

# Kilimanjaro Private Journey

TREK TO THE SUMMIT OF AFRICA'S HIGHEST PEAK



Wilderness Travel





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## TREK TO THE SUMMIT OF AFRICA'S HIGHEST PEAK

### WHEN TO GO

July to September  
December to March

### ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Wilderness Travel Private Journeys are designed for people who want to travel with their own small private group, but who still want to experience the same superb itinerary design, great accommodations, and signature quality of Wilderness Travel's escorted group trips. These Private Journeys allow you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—even if it's just the two of you—yet still enjoy a guided adventure.

Contact us for availability, questions, or to book your adventure!

We've perfected the climb to the celebrated “snows of Kilimanjaro” on the stunning Northern Circuit Route, a breathtaking trail on Kili's little-traveled northern flanks, and it makes a fantastic Private Journey to celebrate with family or friends. With seven days on the ascent for maximum altitude acclimatization, your group will have the best chance of peak success—plus just a short climb to the summit to view the sunrise (not the grueling 9-hour climb in the dark required on other routes!). On our route, your group will also have the opportunity to hike right to the rim of Kili's astonishing inner crater, a surreal moonscape. Our camps have the finest amenities on the mountain, and for extra security we always carry oxygen and a Gamow bag. Our legendary, highly skilled guides and crew bring experience, camaraderie, and fun to your climb. Have it your way—with your own group and your own trip dates!

*“Fabulous—could not have expected more and cannot think of any way the trip could be improved. I felt very well taken care of, comfortable, and loved every minute of it!”*

*— Sarabeth D., Vienna, VA*



# Why Climb Kilimanjaro with WT?

## 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND THE BEST ROUTE

Wilderness Travel's Northern Circuit Route is the very best way to climb the mountain—it's a stunning 9-day route far away from the shorter, more crowded trails. And it allows you to do a complete traverse of Kili's magnificent glacier scenery, with no need to retrace your steps.

## MAXIMUM TIME FOR ALTITUDE ACCLIMATIZATION

Our route gives you seven and a half days on the ascent for the safest acclimatization. That makes a vast difference to your experience, and we see it reflected in our unparalleled rate of summit success: 98 percent!



## FROM CRATER CAMP, JUST A SHORT SUMMIT DAY

Instead of hiking and camping with potentially 200 or more other climbers on your way up, our route will likely give your group the crater rim and summit to yourself. And you arrive on the summit rested and energized to enjoy it after a fairly easy 541-foot pre-dawn climb that most of our group will accomplish in less than two hours.

## SEE THE FURTWANGLER GLACIER AND SUNRISE ON THE SUMMIT

Only by camping at Crater Camp will you really have the time to explore the magnificent Furtwangler Glacier and the lunar landscape of the inner crater and Ash Pit. You'll have an easy climb and enjoy sunrise on the summit with expansive views before the daytime clouds that often circle Kilimanjaro have moved in. Climbers on all other routes must climb 4,000 feet on this day before reaching the summit.



## COMPLETE A FULL KILIMANJARO TRAVERSE

On our route, you will have ascended Kilimanjaro's western and northern flanks, crossed over the summit, and made your descent on the mountain's southeastern side, having accomplished a full mountain traverse, with no retracing of steps and time to experience the wonders of all of Kilimanjaro's ecological zones, including rainforest, heath, moorlands, and alpine desert, each with its own flora and fauna.

## THE LUXURY OF FULL-SERVICE CAMP AMENITIES

You'll appreciate our full-service camp amenities on the mountain, with delicious and nutritious food and full porter support all the way. We provide high-tech Mountain Hardwear dome tents, Lamina sleeping bags, and thick Therm-a-Rest sleeping pads. Meals are served in a solar-lit dining tent, and our highly trained mountain staff takes care of all the logistics so you can concentrate on the climb.



## OUR LEGENDARY TRIP LEADERS

Our Kilimanjaro Trip Leaders are the most experienced on the mountain, all are certified Wilderness First Responders (WFR), and well versed in advanced mountain safety and first aid. Some have summited Kili over 300 times! They are with you throughout the trip and are joined on the trail by an Assistant Trip Leader and trail guides, in addition to the camp staff and porters.



# WT's Northern Circuit Route

Wilderness Travel has over 40 years of experience in offering Kili climbs. We know this beautiful mountain well and have strong opinions on the best way to climb it.

We consider the Northern Circuit Route the best route to the summit. Why? With seven days on the ascent (compared to as few as five on many other routes), this route provides you with optimal time for acclimatization and therefore the greatest chance of summit success. It is also considered by many to be the most scenic route given the variety of vistas/views you get circumnavigating the mountain—allowing you to take in panoramas of all of Kilimanjaro's flanks and surrounding plains, while also giving you the full experience of the magnificent Shira Plateau, a World Heritage Site.

Our trip starts with two nights pre-climb at a gorgeous private camp in Arusha National Park at 6,500 feet. This gives our bodies a jump-start in the acclimatization process and time for optional warm-up hikes at this altitude. (Most other companies start in Arusha at 4,500 feet and must ascend at least 4,800 feet to Forest Camp.)

