

Mt. Kilimanjaro Trek

Itinerary dates: January 23 - February 1, 2019

Tour Escort: Beth Whitman

HIGHLIGHTS

- The **six-day Machame Route** to **Uhuru Peak**, considered by many to be the most beautiful.
- The longest route up to ensure the **largest number of successful ascents**.
- Viewing a **spectacular sunrise** from the top of Africa!
- A full **support staff** of porters to carry gear, cook and set up at camps.
- A 5% discount on land costs for **returning WanderTours participants**.

The adventure starts in Moshi, Tanzania, on January 23, 2019. Many international flights arrive late at night into Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO). If you can, consider arriving a day or two in advance of the trip in case of flight delays. This will also help you get over jet lag.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Wednesday, January 23, 2019 – Moshi

Meals: n/a

Upon arrival at the airport, you'll be met by a driver and transferred to our **hotel in Moshi**, about an hour's drive away. You'll have a chance to settle in at the hotel where you can **have a drink** at the bar, **take a swim** or **grab a bite to eat**.

Overnight in Moshi at the [Honey Badger Lodge](#) or similar.

Day 2

Thursday, January 24, 2019 – Moshi

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

This will be a day for us to do some local touring and **get used to the altitude**. For those interested, there's an **optional day trip** to nearby waterfalls located in the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro. On this trip, we'll be able to **experience the countryside** while also stretching our legs and getting our lungs working on the walk. Once there, we'll be able to cool down by **swimming in the refreshing pools**. This is about a five-hour trip and is an additional \$50 – \$75 per person (paid directly to the hotel) and includes a picnic lunch.

Overnight in Moshi at the [Honey Badger Lodge](#) or similar.

Altitude: 2,800 feet.

Day 3

Friday, January 25, 2019 – Machame Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast and packing up the vehicles with our gear, we'll drive from our hotel to **Machame Gate** (5,380 feet), located at the southern end of the mountain and about an hour away. Here we'll meet our guides and porters and get ready to start our climb! (We'll enjoy a boxed lunch while our gear is weighed and porters are assigned items to carry.)

We'll start our hike by making our way through a **thick tropical forest**. There may be rain on this day. Be prepared with gaiters and hiking poles as we may encounter muddy trails. There will be about a **4,000-foot elevation gain** by the time we reach camp.

Overnight at Machame Camp.

Altitude: 9,350 feet. Distance: 7 miles. Time: 5 – 7 hours.

Day 4

Saturday, January 26, 2019 – Shira Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After an early breakfast, we'll set out for the day's trek. We'll start with an hour-long climb that will take us to the **top of the forest**. Then, for about two hours, we'll have a gentler climb through moorland.

After lunch and a short rest, we'll continue up a rocky ridge onto the **stunning Shira Plateau**. This is located due west of Kibo (our summit) and from here we will be able to see **glaciers**. We'll continue on until we reach the Shira campsite early enough to get some rest in the afternoon.

Overnight at Shira Camp.

Altitude: 12,500 feet. Distance: 6 miles. Time: 4 – 6 hours.

Day 5

Sunday, January 27, 2019 – Barranco Camp


Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today, we'll head east into a semi-desert and rocky landscape surrounding the Lava Tower (15,190 feet). By late morning, we'll head up the **rocky scree path to the Lava Tower**. This first part of the day can take about five hours and will be our hardest day so far as we'll be feeling the effects of altitude here.

After lunch at Lava Tower, we'll **descend for two hours** to approximately 2,230 feet, arriving at **Barranco Camp**. While it may seem illogical to descend so far after all our hard work

ascending, it's crucial for acclimatization. The bonus is that this descent provides an opportunity for **beautiful photographs** of the Western Breach and Breach Wall.

Altitude: 12,960 feet. Distance: 9 miles. Time: 6 – 7 hours.


 **HIGHLIGHT!** The camp is situated in a valley below the **Breach and Great Barranco Wall**, which should provide a **memorable sunset** just before dinner. We'll definitely appreciate a good rest at this lower elevation after climbing!

