

KILIMANJARO SUMMIT CLIMB

Shira Route Eight Days Trek

Shira route approaches Kilimanjaro from the west, through forest and open moorland, crossing the caldera of Shira volcano and exploring the rock formations of the plateau, before traversing beneath the Southern icefields of Kibo. The eight-day itinerary provides a good acclimatisation profile, as well as plenty of time to enjoy the magnificent scenery.



Day 01 Arrive Arusha (1 night, Ilboru Safari Lodge) D

On arrival at the airport, you will be met by our driver/guide and transferred to Ilboru Safari Lodge for one night (dinner, bed and breakfast basis).

Ilboru Safari Lodge is located at the base of 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 been working in the hotel industry for many years. It is a budget lodge, but well-kept, with comfortable accommodation and good food. Guests are accommodated in rondavels, set in the traditional African-style, and each with two large self-contained rooms. Each room has a private balcony looking out on the gardens and swimming pool. Ilboru is booked on half-board basis.

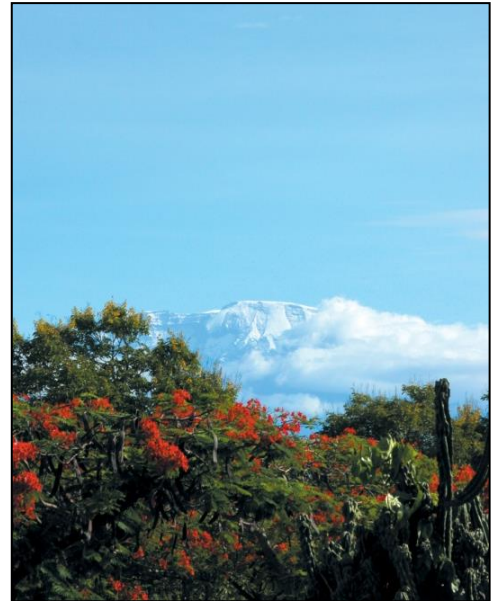
This evening there will be a climb briefing covering kit, camping arrangements, and what to expect on the mountain (climate, altitude etc), as well as tomorrow's transfer times. This is a good chance to ask any questions you may have about the coming climb, particularly any concerns you have regarding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

Day 02 Start the 8 Day Shira Route, Kilimanjaro

B, L, D

The Shira route approaches Kilimanjaro from the west, taking you through forest and open moorland, crossing the caldera of Shira volcano and exploring the rock formations of the plateau, before traversing beneath the Southern icefields of Kibo. We make our final ascent via the Barafu route.

The eight day itinerary gives maximum possible acclimatisation as well as plenty of time to enjoy the magnificent scenery. The views of Kibo in the sharp light of morning and early evening are often stunning, and the area around the Lent Hills, close to the western flank of the summit cone, is very rarely visited. Shira is a little-used approach route and this itinerary is designed to maximise time in unspoilt wilderness areas before the convergence with other routes in the final stages of the climb. It is also well structured for walkers of all levels of fitness, with plenty of opportunities for additional acclimatisation walks at higher altitudes.



After completing the necessary formalities at Londorossi National Park gate, we drive a short distance on a steep track through farmland and plantations to the trailhead at 2,800m.

The climb begins with a steady ascent through shrub forest and stands of giant heather, taking us to the rim of Shira Caldera (3,350m). The views across the surrounding plains open out as we climb to our first camp in the centre of the plateau, "**Shira One**" (3,500m). [5 hours walking]

Day 03 To Shira Hut

B, L, D

Today's trek is an easy one, intended to help with acclimatisation and allow us time to explore the grassy moorland and the volcanic rock formations of the plateau. We walk to the summit of Shira Cathedral (3,860m), a huge buttress of rock surrounded by steep spires and pinnacles. There is a tangible sense of wilderness here (especially when the afternoon mists come in!) and the views of Mt. Meru floating on the clouds, visible from our camp near **Shira Hut** (3,895m), are simply unforgettable. [4-5 hours walking]



