

Kilimanjaro

Details below provided by AAI

Elevation: 19,340 feet

Guide Service: Alpine Ascents International (AAI)

Minimum Fundraising Total: \$12,500.00

Overview

Crowned by eternal snows, the mighty Kilimanjaro (19,340 feet) is the highest free-standing mountain in the world and dominates its landscape unlike any other mountain. Located in Tanzania, this extinct volcano looms over five ecosystems and large game reserves and is certainly one of the world's most impressive sights. The terrain is nothing short of dramatic. As one of the most fascinating and diverse regions on earth, Kilimanjaro has attracted both climbers and nature enthusiasts with its magnetism. The ascent of this great peak is non-technical by nature and affords a full mountaineering experience (with all the rigors and rewards) for those in strong physical condition.

Climbing skill level

No prior climbing experience is required.

Physical conditioning

This climb requires strength and endurance. Being in sound physical condition is the single most important aspect for climbers to maximize their climbing potential. The better your physical condition, the more likely you are to perform well and have an enjoyable experience. The most frequent comment we have received over the years is that climbers have underestimated the fitness level needed to fully enjoy their trip. Additionally, inadequate fitness will affect the atmosphere, pace, and overall enjoyment of the climb for all participants. We highly recommend checking with your physician before undertaking any strenuous activity.



Kilimanjaro Climb Itinerary

Details below provided by AAI

Day 1: Depart country of origin for Kilimanjaro International Airport, Tanzania. (JRO).

Day 2: Arrive in Tanzania. Airport pick-up and transfer to hotel in Arusha, Tanzania.

Day 3: Rest day. We spend the day relaxing after our international flights. Sightseeing and shopping around the city or at the Cultural Heritage Center. Upon return we have a thorough equipment check and orientation including principles of Leave No Trace environmental ethics. Overnight at hotel.

Day 4: We travel by Land Cruiser to the Machame trailhead, winding through coffee fields and small forests of ferns and flowers. After registering with the park service, we meet our porters from the Chagga Tribe, indigenous to the slopes of Kilimanjaro. They are an integral part of our African journey and become friends and provide insight into their culture and society. Our climb begins on the edge of a rain forest (elevation 5,800 feet). Below the watchful eyes of the monkeys, we trek seven hours to the Machame Camp (10,000 feet) and set camp for the night.

Day 5: Leave the Machame Hut, cross a small valley and begin our ascent. The environment changes from heath forest to moorlands. These moorlands are littered with two species of giant groundsel, Senecios and Lobelia. Halfway up the trail, we meet a river gorge and ascend across the Shira Plateau (12,300 feet). We sleep at Shira Camp.

Day 6: Today we climb to 14,800 feet while crossing a ridge and view the plains far below. Here we eat lunch and admire the ancient glacier ice of the Breach Wall, and pass the looming lava tower (with an optional scramble to the top) before dropping to our 12,800 foot campsite at Great Barranco.

Day 7: We climb up and over the Great Barranco Wall, topping out at about 14,500 feet before dropping to our camp at the Karanga River at about 13,000 feet. This completes another day of acclimatization as we pass below the famous Breach Wall, the largest ice and rock face in Africa. The Breach Wall climbing route, known as "The Icicle," was first climbed in the early 1970s by Reinhold Messner. Daytime temperatures can reach 80°F, while evening temperatures often drop below freezing.

Day 8: From the Karanga River, we climb about five to six hours to our high camp at Barafu (14,650 feet),



and possibly on to Kosovo Camp (15,700 feet). As we wind through beautiful and rarely traveled regions, we enter a high desert plateau, littered with volcanic boulders. Looking south, we view the desert plains as the pinnacles of Mowenzi Peak tower before us. At Barafu or Kosovo we prepare for the summit attempt. While our cook staff prepares the food, we spend our time packing and preparing for the early morning departure.

Day 9: Summit day! Awake at 11 p.m. and prepare gear for the ascent. We climb wearing headlamps until the predawn light is reflected off the African plains. Following a distinct ridge, we approach the crater's rim at Stella Point and then traverse northwest along the rim to the main summit, Uhuru Peak (19,340 feet). From here we view the Bismarck Towers, rock pinnacles along the rim, and the hanging Rebman Glaciers. As the sun rises over Africa, we are privy to a panorama of incredible views. To the north stands the second highest mountain on the continent, Mt. Kenya (17,056 feet), with its unique twin summits. The southern exposure reveals the sprawling plains of Tanzania and East Africa and Mowenzi Peak.

After enjoying the view from the top, we descend back to highcamp, eat lunch, pack camp, and begin our traverse down the Mweka route on the southern side of the mountain. After a long day of climbing, our final camp is at either Millenium Camp (13,000 feet) or Mweka Camp (10,200 feet).

Day 10: The sunrises are exquisite as we awaken below the towering mountain. We descend through the lush green landscape of the Mweka route into the thickest jungle we have yet encountered. The environment becomes primordial, with 20 foot-tall fern trees creating a prehistoric atmosphere. After reaching the Mweka Gate, we celebrate with porters and guides over lunch and then drive to Arusha and enjoy a celebratory dinner. Overnight at hotel.

Mt. Kilimanjaro Climb Gear List

Details below provided by AAI

For a current list of required gear, please visit <http://www.alpineascents.com/kilimanjaro-g.asp>.