The climb begins on the west side of the Shira Plateau, with a camp at 9,150 feet in the upper heath zone in full view of the Western Breach. We then traverse the Shira Plateau, ascending out of the Moir Valley to Pofu Camp (13,200'), with views stretching out across Amboseli National Park as

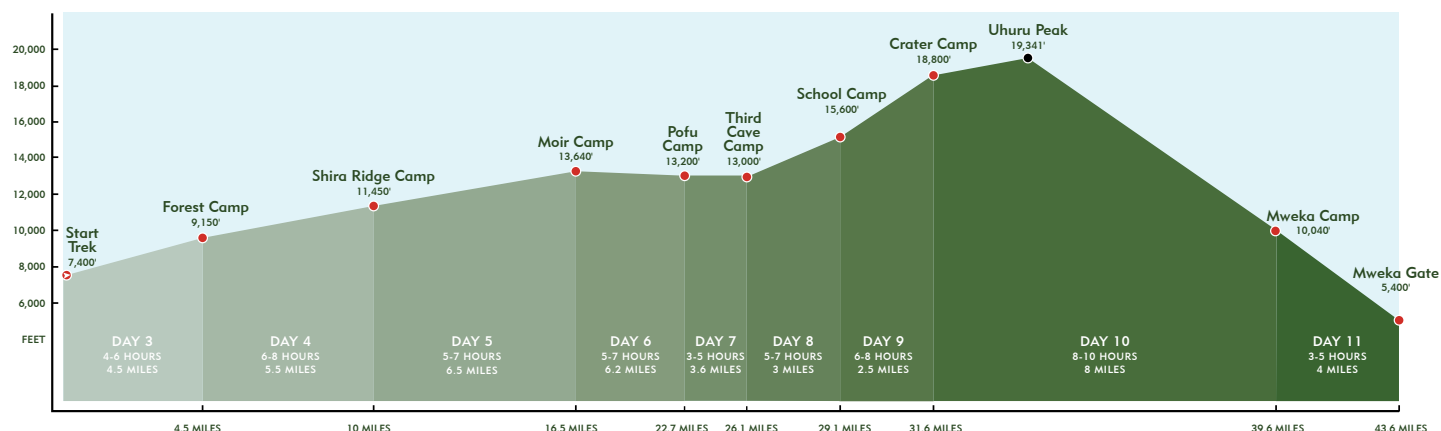
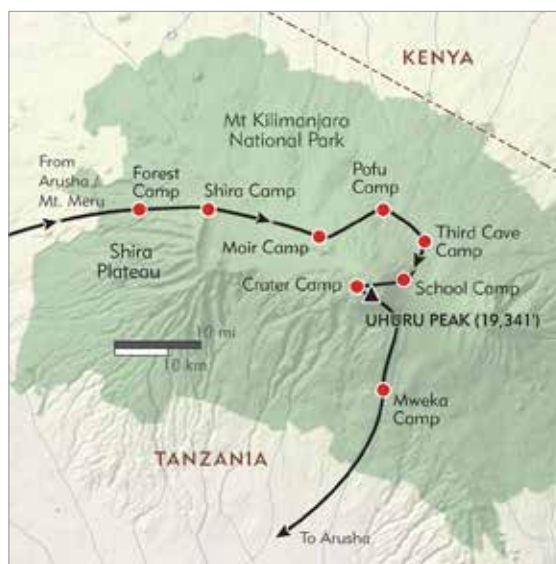
we hike through classic moorland and alpine desert to Third Cave Camp (13,000'). Reaching School Camp (15,600') in the rock and ice zone, we are less than 3,000 vertical feet from the summit.

Crater Camp (18,800') is our last campsite before we summit. The hike to Crater Camp on Day 9 is stunning but physically challenging as we ascend 3,361 feet on switchback trails through steep rocky terrain. We arrive at Crater Camp in the early afternoon, camping near the Furtwangler Glacier with time (for those still with energy) to explore the inner crater and make an optional side trip to the 400-foot-deep Ash Pit. At 18,800 feet, this camp is much higher than the others and very cold, but the spectacular setting and easy summit climb the next morning provide the once-in-a-lifetime experience that most are dreaming of when they think of climbing the highest mountain in Africa.

We descend the other side of the mountain via Barafu and go out the Mweka Gate. Descending by this route gets us down from high altitude quickly, and also shows

firsthand the advantage of our Northern Circuit Route approach versus the heavily used routes.

We carry oxygen and Gamow bags on all our Kili climbs, our guides are highly trained in safety, and we have decades of experience on the mountain.



# Other Kili Routes

These are other routes for climbing the mountain. We include these descriptions for comparison purposes. Wilderness Travel does not offer or recommend these routes.



*Marangu Route*

## 4-6-DAY MARANGU ROUTE—LEAST RECOMMENDED

The Marangu Route, also known as the “Coca Cola” or “Tourist” Route, is the shortest, cheapest, least scenic, most crowded, most punishing way to climb Kili. It offers minimal acclimatization and the least chance of summit success. Climbers stay in crowded dorms that accommodate up to 200 people and summit day requires a difficult 8-9 hour hike starting at midnight for a grueling 4,000-foot ascent at high altitude. Descent is another 5-7 hours by the same route. Approximately 40 percent of all Kili climbers choose this route and fewer than half of them make the summit.



*Machame Route*

## 6-7-DAY MACHAME ROUTE—TOO CROWDED

The Machame Route has over 20,000 climbers every year and allows only minimal time for acclimatization. The route climbs through rainforest up to the Shira Plateau and also has an extremely tough summit day, in that climbers wake at midnight and make a roughly 8-hour hike in less-than-ideal conditions. One group campsite on this route is **Barafu** (15,521'), so crowded that tents nearly touch each other. It is a noisy and terribly overused site, and despite the best efforts of the national park authorities, it is normally not very clean. The descent is via the Marangu Gate.



