates from Mountain Inn, journey time of 40 minutes; taking you to and altitude of 1800m above sea level at the south western slopes of Kili. Here you will complete the necessary registration formalities (registering passport numbers, receiving permits, etc.) and also meet the rest of your support team. The days hike takes you through the mountains rain forest zone, filled with resident flora and fauna as well as interesting scenery along your route. Picnics stop in between, and continue trekking till Machame campsite at 3000m. The days trekking usually takes 5–7 hours. Dinner will be served at the campsite. Overnight Machame Camp

Altitude: 3,000 m On foot: 5–7 hrs Night: Tented camp, Machame Camp Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7

Shira plateau-Shira Camp

Breakfast. Today you set off towards the Shira plateau, leaving the forest behind and entering the heather and moorland zone, where temperatures can drop to below 0C. Most precipitation is from the fog and mist at this altitude. You trek along a ridge of volcanic rock with a short scramble up a rock 'wall' close to the plateau. A picnic lunch stop at Picnic rock (3600m) and onwards past Shira caves till Shira Campsite at 3800m. A photogenic end to your day with the Shira Ridge to the West, its three pinnacles pointing skywards (Shira Needle, Shira cathedral and East Shira hill). To the east you may see Kibo's Western Breach and its glaciers. On clear days you should also be able to see Mount Meru in the distance, towards the south west. The days trekking usually takes 5-7 hours. Dinner will be served at the campsite. Overnight Shira Camp

Altitude: 3,800 m On foot: 5-6 hrs Night: Tented camp, Shira Camp Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8

Shira-Kibo-Barranco Camp

Breakfast. From Shira your route turns sharply east and heads directly towards Kibo and its Western Breach. You enter the Alpine zone today, which receives limited water, has cold night-time temperatures and intense daytime sun, climbing steadily to a high point of 4530m, close to the distinctive Lava Tower with spectacular views of the surrounding cliffs and rock formations throughout the days hike. You will have your picnic lunch along your route and then spend the final few hours of the day descending steeply to the great Barranco (valley) ending at an altitude of 3950m, only 150m higher than your starting point, nonetheless, you will have climbed and descended 680m, increasing your body's ability to adjust to the decreasing air oxygen levels. You should be ready for a hard-earned sleep. The days trekking usually takes 5-7 hours. Dinner will be served. Overnight Barranco Camp

Altitude: 3,950 m On foot: 6-7 hrs Night: Tented camp, Barranco Camp Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9

Barranco Wall-Kibo-Karanga Camp

Breakfast. Today's day is designed to assist the acclimatisation process further. A steep climb up the Barranco Wall leads you through a trail on the south-eastern side of Kibo, with super views of the southern ice fields. You will remain in the Alpine zone today with terrain changing to scree, with very limited flora or fauna in site. A gain of only 300m for the day with picnic lunch en-route till Karanga campsite at 4200m which you should reach by early afternoon, to have time to rest for the next 24 hours which will probably be the longest day of your life! The days trekking usually takes 4 hours. Dinner will be served at the campsite. Overnight Karanga Camp

Altitude: 4,200 m On foot: 4 hrs Night: Tented camp, Karanga Camp Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10

Karanga-Mweka trail-Barafu Camp

Breakfast. This is the start for your summit attempt (which will be at Midnight tonight), you depart Karanga and continue along an easy path on compacted scree and steep parts over rocky slabs. Your path after the Karanga valley meets with the Mweka trail, which you will use for descent the following day, you turn left at the junction, heading up towards Barafu camp at 4600m. Picnic lunch will be en-route on this day. The days trekking usually takes 4-5 hours. Once you reach the campsite, the chef will prepare your 'last meal' around mid-afternoon. It is recommended to sleep after dinner until your guides wake you for the summit attempt around Midnight. Overnight Barafu Camp

Altitude: 4,600 m On foot: 4-5 hrs Night: Tented camp, Barafu Camp Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11