Day 04 To Moir Hut

B, L, D

We explore beneath the Northern Icefields, an area almost totally unvisited, and from where on a clear day you can expect impressive views of Kibo. The morning walk is a steady climb away from the moorland of Shira Plateau to reach the broad upland desert beneath the Lent Hills, with expansive views in all directions. After lunch in our camp close to **Moir Hut** (4,150m), there is the option of a more strenuous afternoon walk to reach the summit of the Lent Hills (4,700m), or you can use the time to relax and enjoy our peaceful campsite. Very few visitors get to this remote corner of Kilimanjaro. [4-6 hours walking]



Day 05 To Lava Tower

B, L, D

A morning of gentle ascent and panoramic views, as we trek on lava ridges beneath the glaciers of the Western Breach. After lunch at our **Lava Tower** campsite (4,550m), you have the option of a steep and spectacular afternoon walk on the rocky lower slopes of the Western Breach to reach the ruins of the old hut at Arrow Glacier (4,800m). This optional afternoon excursion is highly recommended both for acclimatisation purposes and for the superb views of the hanging glaciers on both sides of the Breach. From Arrow Glacier, descend back to the Lava Tower campsite for dinner and equally spectacular sunset views. [3-6 hours walking]

Day 06 To Karanga Camp

B, L, D

Today begins with a steep descent to the floor of the Great Barranco Valley, enclosed within towering cliffs. A short but steep climb up the famed Barranco Wall leads us to an undulating trail on the south-eastern flank of Kibo, with superb vistas of the Southern Icefields. The terrain is volcanic scree, with pockets of vegetation in sheltered hollows.

Our next camp is at **Karanga** (4,100m), the last water point on the approach to Barafu, overlooking a narrow valley. Take the time to rest up, or consider an acclimatisation walk in the afternoon up the valley above the camp towards the glaciers of the Southern Icefields. [5-7 hours walking]



This afternoon, other walkers will begin to fill the campsite in larger numbers than during previous nights, as the Shira trail converges with the popular Machame Route.

Day 07 To Barafu Camp

B, L, D

We leave the Karanga Valley this morning, following an easy path on compacted scree, and gaining altitude rapidly as we approach **Barafu** campsite (4,680m).



After lunch in camp, there will be the option of a short acclimatisation walk to the plateau at the bottom of the South-East valley (4,800m). The remainder of the day is spent resting in preparation for the final ascent – a very early night tonight. [3-5 hours walking]

Day 08 Summit Night

B, L, D

We start our ascent by torchlight just after midnight so that we can be up on the Crater rim by sunrise. The steep climb over loose volcanic scree has some well-graded zigzags. Trekking at a slow but steady pace will take us to Stella Point (5,735m) in about five or six hours. We will rest there for a short time to enjoy the sunrise over Mawenzi.



Those who are still feeling strong can make the two hour round trip from Stella Point along the crater rim to Uhuru Peak (5,896m), passing close to the spectacular glaciers and ice cliffs that still occupy most of the summit area.

From the summit, the descent to Barafu is surprisingly fast, and after some refreshment, we continue to descend to reach our final campsite, Millennium Camp (3,820m), on Mweka Route. [11-15 hours walking]

Day 09 Descend Mountain (1 night, Ilboru Safari Lodge) B, L, D

A sustained descent on a well-trodden path through tropical rainforest to the National Park gate at Mweka (1,650m), and then on to Mweka village. [3-5 hours walking].

We will be met in Mweka and transferred to Ilboru Safari Lodge for a well-earned hot shower, dinner and rest!

Day 10 International departure / safari or beach extension B

This morning is spent at leisure at Ilboru Lodge, unless you are continuing onto a safari or beach extension. After lunch (this can be included with shared day room on request), you will be met by our driver for the transfer to Kilimanjaro Airport for your homeward flight.

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***