*Shira Route*

## 7-8-DAY SHIRA ROUTE—STARTS TOO HIGH

The Shira Route starts higher up the mountain than even the Lemosho Route. Climbers make a 5-hour drive from Arusha then hike up to 11,800 feet the first day, which can make it hard to adjust to the altitude. The route ends at the overused **Barafu** campsite, facing the same challenging summit day of a 4,000-foot ascent and 9,000-foot descent via the Mweka Gate.



*Lemosho Route*

## 7-9-DAY LEMOSHO ROUTE—SAME BRUTAL SUMMIT DAY

The standard 7-day Lemosho Route (often called the Western Approach) has a rapid ascent of 5,000 feet from Arusha on the first day, then joins the busy Machame route in Barranco Camp. This once again means approaching the summit from the crowded **Barafu** campsite and a summit day requiring a midnight wake-up for the 4,000-foot climb, followed by a 9,000-foot descent via Mweka on the same day. Although this route has a scenic start, that experience is compromised by joining the overcrowded route up from **Barafu** to the summit.

## BARAFU CAMP—WHY WE AVOID IT

This group campsite is used by many routes as the base for the summit bid and is often packed with so many climbers that tents almost touch each other. The site itself is on a rather bleak (and waterless) ridge that was clearly chosen because it offers the last semi-level tent sites before the summit. It is a terribly overused site, and despite the best efforts of the national park authorities, it is normally not very clean. Hopefully, any travelers on this route will have joined an outfitted trip professional enough to bring their own chemical toilets, but at present the public toilets are heavily used and can often be smelled from quite a distance.







# Kilimanjaro Private Journey Itinerary

## TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

**Length:** 11 days  
**Arrive:** Arusha, Tanzania  
**Depart:** Arusha, Tanzania  
**Lodging:** 8 nights mountain camps, 2 nights private acclimatization camp  
**Meals:** All meals included (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)  
**Activity:** Hiking / Trekking  
**Trip Level:** 1 2 3 4 5 6+  
 Physically demanding 9-day trek to 19,341 feet, difficult terrain including scree (loose rock) and snow, extreme altitudes, overnight at 18,800 feet

## DAY 1 ARUSHA, TANZANIA / MOUNT MERU ACCLIMATIZATION CAMP

Late evening arrival at Kilimanjaro Airport outside Arusha, where we are met by the Trip Leader for a drive of about two hours to our private Wilderness Travel camp set at 6,500 feet on the lower slopes of Mount Meru (14,900'), one of Africa's highest and most beautiful volcanoes. We enjoy a late dinner and a relaxing shower before settling in for the night. Overnight at Wilderness Travel Mount Meru Camp...D

## DAY 2 MOUNT MERU ACCLIMATIZATION CAMP (6,500')

Our exclusive camp looks out onto Kilimanjaro, Meru, and the Ngurdoto Crater. We spend the morning enjoying the spectacular setting and relaxing after the long flight. After lunch, we gather for a briefing and a gear check for the Kilimanjaro climb. You will separate your Kili gear from your safari items (your safari baggage for the optional extension is transported to the first lodge we stay in after the Kili climb). An afternoon hike takes us into the lush cedar and podocarpus forests of Mount Meru, set within Arusha National Park. The hike is a great way to acclimatize to the altitude and we'll also have a good chance of seeing the unique black-and-white colobus monkeys of the park and perhaps bushbuck or giraffe, along with a host of avian life. Our hike also offers impressive views of the dramatic ash cone of Mount Meru's summit. We gather for a Welcome Dinner at camp in the evening. Overnight at Wilderness Travel Mount Meru Camp...BLD  
 Hiking Details: 2-3 hours, 3 miles, 600 feet ascent/descent

## DAY 3 FOREST CAMP (9,150')

A morning drive of about three hours takes us across a rough dirt road through Kilimanjaro National Forest Reserve, with its plantations of pine and cedar. We





meet our porters and guides at the trailhead, and our climb of Kili begins at an altitude of about 7,400 feet. Ascending through the dense montane forest, we may see black-and-white colobus and Sykes monkeys, possibly evidence of Cape buffalo and forest elephant, as well as a colorful array of birds, including turacos and sunbirds. Our first camp is in a forest at 9,150 feet...BLD

Hiking Details: 4-6 hours, 4.5 miles, 1,750 feet ascent

#### DAY 4 SHIRA RIDGE CAMP (11,450')

Waking to the sound of the resident colobus monkeys around camp, we begin the day by hiking through thick forest festooned with "the old man's beard," a hanging lichen. As we leave the montane forest, we move through a transition zone and then enter the heath zone, where Kili's old lava flows are visible. After lunch, we hike to the rim of the Shira Plateau, an immense ancient crater and a World Heritage Site, and on to our camp by a stream on the plateau. Our campsite, at 11,450 feet, has a dramatic view of Kilimanjaro and its glaciers that climbers on the Marangu "Tourist Route" never see... BLD

Hiking Details: 6-8 hours, 5.5 miles, 2,300 feet ascent

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*"The trip of a lifetime for me! It was life changing and outstanding in every way. I not only made the summit but also fell in love with Africa and her people."*

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*Midge S., Jerome, AZ*

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#### DAY 5 MOIR CAMP (13,640')

