

MOUNT KILIMANJARO ITINERARY

ACANELA EXPEDITIONS

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INTRODUCTION

At 19,341 feet, Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest peak and one of the Seven Summits, standing among Mount Everest and Mount Blanc as some of the tallest mountains in the world. This climb is not for the faint of heart—it takes hard work and determination to push past both physical and mental barriers. Hike the popular Marangu route to reach the summit, Uhuru Peak—a once in a lifetime experience. The journey is challenging, but this expedition is guaranteed to be one of the most truly fulfilling accomplishments of your life. Take in extraordinary views from the summit of Kilimanjaro; Experience the sunrise from above the clouds of Africa; Taste local Tanzanian cuisine and dine on warm soups, succulent curries, and spiced breads; Hike alongside some of the [best guides](#) in the country; Participate in an unforgettable, once in a lifetime expedition

Please note that Tanzania requires proof of your yellow fever vaccination which you should arrange for prior to arrival at a certified medical facility in your home country. Tanzania has strict guidelines regarding the yellow fever vaccination and will require proof of this in order to enter the country. Please remember to keep your certificate safe and readily available for immigration. [10 Things I wish I knew Before Climbing Kilimanjaro](#)

Day 1: USA / TANZANIA

Meals: D

Arrival Airport: Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO)

Afternoon: Arrive in Tanzania by flight into Kilimanjaro International Airport. After disembarking the plane and collecting your baggage, please proceed to the immigration hall where you will purchase your visa upon arrival (unless you have obtained this in advance). As of January, 2019 the visa for travelers from the United States cost \$100 USD per person to be paid in new, crisp bills (please note that they will not accept crumpled or ruffled bills). After exiting the arrival hall, you will see your driver with a sign reading "Acanela Expeditions" to welcome you to Tanzania. You will be transported to your hotel where you will meet with Abdul, your Kilimanjaro guide to give you a debrief of the climbing schedule, ask about any dietary restrictions or needs, and help prepare you for the climb the following day!

Dinner: Enjoy a traditional welcome dinner and experience the flavors of authentic East African cuisine at your hotel. Be sure not to stay up too late, as you will have several long days of hiking as you begin your experience on Kilimanjaro.

Evening: Relax and prepare to begin ascending Mount Kilimanjaro by spending the night in Moshi at the Kaliwa Lodge in Moshi.

[Accommodation: Kaliwa Lodge, Moshi, Tanzania](#)

Day 2: MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Meals: B,L,D



Breakfast: Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before packing up your gear and preparing for the climb up Kilimanjaro. Hydration and proper nutrition are incredibly important in ensuring you have energy to climb several days up the mountain.

Morning: Your guide will pick you up at the hotel and transfer you to meet the other members of your climbing expedition. After a beautiful one hour drive through we will arrive at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro. At the base, we will meet up with our chefs and porters who will accompany us on the climb. Before starting our ascent, the team will check the equipment, rations, and the other necessities for the climb before we start onto the trail.

Lunch: We will break for lunch before starting our trek up the mountain.

Afternoon: After lunch, we will begin our journey towards Mti Mkubwa camp. We will start with a slight descent into the Lemosho Glades, before our trail will angle upwards. We will enter the lush rainforest and listen to the sounds of many exotic birds. As we walk the trail, we may spot a variety of wildlife such as the black and white colobus monkeys - these monkeys are black with a long 'cape' of white hair and a flowing white tail. We will spend our day in the gorgeous and fascinating forested slopes of Mt Kilimanjaro, most of which is considered to be a rainforest zone. We will end our day at the Mti Mkubwa (Big Tree) Campsite, within the upper reaches of the montane forest zone.

Dinner: Dine on traditional food that will keep you energized for the day ahead. After dinner our lead guide will meet the group to discuss the plans for the next day, debrief the team on weather conditions, and check on how everyone is feeling.

Evening: Unwind from the day's adventure by taking in the gorgeous views of the surrounding landscape. When you are ready to get some rest, relax and catch a good night's sleep.

Accommodation: Tented campsite at Mti Mkubwa camp

Day 3: MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Meals: B,L,D

Breakfast: Awaken to golden sun rays peeking through the huts. A nutrient-rich meal will get us ready for the journey ahead of us today as we begin climbing.

Morning: The first leg of our journey takes us up a steep ascent, past the Maundi Crater and through the verdant rainforest. Soon, the path will open into grassy moorland- cross your fingers for clear weather as it allows for spectacular views of Kibo and Mawenzi peaks.

Lunch: We will break for lunch before continuing our trek up the mountain.

Afternoon: After lunch, as we continue our climb we'll admire the changing flora and fauna such as the Giant Heather and Erica plants. Today's climb will be a challenging trek over the Shira ridge at 3,500m (11,483 ft). From there, we will descend to the Shira plateau and set up at Shira 1 Camp, located next to a stream.

