

# 8-Day Kilimanjaro Climb via Machame Route

📍 Mount Kilimanjaro Machame



The 8-day Machame Route [Kilimanjaro trek](#) is one of the most popular and rewarding ways to reach the summit of Africa's highest peak, Uhuru Peak, standing tall at 5,895 meters (19,341 feet). Known as the "Whiskey Route" due to its challenging and scenic nature, the Machame Route offers trekkers a breathtaking journey through diverse ecosystems, from lush rainforest to alpine desert and glacial landscapes. Over the course of eight days, climbers will experience gradual altitude acclimatization, increasing their chances of a successful summit while enjoying stunning panoramic views.

This extended itinerary provides a perfect balance between adventure and safety, allowing climbers to move at a comfortable pace with enough time to rest and adapt to the changing environment. Starting from the Machame Gate, you'll trek through dense tropical forests, where you may spot unique wildlife and vibrant flora. As the days progress, the trail climbs higher into the moorland zone and then to the rocky alpine desert, showcasing Kilimanjaro's incredible geological diversity.

One of the highlights of the [Machame Route](#) is the ascent to the Barranco Wall, a steep but thrilling scramble that rewards climbers with incredible views of the mountain's southern ice fields. The final push to the summit begins late at night, requiring determination and endurance as you hike through the darkness to catch the spectacular sunrise from Uhuru Peak.

Throughout the trek, experienced guides and porters support you every step of the way, ensuring safety and comfort. This 8-day Machame Route trek is perfect for adventurers seeking a challenging yet manageable climb, combining physical effort with unforgettable natural beauty. Prepare yourself for a once-in-a-lifetime experience as you stand atop the "Roof of Africa" and witness breathtaking vistas that will stay with you forever.

## Tour Facts

Group Size:  
**2-10**  
Duration:  
**8**

Language:  
**English, France, Germany, Spain**  
Tour Type:  
**continuous**

## Tour Itinerary

### Day 1 : Arrival + Transfer to Moshi



#### Welcome to Tanzania!

Upon arrival at **Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO)**, you'll be met by a friendly representative from our team and transferred to your hotel in **Moshi**, the gateway town to Mount Kilimanjaro.

After check-in, you'll have time to rest, explore the town at your leisure, or enjoy views of Kilimanjaro on a clear day. In the evening, you'll attend a **pre-trek briefing** conducted by your mountain guide. During this session, your guide will review the trek itinerary, perform an equipment check, and answer any last-minute questions to ensure you're fully prepared for the climb.

This night is crucial for relaxing and hydrating as your journey to the Roof of Africa begins tomorrow.

**Overnight:** Moshi (Kili Wonders Hotel or similar)

**Meals Included:** Dinner

Meals Included  
**DINNER,**

Duration  
**5 Hours**

### Day 2 : Moshi – Machame Gate – Machame Camp



**Hiking Time:** 5-7 hours

**Distance:** ~11 km

**Starting Elevation:** 1,800 m (5,905 ft)

**Ending Elevation:** 3,000 m (9,840 ft)

**Habitat:** Montane Forest

After an early breakfast at your hotel in Moshi, you'll be driven to **Machame Gate** (about 1 hour 30 minutes away), where your trek officially begins. Upon arrival, you'll complete the registration process with the Kilimanjaro National Park authorities while porters organize the supplies and gear.

The trek begins through lush **montane rainforest**, rich in biodiversity and home to blue monkeys, black-and-white colobus monkeys, and a wide variety of birdlife. The trail may be muddy and slippery, so trekking poles and gaiters are helpful.

As you gain elevation, the dense forest gives way to giant heathers and moorland vegetation. You'll

reach **Machame Camp** by late afternoon, where tents will be set up for you and hot meals will be served.

This first hiking day allows your body to begin adjusting to the altitude in a gradual and scenic way.