Today is an easy-paced acclimatization day that takes us slightly higher on the Shira Plateau. We hike through heath and moorland zones and view the giant groundsels and beautiful senecios, lobelias, and helichrysums that grow at this altitude as we make our way to Moir Camp. Camp is set on a bluff at 13,640 feet with views over the Shira Plateau and up to the summit of Kilimanjaro. There is an optional hike in the

afternoon...BLD

Hiking Details: 5-7 hours, 6.5 miles, 2,190 feet ascent

#### DAY 6 POFU CAMP (13,200')

Starting the day at 13,640 feet, we ascend out of the Moir Valley to 14,200 feet, where a short detour to Little Lent Hill is an option for those who want more hiking and a nice view. From here, we'll continue to climb a couple

hundred feet before descending to 13,200 feet then traversing at this level to Pofu Camp. Today's hike offers awesome views across the West Kilimanjaro and Amboseli National Park plains, home to the well-known elephant population that has been long studied by Cynthia Moss and Joyce Poole...BLD  
Hiking Details: 5-7 hours, 6.2 miles, 1,071 feet ascent, 1,623 descent



### DAY 7 THIRD CAVE CAMP (13,000')

A welcome shorter hiking day today brings us along the ecozone between classic moorland vegetation and alpine desert vegetation. There are stunning views of massive volcanic formations en route and our camp is in a beautiful and remote area with views across a fascinating lunar landscape...BLD

Hiking Details: 3-5 hours, 3.6 miles, 232 feet ascent, 457 feet descent

### DAY 8 SCHOOL CAMP (15,600')

Today is short in mileage but at a continuous climb.

Reaching School Camp, we're less than 3,000 vertical feet from the summit and

truly in the rock and ice alpine zone of Africa's highest mountain! This camp is often described as the "quietest, most remote" on Kilimanjaro. Here we'll have a demonstration of our high-altitude safety equipment, the hyperbaric chamber and the supplemental oxygen system we bring along...BLD

Hiking Details: 5-7 hours, 3 miles, 2,600 feet ascent

*"Wilderness Travel's route up Kilimanjaro was far better and more interesting than the major highways used by most trekkers. We were the only group at many campsites; it felt like we were the only people on that magnificent mountain."*

*— Trenholm W., Charleston, SC*

### DAY 9 CRATER CAMP (18,800')

We wind our way up the ascent route above School Camp to the summit of crater rim at Gilman's Point. From Gilman's Point, we descend into the crater and camp for the night.

Those who still have the energy can explore the Inner Crater and the Ash Pit.. This spectacular high camp is next to the

Furtwangler Glacier, with stunning views westward toward Mount Meru and the setting African sun.

Hiking Details: 6-8 hours, 2.5 miles, 3,361 feet ascent

### DAY 10 UHURU PEAK (19,341') / MWEKA CAMP (10,040')

After breakfast, we make a two-hour hike up the final 541 feet to Uhuru Peak, the true summit of Kilimanjaro at 19,341 feet. We arrive early, before the clouds close in, so we usually have terrific views of Africa stretching out in all directions. Unlike other routes to Uhuru Peak, which require starting summit climbs at midnight, our short, pre-dawn hike allows us to fully enjoy sunrise on the summit with the entire continent spread out below us. After





celebrating our achievement, we then make a steep, rigorous descent along the crater rim to Stella Point and down the Barafu Route for about two hours, then turn off to descend via the Mweka Route. We stop for lunch at 15,000 feet. After a rest, we continue descending for another three or four hours to our last overnight camp at Mweka at 10,040 feet, back in the forest zone. Tonight's camp is 10,040 feet below the summit! The descent from Kilimanjaro is long and steep. Trekking

poles for support are highly recommended. You should do your best to build the strength of your "quads" with a pre-trip conditioning and strengthening program...BLD  
Hiking Details: 8-10 hours, 8 miles, 541 feet ascent, 9,301 feet descent

## DAY 11 ARUSHA / MOUNT MERU GAME LODGE

We leave camp early for our last hike, a descent of 4,640 feet that is steep in places and can be muddy if wet (once again, trekking poles will help with support). Arriving at Mweka Gate (5,400'), we'll have a victory lunch at the trailhead and

receive our climb diplomas to celebrate our great feat! We relax for a bit, reflecting on the last nine days, then say goodbye to our porters, "sign off" the mountain, and drive to Mount Meru Game Lodge, located in a beautiful natural setting outside Arusha. We have a well-deserved hot shower and enjoy a hot dinner. Those trip members not joining the safari extension transfer to the airport in the evening to depart on homeward-bound flights, while safari extension participants overnight at

Mount Meru Game Lodge...  
BLD

Hiking Details: 3-5 hours, 4 miles, 4,640 feet descent

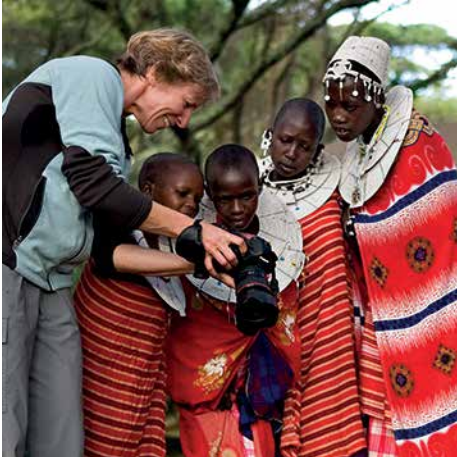
"I felt very well cared for in every way. This was a challenging trip, but so well planned and well executed that success was assured. Thank you for designing a trip that made it possible for me to complete the climb with such high spirits and happy memories!"

— Candace S., Palo Alto, CA





# Post-Climb Safari: Ngorongoro & Serengeti



This is a great “safari-only” option for friends and family who want to join you in Africa to celebrate your summit success.

