

Eight Days Shira Climb & Three Days Safari

Date	Heathrow/Nairobi	KQ 101	2000/0630 (arriving next day)
Date	Nairobi/Kilimanjaro	KQ6724	0730/0830
Date	Kilimanjaro/Ams	KL571	2050/0700 (arriving next day)
Date	Ams /Heathrow	KL1007	0830/0900

Date Depart Heathrow

Please arrive at Heathrow approx three hours before your flight departure time.

Date 1 night, Ilboru Safari Lodge, Kilimanjaro, Standard Room, Dinner & Breakfast next morning.



On arrival at the airport, you will be met by a driver who will transfer you to Ilboru Safari Lodge, where you will be staying the first night..

At Ilboru relax under the shade of well-placed trees in the gardens with the landscape dazzling your senses with vibrant colours accompanied by the sweet melodies of Tropical Bou Bou, Ibis and several other birds.

The lower main gardens provide the ideal spot for Cocktail and Barbeque parties as well as for group discussions or workshops.

The lodge setting has been designed to match the traditional surroundings without compromising international quality services. The rooms are situated in rondavels set in traditional style that is uniquely African, each with two self-contained large rooms. Delightful in the extra space, every room is significantly larger than the normal standard found in similar tourist hotels and lodges, with twin beds and a balcony which provide picturesque views to the well kept grounds. There are 30 rooms in total of which some may be converted to cater for four VIP suites or family accommodation. They are tastefully decorated with traditional design themes. Each is appointed with native art and furniture. All rooms have telephones and private balconies with vistas of quiet, meticulously maintained gardens.

This evening you will have a climb briefing with the group giving you transfer times for the morrow and a chance to ask questions about kit, etc. Ilboru is booked on Dinner & Breakfast next morning basis.

Date Start of the 8 Day Shira Route, Kilimanjaro, Full Board

The 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. We make our final ascent by the Barafu route. The eight day itinerary gives maximum possible acclimatisation and also gives us 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 carefully designed to maximise time in unspoilt wilderness areas before the convergence with other routes in the

final stages of the trip. It is also well structured for walkers of all levels of fitness and experience: the fixed walking days are only half day hikes but there are plenty of opportunities for additional afternoon acclimatisation walks at higher altitudes.

After completing the necessary registration formalities at Londorossi National Park gate, we drive a short distance on a steep track through farmland and plantations (2,800 m.), and continue climbing steadily on foot through shrub forest and stands of giant heather to reach the rim of Shira Plateau (3,350 m.). The views across the surrounding plains open out as we climb and our first camp is in the centre of the plateau at “Shira One” (3,550m). [4-5 hours walking]



Date Kilimanjaro Climb FB

An easy day to help acclimatisation and to explore the grassy moorland and the volcanic rock formations of the plateau. We walk to the summit of Shira Cathedral (3,750m), 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 from our camp near Shira Hut (3,840m) of Mt. Meru floating on the clouds are simply unforgettable. [4-5 hours walking]

Date Kilimanjaro Climb FB

We explore beneath the Northern Icefields, an area almost totally unvisited by tourists and with unusual 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 (4,200 m.), there is the option of a more strenuous afternoon walk to reach the summit of the Lent Hills (4,700 m.) or time to enjoy our peaceful campsite. Few visitors get to this remote corner of Kilimanjaro. [3-6 hours walking]

Date Kilimanjaro Climb FB



A morning of gentle ascent and panoramic views, walking on lava ridges beneath the glaciers of the Western Breach. After lunch at our Lava Tower campsite (4,550 m.), there is 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 (4,800 m.). This afternoon excursion is highly recommended both for acclimatisation purposes and for the superb views of hanging glaciers on both sides of the Breach. The evening sunset views are the mark of yet another spectacular campsite. [3-6 hours walking]

