


# KILIMANJARO

## 5,895M / 19,340FT

## SHIRA-BARAFU ROUTE

## 2027 EXPEDITION TRIP NOTES


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# KILIMANJARO SHIRA-BARAFU ROUTE TRIP NOTES

## 2027 EXPEDITION DETAILS

**Dates:** **Trip 1:** January 31 to February 12
**Trip 2:** June 13–25
**Trip 3:** August 15–27
**Duration:** 9 or 13 days
**Departure:** ex Arusha, Tanzania
**Price:** Climb Only: US$6,150 per person
Climb plus Safari: US$9,250 per person

▲ Views of Kilimanjaro from Karanga Camp. *Photo: Mike Roberts*

The highest point in Africa, Kilimanjaro is a romantic destination and perhaps one of the best-known mountains of the world. Immortalised by Ernest Hemingway in his book 'The Snows of Kilimanjaro', the peak to this day elicits emotions of travel and adventure. The Adventure Consultants expedition to Kilimanjaro captures some of that intrigue on this entrancing journey with a non-technical climb, expansive views across Africa and diverse flora and landscapes.

The summit of Kilimanjaro or Uhuru as it is known reaches 5,895m or 19,340ft. It is one of the Seven Summits—the highest peaks on each of the Earth's seven continents.

Kilimanjaro is also the highest free-standing mountain in the world and stands like an island surrounded by the hot and dry plains of Africa. It is a dormant volcano and lies 400km/250 miles south of the Equator, just inside Tanzania's border with Kenya. It amazes all who visit its slopes with its widely contrasting vegetation; from rainforests and moorlands to towering cliffs and glaciers.

Adventure Consultants climb the mountain by the picturesque Shira-Barafu Route which traverses several of the scenic micro-environments found at the different elevations on the mountain.

The climb of Kilimanjaro can be followed by a safari through the wonders of the Serengeti, Rift Valley and Ngorongoro Crater, where the variety of wildlife will completely captivate you.

## EXPEDITION OUTLINE

Like most dormant volcanoes, the slopes of Kilimanjaro are mostly of reasonably low angle with occasional steeper sections, none of which are more famous than the Breach Wall—a towering cliff of snow and ice descending dramatically from the summit slopes. Our ascent route circles below the Breach Wall, traversing around the mountain to climb more gentle slopes to the summit.

Initially, we trek across the beautiful and lesser travelled Shira plateau, which is incredibly varied

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▲The summit of Kilimanjaro from Barranco Camp. *Photo: Suze Kelly*

in its topography and plant life. Each day we ascend through the various climatic zones; each with unique and different views and highlights.

The initially lush rainforest thins to become alpine heather permitting views of the surrounding scenery and the upper mountain, often bathed in a soft glow in the warm morning and evening light. We then enter the alpine moorland with a cornucopia of weird and exotic plants. Nowhere is this more pronounced than on your arrival into Barranco Camp, home to a large stand of Senecio Kilimanjari; a tree whose form appears to have been the brainchild of Dr Seuss. The upper mountain features varied volcanic terrain that in places has a tortured appearance, the result of heated lava explosions and resultant flows that have long since cooled. But it is the summit day that amazes most. Remnant glaciers are scattered around the summit crater looking like giant icebergs after the ebbing of the tide. Near the top of the mountain, the route takes you close to some of the summit glaciers that glisten in the morning light. Soft hues massage the sky as dawn highlights the layers in the stratosphere. It is a view to behold as you take those final steps to the summit—the goal barely tangible up to that point, yet finally achieved. The reality and significance of the moment are unique to each and every one of us and becomes a moment that is your own to hold on to forever.

The climb itself is little more than trekking on well-formed tracks and the camps are at sites established by the Tanzanian National Park Service. At each camp, there are rangers in residence who usually live in small huts.

Each day, we climb for 4–8 hours between camps. Summit day begins in the early hours of the morning to reveal a magnificent sunrise and panoramic wonder from the summit. The climb to the summit is strenuous due to the altitude and is a long way, but it is appropriate for people who have a sense of adventure and want to see the warm glow of the dawn spread across the African plains!