## DAY 1 NGORONGORO CRATER

From Arusha, head up to the rim of the 105-square-mile Ngorongoro Crater, perched above the caldera where Africa’s largest permanent concentration of wildlife lives. Your private tented camp is on a high ridge away from the bustle of the lodges. Ole Dorop, a long-time Maasai friend and clan leader, will visit camp before dinner with local Maasai to share stories, songs, and traditional dances. Overnight at Private Wilderness Travel Seasonal Camp.

## DAY 2 GAME VIEWING / NGORONGORO CRATER

Enjoy a full day’s game drive on the crater floor in search of elephant, zebra, wildebeest, and buffalo—and there’s hardly a better place on Earth for observing lion and black rhino than Ngorongoro, a kind of mini-Serengeti in a phenomenally scenic setting. Late afternoon return to camp. Overnight at Private Wilderness Travel Seasonal Camp.

## DAYS 3-4 GAME VIEWING / SERENGETI

Descend from Ngorongoro to Serengeti National Park.. With nights in a private seasonal camp, explore the Serengeti’s majestic kopje (rock outcroppings) and golden plains. During migration, huge numbers of animals roam these plains—wildebeest in the millions, zebra in the hundreds of thousands, along with their predators: lion, leopard, hyena, jackal, and more. Overnights at Private Wilderness Travel Serengeti Mobile Safari Camp.

## DAY 5 SERENGETI / ARUSHA / DEPART

Enjoy a final game drive on return to Arusha. Evening transfer to Kilimanjaro International Airport for departure on homeward-bound flights.

## 2024 EXTENSION COST

*5 days. From \$3895*





# Additional Extensions

For detailed information, including full itineraries and complete pricing, please visit our *Kilimanjaro Private Journey* webpage and click on the “Extensions” tab: [www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/tanzania/kilimanjaro-private-climb/extensions](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/tanzania/kilimanjaro-private-climb/extensions)



## GORILLA TRACKING IN RWANDA'S PARC NATIONAL DES VOLCANS EXTENSION

Join your ranger-guide for the exhilarating experience of tracking and observing the mountain gorilla clans that reside in the spectacular montane forests of Parc National des Volcans, where researcher Dian Fossey was based for 13 years. The hiking terrain ranges in altitude from 3,800 to 8,500 feet and preserves one of the largest natural forests in East Africa. *5 days. From \$3395.*





## Camping with Wilderness Travel

### TENTS

We use high-tech Mountain Hardware mountaineering dome tents that have proven themselves to be waterproof in rainstorms and able to withstand the high winds that can be encountered on Kilimanjaro. We use three-person tents for only two people, ensuring more comfortable nights.

We also bring our own private chemical toilets with separate toilet tents for men and women on the mountain providing guaranteed privacy and hygiene (we do not use the unsanitary park toilets).

We serve meals in a large solar-lit dining tent with table and chairs-with-backs. The dining tent is a nice place to relax and socialize while drinking tea or coffee in the evening. Snacks are always available at camp.

### SLEEPING BAGS / PADS

Our Mountain Hardware Lamina sleeping bags are all rated to -30°F to keep you warm at night. Our Thermarest sleeping pads are two inches thick and more than two feet wide to ensure a comfortable night's sleep.

*"This trip was everything I've ever wanted and then some! The food was phenomenal and the accommodations (even the tents) were extraordinary. I had an amazing experience and can't wait to go on another Wilderness Travel trip."*

*Martha M., Granger, IN*

### FULL PORTER SUPPORT

Our highly trained mountain staff will take care of all the logistics so you can relax and enjoy the climb. Every morning, the staff brings tea or coffee and a bowl of washing water to your

tent. After the group departs, the camp crew will break camp then hike ahead of the climbers to set up the next camp. By the time you arrive in the afternoon, a welcoming cup of tea is normally waiting for you. On average, there are four porters for every one climber. The porters carry all group camping equipment.

### DINING ON THE TRAIL

Our Kili climbs have become renowned for the excellent meals served on the mountain, even at the highest altitudes. Breakfast is hot cereal, toast, and eggs on request. Lunch is picnic style, with soup, salad, sandwich

fixings, and hot dishes such as quiche if we are in camp. Dinner might include tomato ginger soup, baked bread, fresh tilapia and potatoes, peas with butter and mint, avocado tomato salad, apple pie and cream.



# Climb Kilimanjaro Lodging



## MOUNT MERU SEASONAL CAMP

*Arusha National Park, Tanzania Days 1 to 2 (2 nights)*

Mount Meru Camp, set at nearly 6,500 feet in the ancient montane forest on the slopes of Mount Meru, is a fantastic, off-the-beaten-track hideaway and the perfect jumping off point for our Kilimanjaro climb. Each tent features wood framed beds, an en suite bathroom with a bucket-type shower and flush toilet, a small private veranda with chairs and a washstand, and solar powered lighting. A lounge tent, set in an open glade, has a wide veranda to keep it cool during the heat of the day, and a separate mess tent serves wonderful food created by our resident chef over an open fire (a specialty is barbecued meat and vegetable kebabs). Mount Meru Camp is great for acclimatization, and the two nights sleeping at 6,500' give you the head start that will help you get to the summit of Kilimanjaro.

This is the best Kilimanjaro trek that you are going to find anywhere, with any company. Highly recommended!