Dinner: Enjoy robust soups, breads, dried meats and curries at the camp lodge.



Evening: Relax and unwind while enjoying the brilliant sunset before catching some shut eye in a Horombo Hut.

Accommodation: Shira 1 Campsite

Day 4: MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Meals: B,L,D

Morning: Fuel up with an energizing breakfast prepared by our wonderful chefs before preparing to resume our climb. Today we will have a much shorter climb, the objective of today to cross the Shira plateau and spend the day acclimatizing to the altitude.

Lunch: Around midday, we'll have reached the end of our climb for the day and we'll settle into camp (Shira 2 campsite) and begin some brief acclimatization walks. We'll explore the alpine moorlands to get our legs moving and lungs pumping before relaxing in the afternoon. This is a great chance to enjoy the beautiful scenery, capture some amazing photos of the ascent, and document the experience thus far.

Dinner: Enjoy a nutritious meal that will restore and re-energize your body on the acclimatization day.

Evening: Get some much needed sleep and rest.

Accommodation: Shira 2 Campsite

Day 5: MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Meals: B,L,D

Breakfast: While taking in the breathtaking view of the sun's fiery rays stretching across a sea of clouds, enjoy a breakfast that will carry you through the next leg of our journey.

Morning: Today we will climb through the rocky scree to the lava tower - a rocky terrain covered in a mixture of volcanic rock from centuries long past and finely ground sand. As we climb slowly through the rocky terrain (4,600 meters or 15,092 feet), we will depart Shira 2 Camp and will encounter increasingly challenging terrain as we make our way to Barranco camp.

Lunch: Take a break to enjoy lunch as we enjoy the scenery and catch your breath. Remember to go 'pole pole' (slowly slowly) as to ensure your body has time to recover.

Afternoon: We will descend from the Lava tower into the Great Barranco Valley. We'll hike for about 2 hours to reach the heart of the valley where we'll take in the stunning views of the Western Breach and the Breach wall. This stunning landscape is our reward for a challenging hike day. The Breach Wall surrounds our campsite on three sides and has an incredible view of the hanging glaciers we'll encounter on the final ascent.

Dinner: Upon arrival to base camp, the crew will greet us with one of the most satisfying dinners you've ever had! Enjoy the meal as you recover your strength and rest from a challenging day of hiking.



Accommodation: Barranco Camp

Day 6: MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Meals: B,L,D

Breakfast: Wake up to a hearty breakfast before another challenging hike day.

Morning: Today we will tackle the great Barranco wall as we break into the alpine desert of the Karanga valley. We will begin our steady climb up the Eastern side of the Great Barranco wall on our way to Karanga camp. We will pass below the rim of the Heim Glacier and through the alpine desert.

Lunch: We'll stop briefly for lunch before resuming our journey.

Afternoon: We'll continue our way up through the alpine desert for another couple hours until we reach Karanga camp situated in the heart of the alpine desert.

Dinner: Dine on delicious food prepared by our team.

Evening: Rest and enjoy the exotic surroundings before getting some much needed sleep in your hotel.

Accommodation: Karanga Campsite

Day 7: MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Meals: B, L, D

Breakfast: We'll arise bright and early to enjoy breakfast before preparing to tackle the alpine desert!

Morning/Afternoon: Today we will trek through the alpine desert up to Barafu camp and the summit! In preparation for the summit night, we will familiarize ourselves with the terrain before dark, refresh our headlamp batteries, and prepare our equipment and thermal layers. Sleep will likely be difficult at this altitude, but do try and rest as much as possible!

Dinner: Before retiring for a brief night's sleep we'll have one final dinner before attempting to tackle the summit!

Accommodation: Barafu Campsite

Day 8: MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Meals: B, L, D

Midnight: Prepare yourself for a hearty climb to the summit this morning! We will arise at midnight and layer on the necessary equipment to tackle the roof of Africa - Kilimanjaro! We will depart camp and navigate our way up the steep rim of the mountain, traverse the rim of the crater, and trek through the snow and ice to the summit. This is the longest, most strenuous challenging portion of the trek, but don't give up - the feeling of conquering Kilimanjaro will stay with you for your lifetime.



Enjoy a moment of victory as you celebrate your accomplishment - you've made it to the summit of Kilimanjaro - one of the seven summits of the world!

Lunch: After returning to camp victorious from our climb, get a little bit of rest and a hearty lunch before packing up and beginning your descent down the mountain. We will descend much more rapidly than we climbed and will find ourselves at Mweka camp by the end of the day (4-6 hours hiking).

Accommodation: Mweka Campsite

Day 9: MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Meals: B, L

Morning: Enjoy your last meal on the mountain as we continue our descent down the mountain. This is where having proper boots for the climb is incredibly important. Our descent will be rapid and our objective will be to exit the park and finish our climb.

Lunch: As we descend we will break briefly for lunch before continuing our descent.