Highly experienced local guides, porters and cooks accompany the group, allowing you to enjoy the experience and focus on the climb.

No trip to Africa is complete without experiencing a safari and as Tanzania has some of the most incredible animal populations on the continent, we highly recommend that after the climb you sit back and enjoy the safari experience!

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Trekking through jungle at the start of the trip. *Photo: Dean Staples*



Kilimanjaro views from Kalanga Camp. *Photo: Suze Kelly*



Local Adventure Consultants Guides. *Photo: Mike Roberts*

## EXPEDITION GUIDES & STAFF

The expedition guides on our Kilimanjaro ascents are local Tanzanian guides who originate from the regions surrounding the mountain. They are very experienced guides with multiple ascents of Kilimanjaro and are specifically trained in guiding techniques, many having summited in excess of one hundred times! Each guide holds a guiding certification and wilderness medical qualification. Our group of guides have all been personally selected due to their personal attributes, as they are both courteous and caring whilst being good leaders.

Each expedition has a cook, waiter, camp manager and a group of porters to carry the loads required for your trip. The cook is trained in 'Western-style' cooking and hygiene techniques to ensure your health and well-being during the ascent. On top of that, the food we provide is excellent!

The number of porters on your trip is dependent on the size of the group. Adventure Consultants is a supporting member of the Porter Protection Society, a group that oversees the welfare of porters around the world. This ensures the porters are well clothed, fed and accommodated during the expedition. There are some operators who will exploit their porters and deny them these necessities in order to offer cheaper pricing on their trips.

## TEAM SIZE

The team will have a minimum size of 4 members and 1 qualified Tanzanian guide with local assistant guides and a maximum size of 12 members.

**NOTE:** If there are just two or three of you, please enquire for pricing. We can arrange private departures on dates to suit groups of all sizes.

## 2027 EXPEDITION DATES

**Trip 1:** January 31 to February 12
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## ITINERARY

### CLIMB ITINERARY

Following is our Kilimanjaro itinerary via the Shira-Barafu Route:

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▲Weird and wonderful Senecio trees. *Photo: Guy Cotter*



▲Views of Kilimanjaro from the Shira Plateau. *Photo: Mike Roberts*



▲Trek through spectacular landscapes. *Photo: Suze Kelly*

## Day 1

Arrive Kilimanjaro International Airport in Tanzania. Transfer to Arusha and your accommodation.

## Day 2

Relax, sort gear, recover from jet lag and enjoying exploring Arusha.

## Day 3

Drive to the Morum Barrier Gate (3,400m/11,150ft) of the National Park through the lush tropical forests to the trailhead and the beginning of our hike. The first day is gentle hiking through heather moorland with sublime views across the Shira Plateau to the peak of Kibo itself. Overnight at Shira 1 Camp (3,500m/11,480ft).

## Day 4

Trek across the Shira Plateau through open moorlands. Visit the ancient Shira cone, the oldest of Kilimanjaro's three volcanoes. Overnight at Shira 2 Camp (3,840m/12,600ft).

## Day 5

A long trek to Barranco Camp, found in a sheltered area below the spectacular cliffs of the Breach Wall. The Breach Wall, the Dome of Uhuru and the edge of the Heim Glacier dominate the head of the valley. Overnight at Barranco Camp (3,900m/12,800ft).

## Day 6

Trek to Karanga Camp via the Barranco Wall. Huge glaciers and cliffs can be seen which mark this part of the mountain. Overnight at Karanga Camp (4,000m/13,100ft).

## Day 7

A short day takes us to Kosovo Camp (4,870m/15,978ft) which is the top camp and staging point for the summit bid later that night.

## Day 8

At midnight, the climb begins up the steep scree slopes to reach Stella Point. From here, we walk steadily up the ridge and around the crater to reach Uhuru Peak at 5,895m/19,340ft. From the summit, we descend to overnight at Mweka Camp (3,100m/10,170ft).