**Overnight:** Machame Camp (3,000 m)

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Meals Included <b>LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,</b>	Duration <b>6 Hours</b>
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### Day 3 : Machame Camp – Shira Cave Camp



**Hiking Time:** 4-6 hours  
**Distance:** ~5 km  
**Starting Elevation:** 3,000 m (9,840 ft)  
**Ending Elevation:** 3,840 m (12,600 ft)  
**Habitat:** Moorland

After breakfast, you’ll begin your ascent out of the rainforest and into the **moorland zone**. The landscape changes dramatically today—giant heathers and volcanic rock formations dominate the scenery. The trail becomes steeper and rockier, but the pace is kept slow to help with acclimatization.

You’ll pass several ridges and enjoy spectacular views of **Mount Meru** in the distance, as well as glimpses of Kibo Peak ahead. As you ascend, you’ll notice cooler temperatures and thinner air.

You’ll arrive at **Shira Cave Camp**, located on the Shira Plateau—one of Kilimanjaro’s three volcanic cones. This area was once an active volcano and now offers incredible panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and valleys.

In the afternoon, you’ll have time to rest, hydrate, and explore the area around camp. Your guide may take you on a short acclimatization hike for better altitude adjustment.

**Overnight:** Shira Cave Camp (3,840 m)

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Meals Included <b>LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,</b>	Duration <b>6 Hours</b>
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### Day 4 : Shira Camp → Lava Tower → Barranco Camp



**Hiking Time:** 6-8 hours  
**Distance:** ~10 km  
**Starting Elevation:** 3,840 m (12,600 ft)  
**Highest Elevation (Lava Tower):** 4,630 m (15,190 ft)  
**Ending Elevation:** 3,950 m (12,960 ft)  
**Habitat:** Alpine Desert

Today's trek takes you through a striking change in landscape as you leave the moorland zone and enter the high alpine desert. After a nourishing breakfast, you'll begin a steady ascent toward **Lava Tower**, a dramatic volcanic rock formation standing at 4,630 meters. The route is exposed and dry, with panoramic views stretching across the Shira Plateau.

At Lava Tower, you'll pause for lunch and a well-earned rest. This is one of the highest points you'll reach so far on the trek and offers an excellent opportunity to adapt to the altitude, even though you won't sleep this high.

Afterward, you'll descend into the lush **Barranco Valley**, where strange and beautiful plants like **giant groundsels** and **senecios** thrive. This part of the trail is scenic and offers great photography opportunities.

You'll arrive at **Barranco Camp** by late afternoon. Set against the towering **Barranco Wall** and the southern ice fields of Kibo, this campsite is among the most visually dramatic on the mountain.

**Overnight:** Barranco Camp (3,950 m)  
**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**6 Hours**

## Day 5 : Barranco Camp → Karanga Camp



**Hiking Time:** 4-5 hours  
**Distance:** ~5 km  
**Starting Elevation:** 3,950 m (12,960 ft)  
**Ending Elevation:** 3,995 m (13,106 ft)  
**Habitat:** Alpine Desert

After breakfast, your day begins with one of the most exciting and memorable parts of the trek — the **Barranco Wall**. Though it looks intimidating from below, the climb is non-technical and involves a fun, hands-on scramble in some sections. It takes about an hour to ascend and offers spectacular views of the **Kilimanjaro glaciers** and the valleys below.

Once at the top, you'll follow a trail that undulates through rocky ridges and alpine desert terrain. The path gradually ascends and descends across small valleys before reaching the Karanga Valley.

A final, short but steep climb brings you to **Karanga Camp**, perched on a ridge with expansive views of the southern face of Kilimanjaro and the route ahead. You'll arrive in time for a hot lunch and an afternoon of rest, with the option of a short acclimatization hike.

This relatively short day allows you to recover and prepare for the higher altitudes to come.

**Overnight:** Karanga Camp (3,995 m)

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Meals Included

**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration

**6 Hours**

## Day 6 : Karanga Camp – Barafu Camp



**Hiking Time:** 3–4 hours

**Distance:** ~4 km

**Starting Elevation:** 3,995 m (13,106 ft)

**Ending Elevation:** 4,673 m (15,330 ft)

**Habitat:** Alpine Desert

Today is a shorter yet important day as you make your way to **Barafu Camp**, the base camp for your final summit push. After breakfast, the trail steadily climbs through a windswept and rugged alpine desert landscape, with minimal vegetation and increasingly thin air.