—James H., Newton Center, MA



## MOUNT MERU GAME LODGE (DAY ROOM)

*Arusha, Tanzania Day 11*

Set in tranquil surroundings outside Arusha, Mount Meru Game Lodge is nestled between the Usa River and a wildlife sanctuary that is home to zebra, ostrich, a wide array of birds and monkeys. It is just 25 minutes from Kilimanjaro International Airport. The lodge has 17 well-appointed guest rooms. The bar is well stocked with spirits, beer, and a selection of wines, and the terrace is shaded by enormous old mango trees and has magnificent views over the gardens and sanctuary beyond. There is a swimming pool, and the garden has a campfire for outdoor dining.





# Trip Details

## DATE AND PRICING INFORMATION

### TRIP COST

#### Prices are per person, valid through 2024

\$6895 (10-14 members)

\$7395 (7-9 members)

\$8095 (4-6 members)

Single supplement: \$450

Park Fees: \$1850

*Prices are based on double occupancy and not guaranteed until services are confirmed.*

#### Make it Your Trip!

The prices above are for the ready-to-book adventure outlined in this Detailed Itinerary, a popular option that has been handcrafted by our Area Specialists to include the best of every destination. While many travelers choose to book this tour as is, our Area Specialists are also happy to work with you to customize this Private Journey to suit your specific interests and style of travel. We can arrange for longer or shorter stays, or add an extension to additional places of interest. We can even add special activities or customize excursions depending on your interests. We invite you to contact us to discuss your options!

### TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations, based on double occupancy
- 2 pre-climb nights in a private luxury camp in beautiful Arusha National Park at 6,500 feet and extra acclimatization day on the mountain at Lava Tower Camp at 15,240 feet
- All meals included as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- All group camping and cooking equipment
- Use of Mountain Hardwear Lamina sleeping bag rated to -30F degrees and 3-inch Therm-a-Rest sleeping pad
- All land transportation, airport transfers for passengers on Delta/KLM flights, and baggage handling
- Membership in Knight Support First Air Responder

### TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, transfers for independent arrival or departure, airport departure taxes, optional gratuities to leaders and porters, additional hotel nights made necessary by airline schedule changes or other factors, pre-trip expenses such as medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, passports and visas, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

### SIGNING UP FOR A TRIP

Early reservations are recommended since accommodations often sell out far in advance. Please call 1-800-368-2794 and ask for our Africa Manager or email [africa@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:africa@wildernesstravel.com) with any questions that you may have about this trip.

To reserve your Private Journey, we will need to know your preferred dates of travel. We will then check availability and send you a proposed itinerary with exact pricing for your adventure. We can typically hold a provisional booking for one week. At that time, we must collect your initial deposit or accommodations will be released. We accept Visa, Mastercard, or American Express card. Upon receipt of your deposit, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a letter of confirmation, Detailed Itinerary, Trip Application, Medical Form, and Pre-Departure Information Booklet with information to help you prepare for your adventure. Please see our Cancellations and Transfer Fee Schedule for specific payment information.

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$1000

90 days prior to departure: Balance

### CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: \$500 per person

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

\*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

<http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan/travel-insurance>

# Our Guides

## MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Our Kilimanjaro Trip Leaders are legendary—they're the best on the mountain, highly trained in advanced safety and first aid with extensive experience in climbing Kilimanjaro. On the mountain, in addition to your Trip Leader, you are accompanied by an Assistant Trip Leader, trail guides, and an excellent camp staff. On our safari extension, you are accompanied by a safari guide/driver who is skilled at finding wildlife. For more information about our Trip Leaders, and client comments about them and which trips they will be leading, please see our webpage and click on "Trip Leaders."



### SAMIA ASINDAMU

Samia Asindamu, born and raised on the southwest slopes of Kilimanjaro, lives in Arusha, Tanzania, with his family. A professional mountain guide since 1993, Samia is a veteran of many Kili climbs—he has summited Kili more than 300 times and knows all of Kili's routes. His training includes National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) courses in Advanced Technical Climbing and Wilderness First Aid Response, and he has studied ornithology, botany, and mammalogy. In 1999, Samia won first prize in a Kilimanjaro summit race: he ran from the trailhead at Lemosho (7,500') to the summit of Kili (Uhuru Peak, 19,340') and back down to Mweka Gate (5,600') in just 18 hours! Samia has a great sense of humor and loves sharing stories, watching wildlife, playing soccer, and listening to music. He speaks English, Swahili, and his mother tongue, Chagga.



### BONAVENTURE KIVUYO

Born into a farming family in Tanzania, Bonaventure graduated from Arusha Technical College some 20 years ago and has led Kilimanjaro climbs for WT ever since. In that time, he has become a legend on the mountain—having once climbed Kili round-trip in 18 hours! We were happy to have him join us on our Everest Base Camp trek in 2019.





# Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Arusha, Tanzania

**Suggested Airport:** Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 1, between 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm

**Meeting Place:** All trip members arriving on the Delta/KLM flight in the evening of Day 1 will be met by a WT representative and transferred to Mount Meru Camp.

The transfer from the airport to the camp takes approximately 1.5 hours. If you are on a flight that arrives at a different time, an airport transfer can be arranged at additional cost.

## DEPARTURE

Arusha, Tanzania

**Suggested Airport:** Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 11, after 7:00 pm

At the end of the trip, you will be transferred from Mount Meru Game Lodge to the Kilimanjaro Airport for the recommended Delta/KLM flight. If you are departing at a different time, individual airport transfer can be arranged at an additional cost.

## INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Tanzania. Airlines with the most convenient schedules for this trip are:

**Delta/KLM** (via Amsterdam)

[www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com)

[www.klm.com](http://www.klm.com)

Delta/KLM Airlines offers the most convenient schedule overall from the US to Arusha (via Amsterdam). Other possible airlines include:

**Air Ethiopia**

[www.flyethiopian.com](http://www.flyethiopian.com)

**Qatar Airlines** (via Amsterdam)

[www.qatarairways.com](http://www.qatarairways.com)

Qatar Airlines often offer competitive fares. Note an overnight at the end of trip may be required due to the flight schedule.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of departure from Tanzania.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so we can reserve your airport transfers. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight schedule coordinates with the arrival and departure logistics for the trip.

## AMSTERDAM STOPOVER

If you have an Amsterdam stopover, we recommend the Canal House ([www.canalhouse.nl](http://www.canalhouse.nl)). Situated on one of the major canals, the Keizersgracht, it has 26 rooms furnished with period antiques, and a bed and breakfast atmosphere. Contact them directly at [info@canalhouse.nl](mailto:info@canalhouse.nl) for reservations, guaranteed by credit card.

# What to Expect

## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated a Level 6+ (Very Strenuous) according to our trip grading system, our most strenuous rating. There are no alternative hiking options available. Despite the fact that the Kilimanjaro climb doesn't require climbing equipment or technical skills, it is extremely challenging and considered a real physical test. All trip members must be in excellent shape—both physically and mentally!

### Challenge Days

- Day 9 - 6-8 hours, 2.5 miles, 3,361 feet ascent/descent
- Day 10 - 8-10 hours, 8 miles, 541 feet ascent, 9,301 feet descent

### How Tough is This Trip?

You need to be able to hike on steep, uneven surfaces and over loose scree. You must feel comfortable and confident on your feet for an average of 8 hours a day, with recent experience hiking 10 miles in a day. There are dangers inherent in any expedition to high altitude—in this case, 19,340 feet, with an overnight at 18,500 feet. These dangers include everything from rock falls to the possibility of a serious fall, accident, or sickness without access to a means of rapid evacuation, adequate medical supplies, or adequate medical attention once provided. Although we carry oxygen and Gamow bags on every climb, it is important that all participants understand that the climb is very challenging. Our Trip Leaders and

crew are experienced veterans of the mountain, but it takes cooperation and flexibility from each participant to ensure a successful ascent.

The daily pacing is flexible and may be adjusted by the Trip Leader. Trail conditions, weather and the group's level of fitness can affect hiking times. Normally, some trip members hike faster than others. Our climbing groups are accompanied by highly experienced Kilimanjaro mountain guides in addition to the Wilderness Travel Trip Leader so that we can divide into smaller groups, each hiking at their own pace and each with its own guide.

## TERRAIN

You will be hiking through a variety of different terrain along your ascent and descent. From forested areas with low angle dirt trails, into loose lava flows and valleys, all the way up to steep volcanic scree. In general, the trail is a tight footpath, rocky underfoot, winding its way across lava flows and exposed ridges. As you gain elevation, the mountain becomes steeper and the footing becomes looser. Compounded by the high elevation, these last days cover less ground but are the most physically demanding.

## GETTING IN SHAPE

Begin training at least five or six months before departure. Start gradually by doing hikes, running, using a stairmaster,

DAY	DAILY OVERVIEW	CAMP ELEVATION	HIKING DETAILS BY DAY		
			HOURS	MILES	ELEV. GAIN/LOSS
1	Arrival - Itikoni Camp	6,500'			
2	Leisure morning, acclimatization hike	6,500'	2-3 hours	3 miles	+600'/-600'
3	Drive to trailhead - Forest Camp	9,150'	4-6 hours	4.5 miles	+1,750'
4	Montane forest, Shira Plateau - Shira Ridge Camp	11,450'	6-8 hours	5.5 miles	+2,300'
5	Heath to moorland zone - Moir Camp	13,640'	5-7 hours	6.5 miles	+2,190'
6	Moir Valley - Pofu Camp	13,200'	5-7 hours	6.2 miles	+1,071'/-1,623'
7	Moorland and alpine desert - Third Cave Camp	13,000'	3-5 hours	3.6 miles	+232'/-457'
8	School Camp	15,600'	5-7 hours	3 miles	+2,600'
9	Crater Camp	18,800'	6-8 hours	2.5 miles	+3,361
10	Summit Uhuru Peak, descend to Mweka Camp	10,040'	8-10 hours	8 miles	+541'/-9,301'
11	Final descent to Mweka Gate		3-5 hours	4 miles	-4,640'



or riding bikes. The objective is to improve your overall level of fitness and aerobic capacity and get your legs and lungs in shape for the nearly 50 miles of trails you will be hiking on Kili. We descend 13,000 feet in two days, a feat that is extremely challenging on the body, especially the knees. This is where strengthening up those quads really pays off. As the time for departure approaches, try to climb a high peak near you. Past trip members have hiked up Mt. Whitney, Mt. Shasta, or the volcanoes in Hawaii. If you do not have high mountains nearby, then try to increase the length and intensity of your training regime. A backpacking trip can give you an excellent idea of what this trip is like and is great for conditioning and aerobic capacity. Backpacking also gives you experience in organizing and testing your equipment and in proper walking technique. Most importantly, take care of yourself and exercise regularly to improve your aerobic capacity, but do not overexert yourself before departure.