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View a range of wildlife on our African Safari. *Photo: Dean Staples*

### Day 9

Covering the last section of the mountain, the trek continues down through the forests to the gate. Here we must leave behind our friendly local staff who have worked so hard to make our trip enjoyable and successful. Together, they sing local songs describing the folk lore around their mystical mountain and spiritual homeland. Reluctantly, we say our goodbyes and board our vehicles which transport us back to Arusha. Climb only option ends, or continue onwards on our Safari.

For those catching an evening flight, it is the end of the journey. However, for those staying on for a well-earned safari, your vehicle will take you to your Arusha accommodation, where a shower and a real bed await!

**NOTE:** If you are not departing until the following day and are not continuing on the safari, we can book you an extra night at the hotel and arrange an airport transfer to suit. If you have limited time but are interested in seeing some of the wildlife, a half day safari in nearby Tarangire or Arusha National Parks is highly recommended.

## SAFARI ITINERARY

Following is our Four Day Safari itinerary:

### Day 10

Fly from Arusha to Serengeti Seronera Airport, arriving by late morning. Enjoy a picnic lunch upon arrival, then an afternoon game drive in the Serengeti National Park. The Serengeti is the largest of all the national parks in Tanzania, famous for both its migratory and resident animal population. Stay overnight at a deluxe tented camp.

### Day 11

Full day exploring the Serengeti National Park. Stay overnight at deluxe tented camp and discuss an optional night game drive with your guide.

### Day 12

Drive to the Ngorongoro Crater with a game drive enroute. The Ngorongoro Crater is a 100 square mile natural volcanic amphitheatre and host to an astonishing array of wildlife. You may see everything from elephant and lion to (if you're lucky) the near-extinct black rhino, all amongst large herds of zebra and wildebeest. Stay overnight at the nearby Ngorongoro Farmhouse.

### Day 13

A relaxing morning to enjoy breakfast overlooking the beautiful gardens of the Ngorongoro Farmhouse, perhaps have a massage or tour the coffee plantation before returning to Arusha in the afternoon and transferring to Kilimanjaro Airport for an afternoon or evening departure flight. If departing the following day, we can book you an extra night at the hotel and an airport transfer to suit.

# VISAS

All visitors from non-Commonwealth countries are required to obtain a valid visa unless their country has an agreement with Tanzania under which the visa requirement is waived. Check for updates before travelling. Visas can be obtained on arrival for most nationalities for a fee of US$100 for American citizens and US$50 for other nationalities.

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Stunning alpine trekking on the slopes of Kilimanjaro. *Photo: Guy Cotter*




A team happy to arrive into Karanga Camp for the night. *Photo: Mike Roberts*



Trekking through the Lava Tower. *Photo: Suze Kelly*

## COMMUNICATIONS

To safeguard members of the expedition, we will be carrying mobile phones, handheld VHF radios and a satellite telephone.

## EQUIPMENT & TRAVEL APP

Adventure Consultants will supply all group gear (e.g., tents, tables and chairs, stoves and utensils, etc.) whilst team members are to provide their own personal clothing, day pack, duffel bag and footwear. Rental equipment is available in Arusha.

All members will be provided with comprehensive pre-trip support, including access to our travel app. Our platform allows you to have all of the key trip information and expedition documents at your fingertips on your personal device, in an intuitive user-friendly manner.

## FOOD

The food on our Kilimanjaro climbs is exceptionally good. We place emphasis on providing nutritious meals and a good supply of snack food throughout the trip. Please inform us, if you have any special dietary requirements.

## MEDICAL EXAMINATION & INSURANCE

Expedition members will be provided with pre-trip medical advice and a medical questionnaire and will be asked to visit their family physician and receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted only by the expedition leader and our medical adviser and treated with full confidentiality. We also require expedition members to purchase insurance for evacuation and repatriation, as well as normal travel medical expenses. Contact us for expedition insurance advice.

