

# MOUNT KILIMANJARO 9 DAYS MACHAME ROUTE

Thank you for choosing Viva Africa Tours. As per your request, we have provided a schedule for your trek. Please go through the following itinerary, and if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via email or phone.

The 9 days Machame Route is suitable for an adventuresome hiker who seeks a scenic splendour that is incomparable to the other routes. The route is like a simulated climatic world tour from the tropics to the arctic. We will begin by hiking up the steep paths amidst the glorious rainforests until we reach the ridge leading through to the moorland zones, a barren land shadowed by ominous desert plants. The bleached Southern ice fields glisten, mirroring the astounding assemblage of a cluster of stars. The faint wind brushes against the remaining vegetation as the ripples ruffle the stillness of the mountain and the astounding reflection of the glaciers. Traveling to the obscure sight of the striking Shira Needles is a must. The 9 days Machame Route is considered to be a challenging trek but it has excellent conditions for a smooth acclimatisation.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Kilimanjaro Airport to Moshi

Our driver will transport you from the airport to the hotel, where orientation for the hike will take place. Your guides will provide you with details on your trek and they will check your trekking gear.

### Day 2: Moshi to Mt. Kilimanjaro, Machame Camp

We will drive to the Machame Park Gate (5,950ft) and register with the park authority. After you have an opportunity to familiarise yourself with your crew, we will embark on the journey to the summit. The elongated trail starts in the rainforest. The sky vanishes almost completely, emerald ceilings permit only a few fragments of light like scattered pieces of glass. The air is rich with the fragrance of leaves and loam and the rich soil feels soft beneath one's feet. The melodies from the exotic birds permeate the air whilst the Black and White Colobus Monkeys and Skyes Monkeys swing from the branches. We will proceed onto some heath land until we reach the Machame Camp (9,850ft / 6-7 hours of walking). The camp is located above the forest and provides stunning views of the emerald tree tops, an appetising dinner will be served.



**Viva Africa Tours | P.O.Box 7292 | Moshi, Kilimanjaro, Tanzania**

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## Day 3: Machame Camp to Shira Camp

Today we will venture across the beautiful heath land and the dunes of the moorland. Sights of the gleaming peak of Kilimanjaro are best observed at this point. The steep trail through the tall savannah is serene and the immense trees of the Heather and Erica plains are unworldly. We will have to scramble across enormous boulders encrusted with Lobelia and Senecio plants to enter the arid plains of the moorland. The volcanic rocks are draped with lichen creepers that guard the striking wild alpine flowers that grow at their bases.

Delectable meals will be served upon reaching the Shira Camp where we will spend the night (12,600ft / 5-6 hours of walking).

## Day 4: Shira Camp to Barranco Camp

We draw closer to the peak as we approach the Lava Tower – a three hundred foot tall volcanic plug that provides a passage at 15,000 feet. Trek becomes slightly demanding at this stage as the trail begins to steepen gently. In the afternoon we will begin to descend on the steep track that leads to the enchanting region of the Great Barranco Valley. Barranco Camp lies on a col (a flat area) that is encompassed by three steep valley walls and the stunning Kibo massif. Glaciers dangle, reflecting the beauty of the surroundings with the assistance of the sunlight. Plants like the exclusively Giant Lobelia and the enormous groundsels (Senecio Kilimanjari) dominate the eerily tranquil landscape. We will take a gentle hike to the Barranco Camp (12,950ft / 5-6 hours of walking). Delicious meals will be served at the camp. This day and the following day will be your acclimatisation days.

## Day 5: Barranco Camp to Karanga Valley Camp

We will travel into the allusive Gorge before we climb its lofty eastern wall. Picturesque views of the blankets of frost that cover Kilimanjaro's ice fields, an equatorial anomaly, are best observed at this angle. The day springs directly into the strenuous part of the hike, a ninety minute climb up the magnificent Barranco Wall, some areas require you to support your body weight as you ascent. We will continue trekking on a clam trail until we reach the Karanga Valley (13,900ft / 4-5 hours of walking). The porters will set up the campsite so all you have to do is enjoy your meal and relax.