Date Kilimanjaro Climb FB

A steep descent into the bottom of the Great Barranco valley (3,900 m.), sheltered by towering cliffs and with extensive views of the plains far below. A short 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 lush vegetation in sheltered hollows, and a powerful sense of mountain wilderness. Our next camp is at Karanga (4,000 m.), the last water point on the approach to Barafu, in a narrow valley. There is plenty of time to rest, or for an acclimatisation walk in the afternoon up the valley above the camp towards the glaciers of the Southern Icefields. [5-7 hours walking]

Date Kilimanjaro Climb FB

A short but steep climb out of Karanga valley, following an easy path on compacted scree with wide views that gains altitude unrelentingly to reach the Barafu campsite (4,600 m.) for lunch. During the afternoon, other walkers will begin to fill the campsite for the first time in our trip. There is a short acclimatisation walk to the plateau at the bottom of the South-East valley (4,800 m.). The remainder of the day is spent resting in preparation for the final ascent before a very early night. [3-5 hours walking]

Date Kilimanjaro Climb FB

We will start our ascent by torchlight around 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 and a slow but steady pace will take us to Stella Point (5,735 m.), 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 here along the crater rim to Uhuru Peak (5,896 m.), passing close to the spectacular glaciers and ice cliffs that still occupy most of the summit area. The descent to Barafu is surprisingly fast, and after some refreshment, we continue to descend to reach our final campsite (3,100 m.) at Mweka. [11-15 hours walking]

Date Leave Mountain 1 night, Ilboru Safari Lodge, Standard Room, FB

A sustained descent on a well constructed path through lovely tropical forest alive with down to the National Park gate at Mweka (1,650 m.); and on to Mweka village. [3-5 hours walking] Transfer to Arusha to Ilboru Safari Lodge for a welcome hot shower and overnight stay.

Date Tarangire National Park Full board

We drive from Arusha in the morning to Tarangire National Park (about 120 km.), and spend most of the day gameviewing. Tarangire is different from other parks in northern Tanzania with a wild character more reminiscent of reserves in southern Tanzania. The vegetation is denser than in Serengeti and includes acacia woodlands, riverine grasslands, and swamps. The principal feature is the Tarangire River, which during the dry season from July to November is an important water supply for the animals. Tarangire supports all the large mammals, but denser vegetation makes predators such as lion and leopard more difficult to see. Elephants in herds of 20-odd animals are relatively common and kudu, eland and oryx are found here. The birdlife is excellent and the famous Boababs trees are spectacular.



After the game drive we continue to Mto Wa Mbu, where we overnight at Rhotia Camp.

Date Ngorongoro – overnight Tarangire Full board

We leave early in the morning with a picnic lunch, to get as much time as possible in Ngorongoro crater. Ngorongoro Crater is a spectacular natural zoo with a resident population of over 20,000 animals. It is also one of the world’s biggest calderas (collapsed volcanoes) with a diameter of about 18 km, and a depth of over 600 m.

First we drive up the escarpment of the Great Rift Valley, where there are some excellent views over Lake Manyara, and then we continue to Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Soon the crater rim is reached, where we have the first, amazing view down in the crater.

Game viewing in the crater is fantastic, and the only animal you won't have chance to see is the giraffe. All the other animals are there; the big cats, the plain animals, elephants, buffaloes, hippos, rhinos and also a rich birdlife with for example many flamingoes. After a full day of game viewing, we return to Rhotia Camp for dinner and overnight.



Date Lake Manyara National Park – Breakfast & lunch

The last park we visit is Lake Manyara which, although it covers a small area has an impressive biological diversity that reflects the varied terrain. Large areas of groundwater forest with giant fig and mahogany trees alternate with acacia woodland and open grassland.



The hippo pool is famous, as are the tree climbing lions, and many of the large mammals are also found here. Manyara is noted for its wealth of bird life and often the lake is visited by thousands of flamingoes.

Elephant families and giraffes are usually abundant, and so are the warthogs and the big baboons families. After having seen so many big animals, watching the baboons are fascinating. Late afternoon it's time to return to Arusha, a two hours drive.

Transfer to Kilimanjaro Airport for flight out to Nairobi and on to UK.

Date Heathrow

Arrive Heathrow early to mid morning.

