

## KILIMANJARO SUMMIT CLIMB Northern Circuit Itinerary

*This exceptional route circumnavigates the Kilimanjaro massif at altitude before heading to the summit via Stella Point.*



### Day 01 Arrive Arusha (1 night, Ilboru Lodge)

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You will be met by our driver/guide on arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport and transferred to Ilboru Safari Lodge for one night.

Ilboru Safari Lodge is located at the base of the majestic Mt. Meru, on the outskirts of Arusha. An oasis after the bustle of the nearby city, this family property is run by a Dutch Tanzania couple, both of whom have worked in the hotel industry for many years. It is a budget lodge, but well-kept, with comfortable rooms and good food. Accommodation is in rondavels in the traditional African-style, with two self-contained rooms to each cottage. All rooms have a private balcony overlooking the gardens and swimming pool. Ilboru is booked on a half-board basis.

This evening there will be a climb briefing covering kit, camping arrangements, and what to expect on the mountain (climate, altitude etc), as well as tomorrow's transfer times. This is a good chance to ask any questions you may have about the coming climb, particularly any concerns regarding kit.

## Day 02 Start of the 9-day Northern Circuit, Kilimanjaro

B, L, D



*The itinerary below gives a nine day climb to Uhuru via Shira Plateau, the northern flank, and Gilman's Point. The descent is via the scenic Mweka Route.*

After orientation and a thorough kit check, we will register at Londorossi Gate (*please ensure that you send us your passport number and date of birth **before** the climb starts.*) From the gate, it is a short drive to the Lemosho Glades, where we begin our trek through the rainforest to camp 1 at Big Tree (2,785m).

Approaching Kilimanjaro from the west, this is an exciting wilderness route, which allows us to avoid the over-crowding common on the main eastern and southern climb routes. Our trek today will take us along a little-used track starting at the Lemosho

Glades. In places the vegetation is so undisturbed by humans that it grows right across the narrow track. Flora and fauna are richer here than on other, more trodden routes through the rainforest. [3-4 hours walking]

## Day 03 To Shira Caldera

B, L, D

The day begins with a tough trek involving a height gain of over 600m, taking us to a lunch stop in a beautiful valley just outside the Shira Crater at around 3,050m.

After lunch we head up a long ridge before dropping down into the Shira Caldera – a high altitude desert plateau rarely visited by man.

Shira is the third of Kilimanjaro's volcanic cones. It is filled with lava flow from Kibo, its rim eroded and blasted away by weather and volcanic action.

Today you can expect to get your first views of Kibo – the dramatic summit cone of Kilimanjaro.

Camp at **Shira One** (3,500m). [5-6 hours walking]



## Day 04 To Shira Hut

B, L, D

Departing camp after a leisurely breakfast, we trek three hours east across Shira Plateau, via Simba Camp (3,720m), to our camp on the eastern slopes of Shira. The camp is located at Shira Huts (3,895m), an hour's walk from Simba. [3 hours walking]

*Optional and recommended early morning start for those wanting to try the acclimatizing trek to Shira Cathedral (3,860m). The views from the top of this ridge are very special (though those with vertigo should take care!) Allow 4-5 hours for the full-day trek via Shira Cathedral.*

## Day 05 To Moir Hut via Lava Tower

B, L, D



Today we begin to divert from the standard trail and on to the north-western flank of Kilimanjaro, a zone that very few trekkers visit. Our goal is Moir Hut (4,155m) – a well-located refuge built by the Sheffield University Mountaineering Club, and set within a deep valley.

Though it has over the years been battered by the wind and rain, Moir Hut forms a basic shelter (though you will be sleeping in tents as normal). In the

afternoon it is possible to take a guided trek up the nearby Lent Group – a series of wind-eroded parasite cones and ridges from whose upper slopes you can gaze down on the plains of southern Kenya. You may be lucky and see the elusive and rare Kilimanjaro eland (a long haired antelope) high in these remote uplands. Wear good boots and take waterproofs, water and snacks for this half day trek, and be prepared to scramble on the slopes of the Lent Group (4700m). [5-7 hours walking]

## Day 06 To Buffalo Camp, North Flank

B, L, D

We climb out of the Moir Valley and make a short detour to reach the summit of Little Lent Hill at 4,375 metres. After admiring the views, we return to the trail and head eastwards around the northern circuit trail. Here the trail passes through a field of rock slabs that clink as they're walked on.



The final section of today's walk undulates until you reach Buffalo Camp (4,150m). This remote, little-used campsite enjoys a marvellous location on the edge of the ridge, overlooking the Kenyan plains that extend northwards into the horizon. [4-7 hours walking]

## Day 07 To Third Cave

B, L, D

From Buffalo Camp we climb up to the top of 'Buffalo Ridge', dropping down on the other side to reach Pofu. Nearby there is a small spring and some vegetation.

