

Maasai Wanderings

2010

“Mountain High: Kilimanjaro”

Machame Route

The Machame Route (also known as the Whiskey Route) is the 2nd most popular route to Kibo. It is a beautifully scenic route commencing with rain forests and onto the dry area of Shira Plateau, the Barranco area with its senecios (mountain cactus) and "Breakfast Wall", the exquisite Karanga Valley with its water streams and finally the rocky and inhospitable Barafu - last stop before you make your midnight dash for the top of Kibo.

Day One

Arrive into Arusha arrival point. Meet and transfer to accommodation followed by pre-trek briefing and equipment check

Karama Lodge

Dinner

Day Two

Hike: 9.2km Altitude: 1820m-3020m 5-6 hours

We set off for the transfer to Machame and complete the registration formalities as the guides organise the porters and luggage. We set off for an easy first hour along a 4WD track and then it gets steeper as we head into our lunch rest stop. After lunch the track gets steeper, there is the sounds of a stream to the right and you will need to take care of your step as areas can be muddy. A couple of hours after lunch, the green hut of Machame comes into view.

Machame Camp

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Three

Hike: 6km Altitude: 3020m-3830m 5-6 hours

The climbing gets steeper again today, and although a shorter distance, the path is rock and dusty. The route becomes quite bare and the first of the giant senecias come into view - we step slowly in order to optimise our acclimatisation

Shira Camp

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Four

Hike: 10.4km Altitude: 3830m-4580m-3900m 5-6 hours

The first part of the day is littered with boulders and rocks and slowly swings uphill. We reach Lava Tower for lunch and then literally descend into camp; taking care with our step

because the path is dusty and rocky.

Barranco Camp

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Five

Hike: 5.1km Altitude: 3900m-4100m 3-4 hours

Immediately on the outskirts of the camp we cross a small stream before being faced with the sheer wall of Barranco - infamously known as 'Breakfast'! It takes just over an hour of scrambling up the steep climb but the views are breathtaking and it is a thrilling experience. You will be able to see far below where our camp was and the porters as they pack it up. We then fall into a rhythm of ascending and descending a series of ridges as we cross our last water point and arrive into the green valley of Karanga.

Karanga Valley Camp

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Six

Hike: 3.5km Altitude: 4100m-4330m 3-4 hours

The route today is short and steep, as we enter a barren landscape of boulders and shattered rocks. We come to a point along the route which is a fork: up to Barafu and down to Mweka. At this stage we choose up and approx half an hour we reach camp; sheer cliffs and large rocks. Today is an early dinner and early bed - although you will find it difficult to actually sleep, rest your body in preparation for the midnight assault on the summit. This is probably the hardest physical your body will do in its life.

Barafu Camp

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Seven

Hike: 17.5km Altitude: 4330m-5896m-3040m 12-15 hours

Summit day and headlamps must be ready!

The first hour or so is rocky and you must step carefully and then you will turn right and enter a snow-covered area from where you can see the glaciers above. On a moonlit night you can switch off your headlamp and walk in the moon light - a wonderful experience. After about 2 hours the steepness will start to set in. From now on, the struggle is mental as well as physical. You may need to rest every 15 minutes: one leg in front of the other, your mouth will be dry and you will start to feel the cold. Near Stella Point the lava field is like loose sand. You step up and slide back. Most climbers reach Stella point after about 5 hours or so. After a quick rest, it's on to Uhuru Peak just as the sun appears over Mawenzi. **And then you are there!** But please be prepared for an aftershock - the way down is a steep, rigorous route via Stella Point down the mountain to Barafu where we will stop for brunch. (Many hikers are unprepared for this 2-hour ordeal down the slippery slope of scree) At Barafu you can take a good rest before tackling the rest of the way down. It is time to relax and think about your experiences of the past week. The way down to Mweka camp is a comfortable walk but rather dusty.

Mweka Camp

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Eight

Hike: 8.8km Altitude: 3040m-1620m 3-4 hours

Final opportunities to take pictures of your Maasai Wanderings Mountain Team - and on a clear morning, Kibo will loom large in the distance. We will also deal with the issue of tipping (ask for suggested guidelines if you are unsure) and the team will send you off on your final stretch with our farewell 'Kili Song'. We set off down the last stage of the trek: some parts of the walk are very steep downhill and other stretches are very slippery so please be careful. Upon reaching the gate, we carry out sign-out formalities, the team load up the vehicles and the guides will present you with your certificates and then we are off for the transfer to Arusha.

At the lodge its time to take a warm shower, a quick nap and get some laundry done. We have also organised for a **full body massage** to assist your body in adapting back to normal after your strenuous adventures.

Karama Lodge

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Nine

After breakfast, we join an optional walking town and craft market tour - helps to keep your muscles loose after 'Kili'. Return to lodge for overnight.

Karama Lodge

Breakfast, Dinner

Day Ten

After breakfast - its time to get WILD with a safari adventure. We set off to the west into the Great Rift Valley system and Tarangire National Park. We partake in game driving and picnic lunch before continuing onto our camp late afternoon. Tarangire is famous for its high concentration of elephants, as well as birdlife and antelope population. It is a great introductory park for your adventures.

Maramboi Luxury Camp

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Eleven

We transfer to the Serengeti today via the Ngorongoro viewpoint. We pass through Maasai grazing lands and family bomas at Esilalei. Once we enter the Ndutu area and onto Naabi Hill, we can begin game driving all the way to our camp.

Nasikia Luxury Camp

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Twelve

We spend the day with a picnic lunch exploring the Serengeti - the most amazingly broad ecosystem. In the months of the Wildebeest Migration, the game viewing is spectacular with predator activity abound. But at any time the Serengeti can put on a wildlife show to remember.

Nasikia Luxury Camp

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Thirteen

An early departure allows us to enter Ngorongoro Crater floor for a day of game driving. This World Heritage listed area is a 'fish bowl' of wildlife with approximately 120 species of mammals and variety of habitats. This is truly a Wonder of the World that we can marvel at as we see the steep walls surrounding us, like an oasis in Africa!

Ngorongoro Farmhouse

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Fourteen

A walking tour of the gardens and coffee plantation at the Farmhouse is a great way to round off our safari and then we continue onto E Unoto Maasai Retreat for lunch before continuing onto Arusha. There is a safari de-brief before a casual evening of fine food and company.

Karama Lodge

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Fifteen

Transfer to Arusha departure point for journey beyond...

Breakfast

Roughing It in Style!

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