

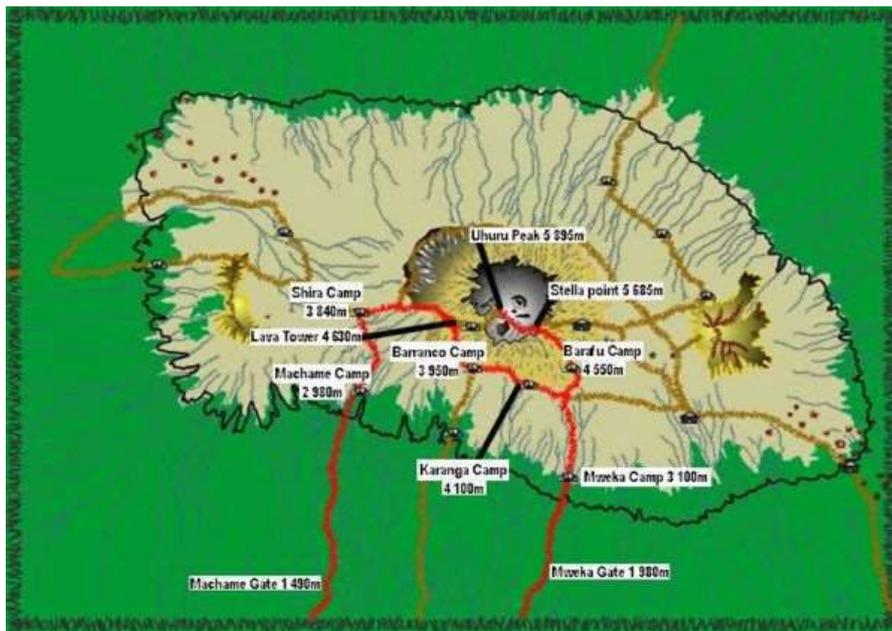
# MACHAME ROUTE KILIMANJARO



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- Our all-time favourite the Machame route is the most scenic route on Kilimanjaro.
- The Machame route allows you to experience the southwest and south side of Kilimanjaro, traversing up and down and over river valleys on the southern slopes, this increases the body's ability to naturally acclimatize more properly and increase your chance for success.
- All equipment and supplies are carried by porters and a cook prepares all your meals. Meals are served in a dinner tent or on a blanket outside.
- From late afternoon sunsets on the Shira Plateau, to the misty revelations of Kilimanjaro great Barranco Wall, the Machame Route offers hikers a continuous scenic slide show. The Machame route is also referred to as the "Whiskey Route".
- The Machame route is highly recommended for people experiencing high altitude mountaineering for the first time. A minimum of 6 days on Mount Kilimanjaro is needed, but for more comfort and to increase your chance of success, 7 days are recommended. Accommodation on this route will be in tents, included in the package, and the porters will pitch your tent for you.



Day	Starting point	Altitude	End point	Altitude	Terrain	Distance	Hiking time
1	Machame Park gate	1 800 m	Machame camp	2 835 m	Rain forest / Montane forest	11 km	5 hours
2	Machame camp	2 835 m	Shira camp	3 750 m	Heathland / Moorland	5 Km	6 hours
3	Shira camp	3 750 m	Lava Tower	4 600 m	Alpine Desert / Semi desert	7 km	4 hours
	Lava Tower	4 600 m	Barranco camp	3 900 m	Alpine Desert / Semi desert	3 km	2 hours
4	Barranco camp	3 900 m	Karanga Valley camp	3 995 m	Alpine Desert	4 km	5 hours
5	Karanga Valley camp	3 995 m	Barafu camp	4 673 m	Alpine Desert	4 km	4 hours
6	Barafu camp	4 673 m	Stella point	5 756 m	Alpine Desert	4.3 km	6 hours
	Stella point	5 756 m	Uhuru Peak	5 895 m	Alpine Desert	0.7 km	1 hours
	Uhuru Peak	5 895 m	Barafu camp	4 673 m	Alpine Desert	5 km	3 hours
	Barafu camp	4 673 m	Mweka camp	3 100 m	Heathland / Moorland	7.5 km	5 hours
7	Mweka camp	3 100 m	Mweka Park gate	1 640 m	Rain forest / Montane forest	10 km	3 hours

# Machame route itinerary

## Day 1: Moshi – Machame Gate – Machame camp



After a relaxing night stay at Springlands your first day on your Machame route Kilimanjaro adventure starts. Depending on what time you arrived at the hotel on the previous day, you would either have had a detailed briefing with your guide. Important things that need to be covered are your equipment, if you still need to rent some gear this is the time to get all in place. Also the meals that will be prepared for you will be covered, if you have specific requirements or needs please remember to communicate this to your guide. From Springlands Hotel it will be approximately 1 hour drive to Machame Gate, the starting point of your hike on the south western side of the National park. While you sign in and register at the Machame gate office, the guides and porters will prepare and pack the supplies and your equipment. The guide will present you with a lunch pack, and drinking water for the first day will be bottled water that you can purchase at Springlands Hotel in Moshi. It is important to understand that your acclimatization process starts from day one, and you need to ensure that you allow your body enough time to acclimatize. Also important you keep up with water intake, in order to keep your body's natural balance. Your guide and his assistant guide will provide the pace for your hike, do not try and go faster. The first day you will be hiking through the rainforest belt that is found around the park and the first day will take you approximately 5 hours hiking time. There is a high possibility of rain in the forest, which will transform the trail into a very soggy, muddy and slippery experience, ensure to have your wet weather gear handy in your day pack. Utilizing the full day to reach your first camp on the route, The Machame camp at 2 835m, you can start relaxing as all the normal camp responsibilities are taken care of by your guide and his support team. Dinner will be prepared by the head cook, and drinking water collected by the porters. Have your containers ready to be filled up by the support team (water will be boiled). While the water has been tested by the Tanzanian National parks board (TANAPA), it will be safer to use the boiled water that is made available. Using water purification tablets will add extra peace of mind. Washing water will also be made available. Your guide will schedule a briefing with the group either that evening or the next morning, with a test with his pulse oximeter to monitor the blood oxygen levels of each hiker. After enjoying dinner in the dining tent, you will retire to your tent for a good night rest, to be ready for the following day's adventure. Night temperatures can already drop to freezing point at Machame campsite, with the Sun normally setting & rising just before 7 o'clock each day. A good idea will be to take some reading material or some card games to keep yourself busy in the evening.

