

“So, if you cannot understand that there is something in a man which responds to the challenge of this mountain and out to meet it, that the struggle is the struggle of life itself upward and forever upward, then you won’t see why we go. What we get from this adventure is sheer joy. And joy is, after all, the end of life. We do not live to eat and make money. We eat and make money to enjoy life. That is what life means and what life is for.”

George Mallory



MOUNT KILIMANJARO

With its glistening and mystical summit regularly peaking out from billowy clouds, Mount Kilimanjaro is perhaps one of the most recognised images of Africa.

It has been a mountain of myth and superstition throughout the centuries, for anyone who sees it from either land or air, must wonder ‘what must it be like to stand on the "Roof of Africa" and look down from Uhuru Peak’s snowy summit, to the vast plains some 5,896m below?’ Seeing Kilimanjaro for the first time on a clear day is a vision you will never forget. However, unless you have scaled it, you will never get the true sense of its towering majesty. There are several walking or scrambling routes to the summit, accessible for anyone who is determined and reasonably fit.

RECOMMENDED ROUTES

The Rongai Route

The Rongai route starts just south of the Kenya-Tanzania border and has been almost unused for many years because the area was considered “sensitive”. Now open for climbing once again, experienced guides consider this ascent route to be both easier and more beautiful than the Marangu route trail. The Rongai route begins in attractive farmland and delightful forest, with the possibility of wildlife viewing, and passes through several different climate zones, adding considerably to the interest of the trek. We also add an extra day to the standard itinerary to ensure maximum acclimatisation and give ourselves the best possible chance of enjoying the magnificent scenery. Recent National Park statistics indicate that the chance of reaching the summit increases by at least 20% if an extra day is spent acclimatising. The deviation to Mawenzi Tarn is very beautiful and on a little-used trail through moorland. This route retains a sense of unspoilt wilderness and offers a different perspective on Kilimanjaro by approaching it from the north.

Approx total time needed, includes 1st night in Arusha/or foothills: 7 days

Approx prices depending on numbers and the style: £850 and £75 single supplement

The Machame Route

Machame is considered by many to be the most beautiful and scenic route up Kili, passing through tropical montane rain forest to the snows of Kilimanjaro. More difficult than the Marangu Route, the Machame Route is favoured by more experienced climbers and alpine walkers. This route approaches the mountain from the south-west and provides climbers with spectacular views of Mt. Meru. Accommodation is in spartan tents/camps and this route is best for those with a little more climbing experience.

Approx total time needed, includes 1st night in Arusha/or foothills: 7 days

Approx prices depending on numbers and the style: £875 and £75 single supplement

The Shira Route

The Shira route approaches Kilimanjaro from the west through forest and open moorland, crossing the caldera of Shira volcano and exploring the rock formations of the plateau, before traversing beneath the Southern icefields of Kibo. We make our final ascent by the Barafu route. The eight day itinerary gives maximum possible acclimatisation and also gives us plenty of time to enjoy the magnificent scenery. The views of Kibo in the sharp light of morning and early evening are often stunning and the area around the Lent Hills, close to the western flank of the summit cone, is very rarely visited. Shira is a little-used approach route and this itinerary is carefully designed to maximise time in unspoilt wilderness areas before the convergence with other routes in the final stages of the trip. It is also well structured for walkers of all levels of fitness and experience: the fixed walking days are only half day hikes but there are plenty of opportunities for additional afternoon acclimatisation walks at higher altitudes.

Approx total time needed, includes 1st night in Arusha/or foothills: 9 days

Approx prices depending on numbers and the style: £1,050 and £75 single supplement

The Lemosho Route

This climb is ideal for those wanting more privacy, a slower climb, or a more scenic route. Approaching Kilimanjaro from the west, the trek is initially accompanied by an armed ranger through spectacular forest plantations, rich in buffalo, elephant and other big-game. From here, continue upwards via the Lemosho Glades. The traversing of the Shira plateau can be especially spectacular, and this route also ensures you get to see the best of the Machame route. It is a great, slow route allowing for maximum acclimatization before reaching the summit.

Approx total time needed, includes 1st night in Arusha/or foothills: 9 days

Approx prices depending on numbers and the style: £1,050 and £75 single supplement

The Weather & Your Climb

While it is possible to climb almost year round, the weather conditions can make a big difference to your experience – notably the level of comfort and success rates. Another important point is that whilst on the mountain the weather conditions can change incredibly quickly from bright sunshine to drizzle or snow with penetrating high winds. As a guide please take a look at the following:

Months and expected conditions in forest belt, heath & moorland, alpine / summit areas

Months	Expected conditions			
	Forest	Heath / Moorland	Alpine summit	Overall
Mid Jan – mid Mar	Medium chance rain	Medium chance mist / drizzle	Not too cold	Great
Mid Mar – Late May	High chance rain	High chance mist / drizzle	High chance snow	Really hard work
June - July	Medium chance rain	Medium chance mist / drizzle	Very cold	Good but cold
Aug – Mid Oct	Low rainfall	Often clear – mist / cloud cover in afternoon	Temperature going up	Great
Mid oct – Mid Nov	Medium chance rain	Medium chance mist / drizzle	Medium chance snow	Can be variable
Mid Nov – Mid Jan	Medium / high chance rain	Medium / high chance mist / drizzle	Medium chance snow	Can be variable/wet