The trail continues eastwards through a landscape of increasingly sparse vegetation to eventually reach Third Cave Camp (3,930m). [5-7 hours walking]



## Day 08 To School Hut

B, L, D

From Third Cave Camp, we make a steady ascent to reach the Saddle, a beautiful lunar landscape between the peaks of Kibo and Mawenzi. From here we continue up to School Hut Campsite (4,700m), aiming to arrive by early afternoon. The remainder of the afternoon is spent resting and preparing for tonight's attempt on the summit. [4-5 hours walking]

## Day 09 To the Summit of Kilimanjaro

B, L, D

We start our ascent by torchlight at about midnight so that we can be up on the crater's rim by sunrise.

The meandering trail over loose volcanic scree is steep and tough in places, but taking it at a slow and steady pace we can expect to reach Gilman's Point (5,685m) in about five or six hours. Time-allowing, we can rest here for a short time while enjoying the view of the sun rising over Mawenzi.

From Gilman's, the trail leads west along the crater rim to Uhuru Peak (5,895m), passing close to the spectacular glaciers and ice cliffs that still occupy much of the summit area. Take the time to rest your bones and savour the view from the summit, before beginning the long descent.



We retrace our steps along the crater rim to Stella Point and then descend down through Barafu Camp to reach Millennium Camp, or Mweka High Camp, at 3,800m. Relax, get some rest, and congratulate yourself on a hard day's trekking – you've done it! [11-15 hours walking]

**Day 10 Descend via Mweka. Overnight at Ilboru Lodge**

**B, L, D**



Walk down across the Alpine moorland and through the forested foothills to Mweka Gate (1,650m) for a picnic lunch, presentation of certificates and group photos. This is a long walk-off lasting 5 to 6 hours, and perhaps even longer if there is rain on the route.

As the southern flank tends to receive more rain, it is quite likely that you will encounter wet and very muddy conditions in the rainforest section on this last day. Please be prepared for this and do not expect an easy jaunt back to the gate! Nevertheless, the route is very beautiful and well worth the effort.

After lunch, we drive approx.. 2 hours to Ilboru Lodge, where a hot shower, dinner & rest await!

**Day 11 Int'l departure / safari or beach extension**

**B**

Morning at leisure until your scheduled transfer to the airport for your homeward flight/onward transfer.

If flying out this evening, we can arrange for a day room and lunch at Ilboru Lodge or at KIA Lodge, situated just outside the airport (lunch to own account).

**Climb rates and booking information**

For climb rates, please see our [Kilimanjaro price guide](#). Alternatively, [contact us](#) directly for a quote. We arrange both private and open group climbs on Kilimanjaro and Meru.

**Safari Add-On**

Numerous options for safaris can be arranged to follow your climb. All at affordable prices, from one-day to one-week safaris, camping or lodge, or both.



**Zanzibar Add-On**

A four-night visit to the tropical island of Zanzibar will add £600 upwards to your tour cost. This includes all regional flights, transfers, and half board in a simple East Coast hotel.



## Trade and Safety Profile

- ❖ Gane and Marshall, founded in 1991, are licensed under ATOL number 3145.
- ❖ Gane and Marshall are bonded with ABTOT, the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust, under membership number 5453.
- ❖ Gane and Marshall are members of the Institute of Mountain Medicine.
- ❖ Gane and Marshall are approved partners of IMEC (International Mountain Explorers Connection) – working for fair pay and conditions for Kilimanjaro porters and guides.
- ❖ Gane and Marshall fund guide scholarships through the Kilimanjaro Guide Scholarship Foundation.
- ❖ Gane and Marshall actively support the UK registered charity Community Projects Africa, funding and managing educational and health projects in East Africa. Ask to see the projects we support near Kilimanjaro.

### One of the many references you will find on our website

*I was extremely glad that I chose Gane and Marshall for my long awaited Kilimanjaro attempt. Route selection was excellent giving plenty and much needed time to acclimatise. You dealt extremely promptly and knowledgably with all my questions during the booking and preparation process and your information on training and gear was well informed and invaluable.*

*Our entire team of porters were friendly and helpful and all the facilities (camping, cooking and hygiene) were as good as could possibly be expected in mountain conditions. Our guide was well informed and extremely competent; he was as determined as us that we would get to the top and was an enormous help and support.*

*The arrangements for the whole of our holiday ran smoothly and without worry and at all times we felt that we were in very good hands which made for a truly memorable and enjoyable holiday. Since returning home I have had no hesitation in recommending you to my friends. **John Foster and Family***

