

# KILIMANJARO EXPEDITION

**classic**  **tours**  
LEADING THE WAY IN CHARITY CHALLENGES



## Climb Kilimanjaro– “The Roof of Africa”

*“as wide as all the world, great, high, and unbelievably white in the sun.” - Hemmingway*

Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa and one of the highest free standing mountains in the world. Climbing Kilimanjaro is a challenge to say the least and is one of the mountains almost every trekker and mountaineer in the world wants to conquer. Kilimanjaro is more or less 24 miles wide and 49 miles long; it is more ecosystem than mountain. It dwarfs other regional landmarks like Mt. Meru and Mt. Kenya and dominates the savannah of East Africa. The mountain consists of three peaks: Shira, Mawenzi, and Kibo (the highest point of which is Uhuru). We will be climbing Mount Kibo peak in this challenge

“An almost perfectly shaped volcano rising sheer from Tanzania's far north-east plains, Mt Kilimanjaro is one of Africa's most magnificent sights. Snow-capped and not yet extinct, at 5895m (19,341ft) it's the highest peak on the continent. From cultivated farmlands on the lower levels, the mountain rises through lush rainforest to alpine meadow and finally across a barren lunar landscape to the twin summits. The rainforest is home to animals including elephant, buffalo, rhino, leopard and monkey. You may also stumble across herds of eland on the saddle between the summits of Mawenzi and Kibo. It's a traveller's dream to scale the summit, watch dawn break and gaze out over a truly great expanse of bushland - but scaling a 5895m monolith is no Sunday school picnic.” ***Lonely Planet Tanzania***

# DETAILED ITINERARY



## Day 1:

Overnight flight from London Heathrow to Kilimanjaro (via Amsterdam or Nairobi).

## Day 2:

Land in Tanzania and transfer to the village of Marangu, 2km from the park entrance at Marangu Park Gate. This afternoon we have free time to relax and prepare for the challenge ahead.

Overnight: Hotel, Marangu

Sleep at altitude 1800m / 5,906 feet.

## Day 3:

**Transfer to Marangu Gate (approx 10 minutes)**

**Trek Marangu Gate-Mandara Huts**

**approx 4 ½ hours**

PARK HEADQUARTERS ALTITUDE 1970 M/6400 FT AMSL KILIMANJARO NATIONAL PARK MARANGU ROUTE.			
PLACES	E.T.A.	ALTITUDE	VEG.ZONE
MANDARA	3HRS	2700M	FOREST
HOROMBO	5HRS	3720M	MOORLAND
KIBO	8HRS	4795M	ALPINE DESERT
GILMANS	SHRS	5685M	ALPINE DESERT
UHURU PEAK	HHRS	5895M	ICE CAP

Breakfast and briefing by the guides, tour manager and doctor on the challenge ahead and health and safety. Pack for the ascent and weigh the kit. Transfer approx 10-15 minutes to the Park entrance at Marangu Gate and after completing the necessary formalities we start the ascent. The trail weaves through dense forest filled with the noises of chattering of Colobus monkeys. We are surrounded by an incredible variety of

towering trees, giant ferns and wild forest flowers – perhaps even the odd orchid. We picnic on the way. There will be a short trek to the Maundi crater from the hut, time permitting.



Overnight: Mandara Hut

Climb to altitude: 2744m / 9,000 feet

Sleep at altitude: 2700m / 8,860 feet

Summary: Gentle ascent on a rain-forest dirt trail, can be muddy/slippery if it has rained.

## Day 4:

**Mandara Hut-Horombo Hut**

**approx 7 - 8 hours**



An early start for the longer trek along an uphill trail to the Horombo Hut. The landscape takes on a more rugged and rocky terrain, in the distance we will see the magnificent peaks of Mawenzi and Kibo. We pass through the cloud level!

Overnight at Horombo Hut.

Climb to altitude: 3761m / 12,339 feet

Sleep at altitude: 3700m / 12,138 feet

Summary: Steady climb, through forest and across heath & moorland

**Day 5:  
Acclimatisation trek**

**approx 5 hours**



Today is an acclimatisation trek of approximately 5 hours. At about 8.30am we head off on the upper Kibo trail which takes us through streams and rocky mountain vegetation to “Zebra Rock” at 4,000m. We continue to an observation point at 4200m for some spectacular views of Kibo Hut, the twin peaks and the trail to the summit . We return to Horombo Hut for a hot lunch and time to relax.

Overnight: Horombo Hut  
Climb to altitude: 4, 200m / 13,780 feet  
Sleep at altitude: 3,700m / 12,139 feet  
Summary: Good ascent to 4,200m and back down

**Day 6:  
Horombo Hut - Kibo Hut**

**approx 7 - 8 hours**



We collect our picnic lunches and follow the lower route to Kibo Hut through spectacular mountain flora and fauna – giant cacti, lobelia and other mountain flowers line our route. After trekking for 4 hours we stop for our picnic at the Kibo Saddle and although we can see the Kibo Hut it is another 2 –3 hours trek in the afternoon. This part of the trek is beyond the water point as we enter the ‘desert’ zone, it can be slow-going and cold due to the high altitude.

Overnight : Kibo Hut.  
Climb to altitude: 4732m / 15,525 feet

Sleep at altitude: 4700m / 15,420 feet  
Summary: Good path with final ascent at the end of the day, enter the desert zone

**Day 7:  
Acclimatisation trek**

**approx 5 hours**

We trek halfway to William's point at 5000m approx to acclimatise to the high altitude and rest sufficiently for tomorrow's ascent to the summit. Overnight : Kibo Hut.  
Sleep at altitude: 4700m / 15,420 feet

**Day 8:  
The Summit**

**approx 15-17 hours**



After a warming cup of tea and a light snack of biscuits we set off in the small hours (just after midnight) to embark on a slow ascent up the steepest and most difficult part of the challenge to Gilman's Point at an altitude of 5685m, perched on the crater rim where we rest to watch the sun begin to rise. Everyone qualifies to have climbed Kilimanjaro at this

point and can return to Kibo Hut if they choose. There is an option to continue on from here for a further 2 hours through snow and wind to Uhuru Peak, 5895m. It can be extremely cold to well below freezing temperatures. At the top we spend some time resting, taking photographs of the world below (clouds permitting). On a clear day you may see Mount Kenya. Descend to Kibo Hut for a warming snack. Continue the descent for a further 3 – 3 ½ hours to Horombo Hut to rest and overnight.

Overnight: Horombo Hut

Climb to altitude: Gilmans Point : 5685m / 18,652 feet Uhuru Peak: 5895m / 19,341 feet

Sleep at altitude: 3700m / 12,139 feet

Summary: Steep ascent, loose scree; strenuous due to altitude, early start and cold temperatures. Descent is gradual with difficult scree sections.

### Day 9:

#### Horombo Hut – Marangu



**approx 6-7 hours**

We have breakfast and prepare to descend. Descent is rapid, in 3 ½ hours we reach Mandara Hut and then after another 3 hours we reach Marangu Park Gate. We stop briefly for a packed lunch on the way. Transfer to our hotel and relax for the afternoon to rebalance and rest aching limbs. Tonight we celebrate together and toast our achievement.

Overnight: Nakara Hotel, Marangu

Sleep at altitude 1800m / 5,906 feet.

### Day 10:

#### Marangu

Free time or take part in an optional tour. Lunch and dinner not included on this day.

### Day 11:

Arrive back in London.

***This is a complex itinerary and may be subject to change.***

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