## WEATHER

As in most mountain areas, the weather on Kilimanjaro can and does change abruptly. Usually, Kilimanjaro's summit clouds appear around 10:00 am and then disappear from around 4:30 pm until sundown. The snow line usually begins at 17,000 or 18,000 feet, but a sudden storm may bring it as low as 14,000 feet (the snow line is usually at its lowest after the two rainy seasons). Daytime temperatures range from the 50s to the 70sF at altitudes from 7,500', where we start the climb, to about 12,000'. Above this altitude, daytime temperatures are lower and evening temperatures can drop to 10°F or even lower. Above 16,000', daytime temperatures most often are in the high teens to low 40's, but on the occasional clear calm day, because of the lack of atmosphere to filter the UV, it can feel hot. At this altitude, you should expect nighttime temperatures to be below freezing, and temperatures below zero are not uncommon. At the summit, it is rarely above 45°F during the day. Kilimanjaro is the first high-altitude obstacle facing the moisture-laden winds from the Indian Ocean, so it receives higher than average rainfall. We

don't offer climbs during the rainy months of April and May or November.

As with most mountain areas, the weather on Kilimanjaro can change abruptly so you need to be ready for these sudden changes with extra layers of clothing, including waterproof gear, in your day pack at all times. Usually, Kilimanjaro's summit clouds appear in the late morning and then dissipate shortly before sundown.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

On the Kilimanjaro climb, porters carry the group gear and you carry a daypack for your wind/rain jacket, water bottle, and camera (depending on your equipment, this can weigh approximately 10 pounds). The camp crew sets up camp each day and we are served dinner in a dining tent with tables and chairs. We use American-made mountaineering tents rated by the manufacturer as 3-person tents but we use them for only two people, ensuring a fair amount of space for sleeping. Sleeping bags are rated to -30°F and sleeping pads are three inches thick and over two feet wide. Fires are not allowed on the mountain so there are no hot showers available at camps (hot showers are available at all of our safari camps).

For more information about our accommodations, please reference our "Camping with Wilderness Travel" and "Climb Kilimanjaro Lodging" pages of the detailed itinerary.

## CUISINE

While there are certainly limits as to what can be done in such a setting, our Kili climbs have become renowned for the excellent meals served on the mountain, even at the highest altitudes. We have put a great deal of effort into combining proper nutrition with appealing and varied dishes; WT even launched the first chef training school in Tanzania over twenty years ago to create the highest standard of food quality for our high-altitude climbs.

AVERAGE DAILY MAX/MIN °F												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Arusha	84/59	86/59	84/61	79/63	75/61	73/57	73/55	75/55	79/57	82/59	82/61	82/61
Ngorongoro	73/50	73/50	72/50	70/52	68/50	66/46	66/46	68/46	70/46	72/48	72/50	72/50
Serengeti	82/59	82/59	82/59	79/61	79/59	77/57	77/55	79/57	79/57	82/59	81/59	81/59
RAINFALL - INCHES												
Arusha	2.5	2.5	5.7	13.3	6.7	1.5	0.8	0.6	0.6	1.5	5.0	3.6
Ngorongoro	4.3	3.5	5.4	8.4	3.9	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.4	2.2	4.5	5.4
Serengeti	3.2	3.9	4.8	5.4	2.7	0.9	0.4	0.7	1.3	2.0	3.9	3.8

Breakfasts typically include tea, coffee, fruit, eggs, bacon, porridge and homemade granola. Picnic lunches set up along the trail midway through the day can include sandwiches, soup, energy bars, nuts, fruit, cheese, crackers, and guacamole. Dinners vary day by day (and with elevation moving to foods that are easier to digest) but include soups with baked bread, an assortment of salads, pasta with garlic bread, spaghetti Bolognese, cauliflower, carrots, tomatoes, and of course brownies and apple pie with cream!

We have a separate dining tent with food available upon request at any time, and provide an assortment of snacks for you to take on the trail, including mixed nuts, energy bars, homemade granola, dried fruit and much needed sugary sweets to boost your energy at higher elevations such as chocolate bars. Please let us know of any dietary needs and we will accommodate as best as possible.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

From our Kilimanjaro camps, we try to carry out every item of trash that we cannot burn easily. Toilet paper, which is put in a can beside the chemical toilet, is burned by the crew before leaving each camp and some small easily burnable items can be given to them to burn at the same time. For pit stops on the trail, carry toilet paper back to camp in a plastic bag. Please keep your own trash in a trash bag and pack it in your porter duffel for removal from the mountain. Take chemical or toxic trash (such as dead batteries) back to the US with you so they can be disposed of properly.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Africa Manager or email us at [africa@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:africa@wildernesstravel.com).

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Our travelers are given an opportunity to donate to the Friends of Serengeti organization. See blurb above, and [this information flyer](#) for details. In addition, WT supports the work of Save the Elephants, headed by Iain Douglas-Hamilton, and the Jane Goodall Institute, both Guest Speakers at our Africa wildlife symposiums.

## REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

## TOUCAN CLUB

We're proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business! The Wilderness Travel Toucan Club was established to reward our travelers for their loyalty. For details, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at [www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club/](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club/)

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

## PROTECTING THE SERENGETI ECOSYSTEM

Wilderness Travel is proud to be a founding member of the Friends of Serengeti, which brings together travel companies and travelers to build support, advocacy, and funding for the Serengeti ecosystem in both Tanzania and Kenya. Without our support, the Serengeti, Masai Mara, and surrounding protected areas are in danger of being lost forever. We believe that the success of sustainable tourism will be the deciding factor in whether the Serengeti ecosystem will survive, and a key element is bringing tangible social and economic benefits from tourism to local people. You will be provided with an opportunity to make an optional donation to Friends of Serengeti at the time of your final payment. We also support other organizations working in Africa, including the Jane Goodall Institute, the Cheetah Conservation Fund, and Save the Elephants.





## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

**World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

**Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips:** *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *USA Today*

**Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

**50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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