## THE EXPEDITION FEE

The cost of the Kilimanjaro Expedition and Safari per person ex Arusha, Tanzania is:

Climb Only: US$6,150

Safari Add On: US$3,100

**NOTE:** Prices are subject to change without notice.

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Summit glaciers in the dawn light. *Photo: Suze Kelly*

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Adventure Consultants Tanzanian qualified mountain guide and local staff
- All expedition organisational requirements
- Comprehensive travel app/information package to aid trip planning and equipment
- Hotel in Arusha within expedition dates, based on shared rooms (single room supplement available for extra fee) including dinner and breakfast (Day 1, 2 on climb and Day 9, if on safari)
- All lodging and food while on the trek/climb (also on optional safari)
- Group climbing equipment, all meals and snacks, tents and fuel in Kilimanjaro region
- Transport to and from the National Park
- Porters, drivers, park fees and climbing permits

The expedition fee **does not** include the following:

- Personal clothing and equipment
- Entry visa for Tanzania and/or Kenya
- Airport transfers: typically US$120–US$125 for a Landcruiser vehicle which can be shared between team members arriving/departing at similar times
- Lunches in Arusha
- Travel insurance including trip cancellation and medical evacuation or any rescue costs
- Any costs associated with early departure from the expedition
- International round trip travel costs into and out of Tanzania and/or Kenya
- Extra hotel nights if departing day after trip finishes rather than evening of same day (i.e. evening of day 9 on climb or evening of day 13, if doing safari)
- Spending on personal items such as gifts etc.
- International travel vaccinations
- Excess baggage charges and airport taxes
- Bottled beverages
- Tips and gratuity (members to contribute US$250–US$650 each to tip pool for local staff, we will advise you of amounts depending on final group size)

We also offer Private Kilimanjaro Expeditions with dates to suit you. These are suitable for individuals or groups, including a safari or as a stand-alone climb. Contact us for further information and pricing on this and other options.

We are specialists in providing Luxury Trek and safari options. Our Luxury Kilimanjaro Treks are led by experienced International guides who have considerable high-altitude experience. Our services include a variety of options for 5-star lodging in

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Enjoy an incredibly varied range of plant life. *Photo: Suze Kelly*



Morning light touches a team as they approach the summit. *Photo: Mike Roberts*



Trekking beneath the Barranco Wall. *Photo: Suze Kelly*

Arusha and on safari. You can elect to include large 'stand up' sleeping tents on the mountain with comfortable camp beds, heated dining tent, bottled mineral water, showers and additional guide staff for your group.

While this may be too much for seasoned mountaineers, we have found that those who are new to the mountains enjoy the additional creature comforts.

# PAYMENT DETAILS

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
42 Willis Street
Spark Central
Wellington
New Zealand

for the account of Adventure Consultants Limited

**Account Number:** 1000-594771-0000
**Account Type:** US Dollars
**Swift Address:** BKNZNZ22

**NOTE:** All bank transfer charges are for the remitter's account.

We can also accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard and Amex) plus a 3% card charge.

## DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of US$1,000 is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

An additional non-refundable deposit of US$1,000 is payable to secure a place if joining the safari.

## BALANCE

The balance is payable 90 days prior to the expedition start date.

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▲An unusually snowy summit. *Photo: Mike Roberts*

### CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

An expedition member may cancel their participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 90 days will result in the loss of trip deposit.
- For cancellations made within 90 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the balance payment fee.
- For cancellations within 60 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

Team members should take out private insurance if they wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons. This is called Trip Cancellation Insurance and can be obtained from your normal travel agent.

## HOW TO JOIN THIS EXPEDITION

If you would like to join one of our Kilimanjaro Expeditions, please complete our online booking form and forward your deposit payment at https://adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/seven-summits/kilimanjaro#DepartureBookingBlock.

## CONTACT US

If you require more information, please contact us at:

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▲Celebrating on the summit of Kilimanjaro. *Photo: Suze Kelly.*

ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS
HIGH ALTITUDE EXPEDITIONS

Adventure Consultants is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their 'Revitalise a Village' programmes.

Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA/UIAGM standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.

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