

Tanzania, Mount Kilimanjaro Trek

21 to 30 June 2012

Mount Kilimanjaro is one of Africa's most magnificent sights. At 5895m it is her highest peak and is the tallest freestanding volcano in the world.

We will be ascending by the Rongai route, which retains a sense of untouched wilderness lost on the crowded Marangu and Machame trails. It has a relatively gentle gradient and short daily stages. We pass through attractive farmland and rainforest to several other climatic zones, adding considerable interest to the trek.



Day 1 and 2: Depart UK to Mount Kilimanjaro

Depart London on overnight flight to Nairobi. Transfer flight to Mount Kilimanjaro Airport. Transfer to hotel in Arusha. On arrival we will meet our guides, have our trek briefing and prepare for the challenge ahead.

Day 3: Naremoru Gate - Simba Camp 3-4hrs

Early start for a 3-4 hour drive to Rongai. Upon arrival we will meet our guides and porters and complete the park formalities. Our ascent begins from Naremoru Gate (1950m) and we trek through farmers fields and the forest zone. There is a good chance you will see the colourful Colobus monkeys on route; and if the weather is clear, we should get good late afternoon views across Tsavo in Kenya. Our camp is just out of the forest at 2600m.

Day 4: Simba Camp - Kikelewa Camp 6-7hrs

We leave Simba Camp and climb through the moorland. As we climb, the trees become more sparse and later disappear; even the heather starts to shrink at higher altitudes. We break at a lava tube for lunch before traversing to our campsite at Kikelewa Cave (3678m).

Day 5: Kikelewa Camp - Mawenzi Tarn 4-5hrs

A steeper trek to Mawenzi tarn Hut at 4295m, arriving for lunch. Set in moraines in a glaciated valley our camp has good views of the jagged peaks of Mawenzi above us. In the afternoon we will have a short circular acclimatisation walk to a higher altitude.

Day 6: Mawenzi Tarn - Kibo 5-6hrs

A slow trek across "the Saddle" – an alpine desert between the volcanic peaks of Mawenzi and Kibo. Upon arrival at Kibo (4700m), we will rest and prepare for the summit day.

Day 7: Summit Day 12-16hrs

We get up shortly after midnight and climb to Gilman's point (5680m) on the rim of the volcanic crater for sunrise. If the day is clear there are spectacular views over the savannah plains with the possibility of seeing Mount Kenya some 360km away. We then continue around the crater rim for a further 2 hours for the final push to Uhuru Peak (5895m) – Africa's highest point. We go down the way we came, to Kibo and then continue our descent on the Marangu route to Horombo Huts (3700m).

Day 8: Horombo - Marangu Park Gate 5-6hrs

Descend to Marangu Gates before transferring to Arusha for our gala dinner to celebrate our achievements.



Day 9: Depart Tanzania

Transfer to Mount Kilimanjaro Airport for an overnight flight back to London, UK via Nairobi.

Registration Fee: £250

Suggested minimum sponsorship: £3700

Self funding option: Tours costs between £1745 and £1890*

* please note airport taxes are not included in these costs. They are approximately £350