

Holiday Programme for Eight Days Shira Climb –
Fixed Date Departures

Flights

Flight	Date	From	To	Depart	Arrive	Airline
KQ101		Heathrow	Nairobi	2000	0630	Kenya Airways
KQ6722		Nairobi	Kilimanjaro	1000	1050	Kenya Airways
KQ6725		Kilimanjaro	Nairobi	1940	2030	Kenya Airways
KQ102		Nairobi	Heathrow	2350	0645	Kenya Airways

.Day 0 Fly Heathrow to Kilimanjaro

Day 1 1 night, Ilboru Safari Lodge, Kilimanjaro, Standard Room, Bed & Breakfast

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. *Lunch, dinner and drinks to your own account.* The climb briefing will normally take place this evening.



At Ilboru Safari Lodge 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.

Day 2 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” (3,550 m.). [4-5 hours walking]

Day 3 Kilimanjaro Climb

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 (3,750 m.), 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 (3,840 m.) of Mt. Meru floating on the clouds are simply unforgettable. [4-5 hours walking]



Day 4 Kilimanjaro Climb

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]

Day 5 Kilimanjaro Climb



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]

Day 6 Kilimanjaro Climb

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]

Day 7 Kilimanjaro Climb

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]

Day 8 Kilimanjaro Climb

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]

Leave Mountain 1 night, Ilboru Safari Lodge, Kilimanjaro, Standard Room, Bed & Breakfast



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.

Day 10 Return Home or continue on safari or to the coast.

This morning after breakfast, have a relaxing morning and transfer in the late afternoon to Kilimanjaro Airport in time for your flight home. (*Lunch and dinner and day room if required to your own account.*)

Arrive UK

Day 11

Your flight arrives Heathrow Four at 0645hrs. AM. End of Services.

