

Machame Route - Mount Kilimanjaro Climb – 6 Nights/7 Days

The second most popular and indeed one of the most beautiful routes up the mountain is the Machame Route. Also known as the Whisky Route, this trail is both longer and slightly more challenging than the Marangu Route. Where accommodation on the Marangu route is in huts, the Machame route offers strictly tents only. The route is better suited to the slightly more adventurous hiker, however rewarding him with a scenic splendor such as not seen on the Marangu route. Provided of its challenge about 80% of hiker makes to the summit of Africa.

DAY 1: Kilimanjaro International Airport – Moshi

On arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport, meet and greet with our representative before transferring to a hotel in Moshi, which sits at the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 2: Machame Gate- Machame camp

After Breakfast, your day starts early with a briefing, followed by breakfast and a 45-minute drive from Moshi (910m) to the Machame village (1490m). Depending on the condition of the road, it is possible to drive from the village to the Machame gate. After registering at the gate office, you start your ascent and enter the rain forest almost immediately.

You will have a welcome lunch stop about half way and will reach the Machame camping area in the late afternoon. Back to the camp by late evening, Dinner will be served before you retire to your tent for the night. Night temperatures can already drop to freezing point at this campsite.

DAY 3: Machame camp - Shira camp

You rise early at Machame camp and after breakfast you climb an hour or so to the top of the forest and then for 2 hours at a gentler gradient through the moorland zone. After a short lunch and rest, you continue up a rocky ridge onto the Shira plateau. By now you will be able to see in an easterly direction, the Western Breach with its stunning glaciers. You are now due west of Kibo and after a short hike you will reach the Shira campsite at 3 840m. Dinner at the camp. The night at this exposed camp will even be colder than the previous night, with temperatures dropping to well below freezing.

DAY 4: Shira Camp- Barranco camp

After Breakfast, start your journey towards Barranco Camp. The route now turns east into a semi desert and rocky landscape surrounding Lava Tower , where you reach an altitude of 4630m after about a 5 hours walk. Lunch is served in a designated area before ascending the rocky scree path to Lava Tower (4630m). Definitely the toughest day so far. After lunch you descent again by almost 680m to the Barranco camping area and after reaching the high altitude of 4600m at Lava Tower , the true acclimatisation benefit of this day becomes clear. This descent to Barranco camp takes about 2 hours and offers great opportunities to take some beautiful photographs of the Western Breach and Breach Wall. The camp is situated in a valley below the Breach and Great Barranco Wall, which should provide you with a memorable sunset while you wait for the preparation of your dinner.

DAY 5: Barranco camp -Barafu camp

After spending a night at the Great Barranco Wall (a very imposing sight at first), you make your way up this awesome looking obstacle, which in the end normally turns out easier than what you anticipated. Topping out just below the Heim Glacier, you now appreciate just how beautiful Kilimanjaro really is. The route then heads down through the Karanga Valley over intervening ridges and valleys, and then joins up with the Mweka route. This is the preferred route down from the summit, so remember it. Turn left up the ridge and after another hour or so, you reach Barafu Hut.

The last water stop on the route is the Karanga Valley, as there is no water at Barafu camp. Barafu is the Swahili word for "ice" and it is a bleak and inhospitable camping area to spend the night. Totally exposed to the ever-present gales the tents are pitched on a narrow, stony, and dangerous ridge. Make sure that you familiarise yourself with the terrain before dark to avoid any accidents. The summit is now a further 1345m up and you will make the final ascent the same night. Prepare your equipment, ski stick and thermal clothing for your summit attempt. This should include the replacement of your headlamp and camera batteries and make sure you have a spare set available as well. To prevent freezing it will be wise to carry your water in a thermal flask. Go to bed at round about 19h00 and try to get some precious rest and sleep.

DAY 6: Barafu camp- Moshi

A gentle trek takes us down through the rainforest to Mweka Gate where we complete park formalities and say goodbye to the mountain. Awaiting vehicles take us back to our hotel in Moshi where a welcome shower and celebration meal awaits.

DAY 7: Depart Moshi

After breakfast you will be transferred to the Airport for your departure flight back home or onward destinations.

Preferred Lodges

Destination	Lodges
Moshi	Cassablanca Lodge
Machame Gate	Machame camp
Shira	Shira camp
Barranco	Barranco camp
Barafu	Barafu camp