Afternoon: In the early afternoon we will arrive victorious at the gates of Mount Kilimanjaro park - exiting to experience the traditional victory song of the mountain. Congratulations! You've made it! You've successfully climbed one of the Seven Summits. We will return to our hotel accommodation at Kaliwa lodge to shower, relax and unwind from our incredible journey up the mountain.

Accommodation: Kaliwa Lodge

Day 10: MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Meals: B

Morning: Enjoy your last meal in Tanzania as you pack up your belongings and depart for the airport. Take with you the incredible memories of the climb and the deepened friendships you gained during your trek.

Your driver will arrive at your hotel to transfer you to the airport for your return flight home.

Departure Airport: Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO)

*Read more about our [Trek](#)s up Alternative Routes, such as the [Machame](#) and [Rongi Routes](#)



Optional 4-Day Tanzania Serengeti Extension

Day 1: Arusha / Moshi to Serengeti National Park

Meals: D

Breakfast: Fill up on a delicious breakfast before we continue our journey onwards into the Serengeti National Park for the start of our safari experience.

Morning: Today we'll journey into the heart of the Serengeti. We will pass through rural villages and observe the "Big Five": the lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant, and buffalo enroute.

Lunch: Enjoy a packed lunch at Serengeti Nabi gate.

Afternoon: We will continue our journey to Serengeti National Park, enjoying wildlife viewing along the way before arriving to our camp in the afternoon.

Dinner: After a day full of amazing encounters, enjoy a delicious dinner as you relax around the campfire, surrounded by the sounds of the night wildlife. As the stars appear, search out familiar and new constellations before falling asleep.

Accommodation: Classic Safari Tent or Lodge / Serengeti National Park

Day 2: Serengeti National Park

Meals: B,L, D

Breakfast: Enjoy a delicious breakfast at camp before setting out to explore new sights.

Morning: In the morning we will set out again to see the wildlife and might get a chance to experience the renowned Great Migration, where masses of wildebeest and other game animals migrate across the rivers and plains of the Serengeti (seasonal). This attracts predators in the region, so spectators are guaranteed to see an abundant variety of animals.

Note: By October the wildebeest herds are migrating again with more accord: all are heading south, through western Loliondo and the Serengeti National Park's Lobo area, returning to the green shoots which follow the rains on the short-grass plains of the southern Serengeti in November.

Lunch: Stop for lunch and enjoy the beautiful scenery around you while taking a break from the hottest part of the day.

Afternoon: Set out on a sunset game drive while the animals are out and about after the heat of the day has passed. Continue onwards to the Ngorongoro Crater for dinner & overnight.

Dinner: After an exciting day, enjoy a delicious dinner as you relax around the campfire, listening to the sounds of the wild. As the night sky rolls in, fall asleep under countless stars.

Accommodation: Classic Safari Tent or Lodge / Serengeti National Park

**Day 3: Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater****Meals: B, L, D**

Breakfast: Wake up early and fill up on a delicious breakfast at camp before we embark on our safari in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Morning: The final day of our Serengeti adventure will take us deep into the Ngorongoro Crater, which holds some of the world's most famous safari land. The crater is a large, unbroken, un-flooded caldera, formed when a giant volcano exploded and collapsed some three million years ago. The Ngorongoro crater sinks to a depth of 610 meters, with a base area covering 260 square kilometers. Approximately 40,000 Maasai people live in the conservation area. They share the land with an incredible amount of wildlife. The Ngorongoro Crater is also referred to as 'the Garden of Eden' due to its dazzling beauty and being a paradise for animals. The crater is one of the best locations in Africa to spot various animals—marvel at majestic flamingos, playful elephants, and grazing giraffes. There's also always the possibility of spotting lions preying on animals lounging at the water's edge.

Lunch: Enjoy lunch back at camp with your traveling companions before we embark on another adventure.

Afternoon: Embark on another game drive to catch sight of the abundant wildlife as they roam the safari land under the fiery fingers of the setting sun.

Dinner: Be delighted by a flavorful dinner of East African cuisine. Afterwards, transfer to Arusha to spend the night in camp and prepare for the next day.

Accommodation: Classic Safari Tent or Lodge / Serengeti National Park

Day 4: Arusha/ Moshi**Meals: B, L, D**

Breakfast: Wake up to one last breakfast in the Savanna Lands of Africa before departing the park, and continuing onwards to Arusha

Morning: Spend the morning relaxing in Arusha and visiting some of Tanzania's best artisan markets (if time permits).. In the afternoon, it's time to catch our flights back home. Get ready to tell your friends and family all about your unforgettable experience exploring the Serengeti!

After we check out of our hotel we will travel to the Kilimanjaro International Airport to catch our flights back home or, if you have opted to participate in one of our tour extensions, we will continue onwards to hike Mount Kilimanjaro or to explore Uganda and see gorillas.

Departure Airport: Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO)