Hilltop Travel Kilimanjaro Trekking

7 Days Machame Route

The Machame Route, also known as the Whisky Route, is one of the most scenic and recommended routes on Kilimanjaro. This popular route winds through magnificent forests to gain a ridge, leading through the moorland zones to the Shira Plateau. It then traverses beneath the glaciated precipices of the Southern Ice Fields before joining the Barafu Route to the summit. Because it can be completed over a longer period and the incline is more manageable, it has a much higher summit success rate.

Duration: 7 days

Difficulty: Medium

Scenery: Excellent

Traffic: High

DAY 1: MACHAME GATE – MACHAME CAMP

10.75 km / 7 mi | 5-6 hrs | Rainforest

Elevation: 1811m (5942ft) to 3021m (9911ft)

Altitude gained: 1210m

Departing from Moshi, a 45-minute drive will take you through the village of Machame to the Kilimanjaro National Park Gate. We will patiently wait for our permits to be issued while watching the hustle and bustle as many crews prepare for their journey. Enjoy the beautiful rainforest scenery and winding trails while your guide tells you about the local flora, fauna, and wildlife. At these lower elevations, the trail can be muddy and slippery, so gaiters and trekking poles are highly recommended.

DAY 2: MACHAME CAMP – SHIRA CAMP

5.3 km / 3 mi | 4-5 hrs | Moorland

Elevation: 3021m (9911ft) to 3839m (12,595ft)

Altitude gained: 818m

After a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast, we emerge from the rainforest and continue on an ascending path, crossing the valley along a steep rocky ridge. The route turns west and

follows a river gorge until we arrive at Shira Camp. Temperatures begin to drop as we gain altitude.

DAY 3: SHIRA CAMP – LAVA TOWER – BARRANCO CAMP

10.75 km / 6 mi | 5-6 hrs | Semi-Desert

Elevation: 3839m (12,595ft) to 3986m (13,077ft)

Altitude gained: 147m

Although we end the day at a similar elevation to where we began, this day is crucial for acclimatization. From Shira Plateau, we continue east up a ridge, passing the junction towards Kibo Peak, before heading southeast towards Lava Tower, also known as the "Shark's Tooth" (elevation: 4650m / 15,250ft). Shortly after the tower, we come to a second junction that leads to the Arrow Glacier. We then descend to Barranco Camp for the night.

DAY 4: BARRANCO CAMP – KARANGA CAMP

5.2 km / 3 mi | 3-4 hrs | Alpine Desert

Elevation: 3986m (13,077ft) to 4034m (13,235ft)

Altitude gained: 48m

After breakfast, we continue on a steep ridge up the adventurous Barranco Wall to the Karanga Valley, where we will join the junction that connects to the Mweka Trail. This is one of the most impressive days to see the power, agility, and strength of your crew as they zip over this wall with apparent ease. We will overnight at Karanga Camp.

DAY 5: HIKE KARANGA CAMP – BARAFU CAMP

3.3 km / 2 mi | 3-4 hrs | Alpine Desert

Elevation: 4034m (13,235ft) to 4662m (15,295ft)

Altitude gained: 628m

We continue upward toward Barafu Camp. Once we reach Barafu, we will have completed the South Circuit, which offers breathtaking views of the summit from many different angles. After an early dinner and some rest, we prepare for summit night. Overnight at Barafu Camp.

DAY 6: BARAFU CAMP – SUMMIT – MWEKA CAMP

4.86 km / 3 mi up | 5-7 hrs | – 11.5 km / 7.2 mi down | 5-6 hrs | Glaciers, Snow-Capped Summit

Elevation: 4662m (15,295ft) to 5895m (19,341ft)

Altitude gained: 1233m

Descent to: 3106m (10,190ft)

Altitude lost: 2789m

Excitement builds as we begin our summit attempt with an early start, between midnight and 2 a.m. This is the most mentally and physically challenging portion of the trek. We continue our way to the summit between the Rebmann and Ratzel glaciers, trying to stay warm and focused on the incredible sense of accomplishment that lies ahead. With switchbacks, we ascend through heavy scree towards Stella Point on the crater rim. At Stella Point, you will be rewarded with a magnificent sunrise during your short rest. Faster hikers may reach the summit in time to view the sunrise at Uhuru Peak. The remaining hour of the ascent to Uhuru Peak will likely involve snow all the way.

Congratulations! One step at a time, you have now reached Uhuru Peak, the highest point on Mount Kilimanjaro and the entire continent of Africa! After photos, celebrations, and perhaps a few tears of joy, we take a moment to appreciate this incredible achievement. We begin our steep descent to Mweka Camp, stopping at Barafu for lunch and a brief rest. We strongly recommend gaiters and trekking poles due to loose gravel and volcanic ash terrain. A well-deserved rest awaits you at Mweka Camp for your last night on the mountain.

DAY 7: MWEKA CAMP – MWEKA GATE – MOSHI

9.1 km / 6 mi | 3-4 hrs | Rainforest

Elevation: 3106m (10,190ft) to 1633m (5358ft)

Altitude lost: 1473m

After breakfast and a heartfelt ceremony of appreciation and team bonding with your crew, it's time to say goodbye. We continue our descent to the Mweka Park Gate, where you will receive your summit certificates. As the weather becomes significantly warmer, the terrain is wet, muddy, and steep, so gaiters and trekking poles are highly recommended.

Once at the gate, a vehicle will meet you at Mweka Village to drive you back to your hotel in Moshi (about 30 minutes). Enjoy a long-awaited hot shower, a celebratory dinner, and well-deserved relaxation!

Trekking Package Include

- ✅ Kilimanjaro trekking according to the itinerary
- ✅ Professional, English-speaking Wilderness First Responder & CPR certified Guide
- ✅ Proper Ration of Mountain crew (Cook & Porters)
- ✅ Airport Transfers
- ✅ Pre and Post accommodations (2 nights Bed and Breakfast)
- ✅ Meals according to the itinerary
- ✅ Drinking water and Full Board Meals
- ✅ All National Park & Hut Fees, Crew Permits and VAT
- ✅ Fair and Sustainable Salary Crew Wages
- ✅ Gate Transfers
- ✅ Complimentary Oxygen Cylinder
- ✅ Credit Card Transfer Fees

Trekking Package Exclude

- ❌ Flights
- ❌ Visa fees
- ❌ Travel or medical insurance is required, and you should ask for recommendations
- ❌ Gamow Bag
- ❌ Medication

❌Tips for porters and mountain crew (20% Guide, $15 Cook, $10 Porter, Industry Standard Recommended) (Group tip recommended)

❌Personal spending money for souvenirs, etc

❌Energy food & beverages, alcoholic and soft drinks

❌Personal hire gear such as trekking poles, sleeping bags, etc.

❌Additional lodge nights if early descent from the mountain

Tour Costing

Number of Pax: 7 include a Leader

Price Per Person: 1803 USD per person for 6 Climbers

Note: The price could be less but 6 climbers Cover all leader's fees