## Day 2: Machame camp - Shira camp



This day for most people will be the easiest day on the Machame route. By now you should be more adapted to the surroundings. If you have packed your gear like we recommend, in separate plastic bags, getting ready will be much easier. Breakfast will be early in the morning with a short briefing with your guide on what lies ahead for the day. Weather plays a huge role, but for most cases the day should entail a much easier hiking experience compared to the rain forest that you hiked through on the first day. After breakfast you will pack your last things in your duffel bag & your day pack, and collected water that is again boiled and easy for consumption. The increase in altitude will be around 1 000m. It will take you about an hour to completely exit the rain forest area and shortly after that you leave the rain forest and enter a Heathland/Moorland area. After lunch you continue up a rocky ridge onto the Shira plateau. By now you will be able to see in an easterly direction, the Western Breach with its stunning glaciers. You are now due west of Kibo and after a short hike you will reach the Shira cave camp at 3 750m. As you will be arriving early at the camp site, going on a short hike higher up will be of great value for acclimatization. When you return to the camp site washing water should already be available. Dinner will be enjoyed followed by a briefing with your guide and the daily test with his pulse oximeter to monitor the blood oxygen levels of each hiker. The night at this exposed camp will even be colder than the previous night, with temperatures dropping to well below freezing.

# Machame route itinerary continue

## Day 3: Shira camp - Barranco camp



After breakfast, and the normal camping experience as per the previous days, the Machame route will turn east into a semi desert and rocky landscape surrounding Lava Tower.

Lunch is served in an area what is best described as a fork in the road.

At this point you will have the choice of either ascending higher to Lava Tower, or to take the lower road down to the Barranco encampment.

It is of utmost importance to ascend very slowly here to avoid altitude-related problems.

This part is also normally very warm and dry so remember to cover up with sun block and to drink water regularly.

From Shira to Lava Tower will take you approximately 4 hours and from Lava Tower to the Barranco camp approximately 2 hours.

This descent to Barranco camp offers great opportunities to take some photographs of the Western Breach Wall.

The Barranco camp is situated in a valley below the Breach and Great Barranco Wall, which should provide you with a memorable sunset while you wait for the preparation of your dinner and overnight at Barranco Camp site.

## Day 4: Barranco camp - Karanga Valley camp



Start early to cross over the Great Barranco wall.

The wall looks more difficult and intimidating than it is, but will still take you a lot of effort to reach the top.

From the top of the wall a couple of valleys need to be crossed before reaching the Karanga valley in time for lunch.

It is our recommendation to add this extra day on the mountain, in doing so completing a 7-day itinerary compared to the standard 6 days.

Doing this, you will shorten the following day so that you can reach the Barafu camp earlier which will allow you much more time to rest prior to your summit attempt.

Dinner and overnight at Karanga Valley Camp site.

## Day 5: Karanga Valley camp - Barafu camp



In the Karanga valley runs a small river and this will be your last water point prior to your descending from the summit.

Your guide will also advise you on this fact. We now continue on the Mweka route up towards the Barafu camp.

On arrival and after lunch start to prepare your equipment, ski stick and thermal clothing for your summit attempt.

This should include the replacement of your headlamp and camera batteries and make sure you have a spare set available as well. To prevent freezing it will be wise to carry your water in a thermal flask.

Go to bed at round about 19h00 and try to get some precious rest and sleep for not more than 5 Hours.

# Machame route itinerary continue

## Day 6: Barafu camp - Uhuru peak - Mweka camp



In the Karanga valley runs a small river and this will be your last water point prior to your descending from the summit. Your guide will also advise you on this fact. We now continue on the Mweka route up towards the Barafu camp. On arrival and after lunch start to prepare your equipment, ski stick and thermal clothing for your summit attempt. This should include the replacement of your headlamp and camera batteries and make sure you have a spare set available as well. To prevent freezing it will be wise to carry your water in a thermal flask. Go to bed at round about 19h00 and try to get some precious rest and sleep for not more than 5 Hours.

## Day 7: Mweka camp - Mweka Gate - Moshi



After Breakfast, you start your final descent to the Mweka Gate you will continue down into the Mweka village. Enjoy the scenery as you walk through the rain forest. From Mweka village you will be transferred back to Springlands Hotel and you will be served a delicious hot lunch and a well-deserved hot shower. It is recommended and tips are highly appreciated at the end of your trip. Tips must only be given to the Guide at Springlands Hotel. This is also where successful climbers receive their summit certificates. Those climbers who reached Stella Point (5756m) are issued with green certificates and those who reached Uhuru Peak (5895m) receive gold certificates. Overnight in Springlands hotel.

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