

THE MACHAME ROUTE

OVERVIEW AND FEATURES

The Machame Route is one of the popular trekking routes for reaching the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa. Kilimanjaro is located in Tanzania and attracts climbers from around the world due to its stunning scenery and challenging climb. The Machame Route is sometimes referred to as the "Whiskey Route" in contrast to the easier "Coca-Cola Route" (Marangu Route).

Duration: The Machame Route typically takes around 6 to 7 days to complete. This allows for better acclimatization to the altitude and increases the chances of a successful summit.

Scenery: The Machame Route is known for its diverse and beautiful scenery. Climbers pass through lush rainforests, moorlands, alpine deserts, and finally, the arctic zone near the summit.

Altitude Profile: The route follows a "climb high, sleep low" approach, which aids in acclimatization. It includes ascents to higher altitudes during the day, followed by descents to lower altitudes for sleeping.

Camping: Unlike the Marangu Route, the Machame Route involves camping along the trail. Tents are typically set up at designated campsites.

Barranco Wall: One of the highlights of the Machame Route is the Barranco Wall, a steep and challenging rock scramble. Climbers need to navigate this wall as part of the trek.

Summit: The summit attempt usually begins from Barafu Camp, and climbers reach Uhuru Peak, the highest point on Kilimanjaro, via Stella Point. The final ascent is usually made in the early hours of the morning to witness the sunrise from the summit.

Physical Fitness: The Machame Route is considered challenging, and climbers should be in good physical condition. Altitude sickness can be a concern, so proper acclimatization is crucial.

Before attempting any trek on Mount Kilimanjaro, it's important to be well-prepared, both physically and mentally. Additionally, climbers are often advised to acclimatize in the region before starting the ascent to reduce the risk of altitude-related issues. It's always recommended to undertake such adventures with our licensed guide and follow safety guidelines to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.

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MACHAME ROUTE ITINERARY

The Machame Route typically takes about 6 to 7 days to complete, allowing for better acclimatization to the altitude and increasing the chances of a successful summit. Below is a general itinerary for the Machame Route:

Day 1: Machame Gate to Machame Camp

Start at Machame Gate (1,490 meters / 4,890 feet)

Hike through the rainforest

Reach Machame Camp (2,980 meters / 9,777 feet)

Approximate hiking time: 5-7 hours

Day 2: Machame Camp to Shira Camp

Continue through the rainforest, then enter the heath zone

Gain altitude and reach Shira Camp (3,840 meters / 12,598 feet)

Approximate hiking time: 4-6 hours

Day 3: Shira Camp to Barranco Camp

Trek across the Shira Plateau

Descend into the Barranco Valley

Reach Barranco Camp (3,950 meters / 12,959 feet)

The day includes acclimatization hikes to higher elevations

Approximate hiking time: 5-7 hours

Day 4: Barranco Camp to Karanga Camp

Climb the Barranco Wall, a challenging rock scramble

Traverse the Karanga Valley

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Reach Karanga Camp (4,035 meters / 13,255 feet)

Approximate hiking time: 4-5 hours

Day 5: Karanga Camp to Barafu Camp

Ascend to Barafu Camp (4,680 meters / 15,354 feet)

The landscape becomes more desolate as you approach the arctic zone

Prepare for the summit attempt

Approximate hiking time: 4-6 hours

Day 6: Barafu Camp to Uhuru Peak (via Stella Point) and descent to Mweka Camp

Start the summit attempt in the early morning

Reach Stella Point (5,685 meters / 18,652 feet) on the crater rim

Continue to Uhuru Peak (5,895 meters / 19,341 feet), the highest point on Kilimanjaro

Descend to Mweka Camp (3,100 meters / 10,170 feet)

Approximate hiking time: 11-15 hours (summit day)

Day 7: Mweka Camp to Mweka Gate

Descend through the rainforest to Mweka Gate (1,640 meters / 5,380 feet)

Complete the trek and receive your summit certificates

Approximate hiking time: 3-4 hours

Note: The Machame Route itinerary may vary slightly depending on the tour operator and specific conditions. It's crucial to choose a reputable guiding company as women guide Kilimanjaro and safaris, follow their guidance, and acclimatize properly to enhance the chances of a successful and safe summit.