Day 6
Monday, January 28, 2019 – Karanga Valley Camp
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today, we'll begin by tackling the awesome **Great Barranco Wall**. We'll appreciate how **beautiful Kilimanjaro** is when we reach the bottom of the Heim Glacier and get some grand views of the mountain. From here, we'll head down to the **Karanga Valley**.

This will be a short walking day in terms of distance, but we'll have the chance to **walk to the glaciers** in the afternoon, which will help with acclimatization.

Altitude: 13,800 feet. Distance: 4 miles. Time: 4 – 5 hours.

 **HIGHLIGHT!** The Barranco Wall, while initially an imposing sight, is **invariably easier to climb** than anticipated with its narrow pathway that meanders up to the top.

Day 7
Tuesday, January 29, 2019 – Barafu Camp
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This will be another short hiking day as we make our way **over ridges and valleys** to join up with the Mweka Route. After an hour or so of hiking, we'll then reach **Barafu Hut**. Barafu means "ice" in Swahili and we'll quickly discover why as this camp is exposed to ever-present gales. We'll appreciate our warm and cozy sleeping bags on this night!

The summit is now just another 4,412 feet up and we'll make the **final ascent** on this same night. We'll plan to get to bed by 7:00 p.m. in order to get enough rest for the ascent.

Altitude: 14,927 feet. Distance: 3 miles. Time: 3 – 4 hours.

Day 8
Wednesday, January 30, 2019 – Barafu Camp – Uhuru Peak – Mweka High Camp
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today will be a long but rewarding day. We'll **awaken around midnight** for tea and biscuits before we begin our **ascent to the summit**. We'll first head northwest and ascend through **heavy scree toward Stella Point** on the crater rim. This six-hour+ walk to Stella Point (18,651 feet) is the **most mentally and physically challenging** part of the climb.

At Stella Point, we'll be rewarded with a short rest and a **magnificent sunrise** (weather permitting, of course). From here onward, we may **encounter some snow** during the one- to two-hour **ascent to Uhuru Peak**.

The **walk back down** to Barafu takes about three hours and is primarily through scree. At Barafu, we'll have lunch and a short rest before packing up our gear to begin the descent to **Mweka Hut** (10,170 feet), another four or so hours down. This route is not difficult and will take us down a rocky path into the moorland and eventually into the forest.


Stella Point

Altitude: 18,651 feet. Time: approximately 6 – 7 hours.

Uhuru Peak

Altitude: 19,341 feet. Time: 1 – 2 hours.

Descent time: 6 – 7 hours

 **HIGHLIGHT!** Uhuru Peak is the **highest summit point** (19,341 feet) on Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest mountain. Today we'll proudly stand on the rim of Kibo Crater, one of three dormant volcanic cones on the mountain, and take in the spectacular view.

Day 9

Thursday, January 31, 2019 – Arusha

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After an early breakfast, we'll make the **short three-hour hike** back to the park gate. We'll have an excellent lunch at a nearby restaurant before we're taken back to our lodge for a **celebratory drink, hearty meal and comfortable, warm bed**.

Dinner and overnight in Arusha at the [African Tulip](#) or similar.

Day 10

Friday, February 1, 2019 – Arusha

Meals: Breakfast

Some trekkers may depart for home (or elsewhere) after Kilimanjaro. Others will be staying and will have a **rest day before the start of the safari**.

Lunch and dinner are not included on this day so as to provide you with some flexibility before the safari. The hotel has a **pool, restaurant and bar**. There are many **nearby restaurants and shops** if you'd like to venture out on your own.

** Those not climbing Kilimanjaro but joining the safari (see the full Tanzania Safari Tour) will arrive on this day.

** If staying on for the safari, you'll overnight in Arusha at the [African Tulip](#) or similar, which will be part of the Tanzania Safari cost.

**** Itinerary subject to change without notice.**