## Day 6: Karanga Valley Camp to Barafu Camp

The trail will gradually begin to ascend as we trek through the stunning scenery of the Karanga Valley. To get to Barafu Camp, we will venture across the granite floors of the lava ridge. As we progress, the temperature will begin to drop and the vegetation will diminish slothfully. The campsite is situated on a minimal, exposed zone of a smooth ridge. An energy-dense meal will be served and resting for your midnight ascent to the summit is advised.



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Day 7: Barafu Camp (4,600m/15,100ft) to Uhuru Peak (5,895m/19,340ft) to Mweka Camp (3,100m/10,170ft) Elevation Gain: 1,295 meters, 4,240 feet; Elevation Loss: 2,795 meters, 9,170 feet

We will begin the final ascent to the cloud covered Uhuru Peak, Africa's highest point. Your headlamp will illuminate the trail for the next six hours. The ascension to the crater rim is the most strenuous mission on the entire trek. The gradient is incredibly steep until you reach Stella Point. The high altitude causes the hike from Stella point to Uhuru Peak to be arduous and slow. This lasts approximately one hour until you reach Uhuru. Once you conquer the summit, you can take photographs and marvel at the landscape. We will start making our way towards the Mweka Camp and there are countless spectacles to witness at a new angle including the mountains, craters and glaciers. You will hike amongst the wispy clouds and their beauty will enchant you. When we arrive at the Barafu Camp we will pause for breakfast. After breakfast we will spend the next three to five hours walking to the Mweka Camp. You can spend the last night star gazing and reflecting on your triumph.

Day 8: Mweka Camp to Park Gate to Moshi

After enjoying a delectable breakfast, we will begin our descent to the park gate. (3-4 hours of walking). You can admire the scenic views and enjoy the tranquillity on your final trek. After exchanging farewells with your guide and porters, we will drive to Moshi to the accommodation.

Day 9: Moshi to Kilimanjaro Airport

Today we will transfer you to Kilimanjaro Airport, where you will greet your farewells to Tanzania and its people. If you've chosen to hop on a safari – well, that's a new adventure

## Included

- Airport transfer
- Transport from/to park gate
- Pre & post climb accommodation (B&B) in Moshi
- Park, camping and rescue fees
- Mountain tents and mattresses
- Professional English speaking guide(s); porters & cook
- 8 breakfasts; 7 lunches; 6 dinners
- Water; tea and coffee with meals

## Not Included

- Flights
- Lunch & dinner in Moshi
- Travel insurance
- Visa and passport fees
- Raise in park entrance fees
- Personal equipment
- Sleeping bag
- Tips for guide(s), porters & cook
- Soda and Alcoholic beverages



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## Kilimanjaro Climbing Gear

Packing your suitcase for Mount Kilimanjaro can be a challenging task. However, the good news is that most of the equipment can be rented in Moshi. We advise that you check your wardrobe / trekking gear to ensure you have the necessary gear. If you do not, we advise you purchase the necessary equipment so that you can travel in optimum comfort to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

On the first day, you will need to wear light clothes, but on the day you summit Mount Kilimanjaro you will need to wear winter clothes.

### Packing Checklist for Kilimanjaro



- Head torch
- Spare batteries
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Sun hat
- Scarf or balaclava
- T shirt
- Thermals top and bottom 3 pairs
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping bag liner
- Fleece
- Down jacket
- Water / wind proof jacket
- Gaiters
- Poncho
- Water proof gloves
- Gloves liner
- Hiking trousers
- Water proof trousers
- Hiking socks 1 pair per day
- Hiking boots
- Water bottle
- Camel back water bag
- Day pack
- Rucksack
- Rucksack cover
- Hiking poles
- Sun screen

## Tipping Guidelines

Tip is not included in your tour price. Please find below our guidelines for tipping your mountain crew. The tip is shared amongst all climbers.

- Mountain Guide- \$20.00 per day
- 1 Porter / Waiter- \$7.00 to \$10.00 per day
- 1 Mountain Cook- \$15.00 per day



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