Stella Point-Machame route-Mweka Camp

At Midnight (00:00am) you will be woken by your guides for the summit attempt. The early start allows you to reach the summit for around sunrise, and still give you time to descend in the daylight. You will walk in single file, ascending in a zigzag pattern (because of the steepness) through the scree and entering the arctic zone of the mountain. The climb to Stella Point is probably the most daunting section of the Machame route, mainly because of the altitude, darkness, and many hours of walking prior to this, however there are no technical difficulties. Keep pushing forward and consult the guides regarding any altitude sickness, they are trained to notice symptoms of mild, medium and high altitude sickness and will be able to advise you if you can continue ascending, or if you should stop and descend. Determination will take you to Stella point at 5730m. Here you will take a short rest and those who are still feeling strong can continue to Uhuru Peak at 5895m passing spectacular glaciers and ice cliffs that are the only residents in the Zone. At Uhuru peak (one you take the pictures with the sign board) you will not stay for long, our guides advise on a maximum of 10-15 minutes, then you should begin your descent to Mweka. The scree feels very loose underneath you and you may find it is harder to descend than to ascend. Two walking poles come in use here and the guides can also show you a trick to almost 'ski' down. You follow the same path you had used to ascend until Barafu campsite where you will have a hot lunch. Continue descending till the Mweka junction where you take the path leading to Mweka and descend through the heather and moorland until the top of the forest where Mweka camp lies at 3000m. The walk from Barafu to Stella usually takes around 5-6 hours, the walk to Uhuru a further 1-2 hours and the descent to Mweka around 5-7 hours. Dinner will be served at Mweka camp. Enjoy a well-earned rest for the night. Overnight Mweka Camp

Altitude: 5,895 m at Uhuru Peak On foot: 13-15 hrs Night: Tented camp, Mweka Camp Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 12

Mweka camp-Moshi

Breakfast. This will be your final day on the mountain. You leave Mweka camp and trek south through the Mountains forest until Mweka gate. Picnic lunch will be en-route on this day. Once you reach the gate, your support team should be waiting to congratulate/ say goodbye to the group. This is a perfect opportunity for anybody to hand any tips to the team. If lucky the guides and porters will sing the 'Kilimanjaro song' say their goodbyes and introduce you to your driver who will transfer you back to Mountain Inn. On arrival collect your room keys and enjoy a warm shower (after 6 days of not showering). Rest for the rest of the day until dinner is served. Overnight Moshi

Altitude: 890 m On foot: 10 km, 3-4 hrs Night: Hotel, Moshi Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 13

Departure

Breakfast. End of our services, We will drop you to the airport and final departure.

Altitude: 890 m On foot: None, departure day Night: No overnight Meals: Breakfast

What's included

- 3 nights' accommodation on full board basis
- Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA) and Mt Meru conservation fees (entry fees)
- Kilimanjaro National Park compulsory rescue fees
- Kilimanjaro National Park camping fees

Not included

- Tips / gratuities
- International Flight In and out
- Additional transfers from park gates to Moshi
- Extra nights' accommodation
- Beverages such as soft drinks, alcohol etc.

- Trained and certified English speaking guide/s
- Trained and certified porters (1 porter per person for personal mountain luggage of 15kg max.)
- Trained and certified cook / chef, utensils, cutlery, crockery etc.
- All meals on the mountain on full board basis
- Camping chairs, tables, dining tent
- light dome tent per two passengers sharing
- Four or three season light dome single tent for tour leader
- 1 Transfer from Moshi to park gates per group
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- Safe and luggage storage at Mountain Inn while on trek
- Boiled drinking water on trek
- Basic first aid kit per group
- Additional day for acclimatization in Karanga
- 1 x JRO – Moshi transfer
- Metal water bottles, water bladders etc. (please note: no soft plastics are permitted on the mountain)
- Items of personal nature