As you ascend, the terrain becomes steeper and rockier. You'll hike at a slow and steady pace, conserving energy for the challenge ahead. Along the way, you'll enjoy dramatic views of **Mawenzi Peak**, Kilimanjaro's second-highest summit, rising sharply to the east.

By early afternoon, you'll arrive at **Barafu Camp**, perched on an exposed ridge with expansive views of the **Kibo summit cone**. Once at camp, you'll rest and hydrate while your guide gives a detailed briefing for summit night. Dinner is served early to allow enough time for sleep before your midnight departure for the summit.

Get your gear ready, rest well, and prepare for the most demanding — and rewarding — part of your journey.

**Overnight:** Barafu Camp (4,673 m)

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Meals Included

**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration

**6 Hours**

## Day 7 : Barafu Camp → Uhuru Peak → Mweka Camp



**Hiking Time:** 3–4 hours **Distance:** ~4 km **Starting Elevation:** 3,995 m

(13,106 ft) **Ending Elevation:** 4,673 m (15,330 ft) **Habitat:** Alpine

Desert Today is a shorter yet important day as you make your way to Barafu Camp, the base camp for your final summit push. After breakfast, the trail steadily climbs through a windswept and rugged alpine desert landscape, with minimal vegetation and increasingly thin air. As you ascend, the terrain becomes steeper and rockier. You'll

hike at a slow and steady pace, conserving energy for the challenge ahead. Along the way, you'll enjoy dramatic views of Mawenzi Peak, Kilimanjaro's second-highest summit, rising sharply to the east. By early afternoon, you'll arrive at Barafu Camp, perched on an exposed ridge with expansive views of the Kibo summit cone. Once at camp, you'll rest and hydrate while your guide gives a detailed briefing for summit night. Dinner is served early to allow enough time for sleep before your midnight departure for the summit. Get your gear ready, rest well, and prepare for the most demanding — and rewarding — part of your journey. □ Overnight: Barafu Camp (4,673 m) □ Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Meals Included

**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration

**6 Hours**

## Day 8 : Mweka Camp → Mweka Gate → Moshi / Departure

**Hiking Time:** 10-15 hours**Distance:** ~17 km**Starting Elevation:** 4,673 m (15,330 ft)**Ending Elevation:** 3,100 m (10,170 ft)**Habitat:** Alpine Desert → Arctic Zone → Rainforest

After a very early wake-up around **11:00 PM**, you'll have a light snack and tea before starting your **midnight summit push** from Barafu Camp. The climb begins in darkness, so headlamps and warm layers are essential. You'll hike slowly and steadily through the rugged Alpine Desert terrain, conserving energy for the challenging ascent ahead.

As you approach **Stella Point** on the crater rim (around 5,685 m / 18,675 ft), the terrain becomes steeper and rockier. Take short breaks to acclimatize and enjoy the dramatic views of **Kibo Crater** and **Mawenzi Peak**. From Stella Point, you'll make the final push to **Uhuru Peak**, Africa's highest point at 5,895 m (19,341 ft). Celebrate your incredible achievement with photos and a moment to soak in the sunrise over the surrounding plains.

After reaching the summit, you'll begin the long descent back to **Barafu Camp** to collect your belongings, then continue down through the **Alpine Desert and rainforest zones** toward **Mweka Camp**. The trail winds downhill through changing terrain, from rocky scree to lush forest, providing a spectacular contrast to the summit experience.

At Mweka Camp, you'll rest, hydrate, and enjoy a well-deserved meal. Spend the evening celebrating your successful climb with your guides and fellow trekkers, reflecting on the challenge and the breathtaking landscapes you've experienced.

**Overnight:** Mweka Camp (3,100 m / 10,170 ft)**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Meals Included

**LUNCH, BREAKFAST,**

Duration

**6 Hours**