



**SOUTHERN SKY  
ADVENTURES**  
AFRICA...IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS.

# KILIMANJARO

15 Days | 14 Nights

Tanzania



# MOSHI

Located in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, close to the Kenyan border in Northern Tanzania, the vibrant town of Moshi is known as a coffee producing hub boasting vast coffee plantations. The majestic snow-capped peak of Kilimanjaro towers over this little African town. Moshi serves as the gateway to the Kilimanjaro National Park and provides an excellent base from which to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain. Visitors can enjoy day trips, short hikes, or longer expeditions using Moshi as a starting point. Other popular activities include: spotting the Big Five on a wildlife safari, visiting a local village to learn about Maasai culture, and sampling mouth-watering Tanzanian cuisine.





# MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Kilimanjaro's snow-capped peak is one of the most awe-inspiring sights in Africa. Straddling the Kenya/Tanzania border, the iconic Mount Kilimanjaro rises up to an impressive 5896 metres above sea level. It is one of the world's highest volcanoes, the highest mountain on the African continent, and the highest free-standing mountain on earth; making it an international destination attracting trekkers and mountaineers from around the globe. Set within the Kilimanjaro National Park, Kilimanjaro emerges from the sprawling plains of Tanzania and boasts dense tropical rainforests, glacial ice fields, moorlands, and mystical moonscapes. Take on the colossal challenge of climbing this majestic mountain, explore the lush forested foothills, soak up the breathtaking views or take a wildlife safari and spot some of Africa's diverse wildlife including: elephant, buffalo, leopard, duiker, eland, hyrax, blue monkeys and more.





# TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK

Located just a few hours drive from the town of Arusha, Tarangire is a popular stop for safaris travelling through the northern circuit on their way to Ngorongoro and the Serengeti. The park extends into two game controlled areas and the wildlife are allowed to move freely throughout. After the Serengeti, Tarangire has the greatest concentration of wildlife in Tanzania and in the dry season the Tarangire River is a magnet for thirsty wildlife.

Large herds of elephants and migratory wildebeest, zebra, buffalo, impala, gazelle, hartebeest and eland gather and not surprisingly the predators follow. This is also the one place in Tanzania where dry-country antelope such as oryx and gerenuk are regularly spotted. Tarangire is also known for its spectacular baobab trees, and its breathtaking views of the Masaai Steppe and the mountains to the south.





MOUNT MERU

UHURU PEAK  
5895 m

BARAFU CAMP  
4600m

LAVA TOWER  
4600 m

BARRANCO CAMP  
3950 m

KARANGA CAMP  
3995 m

SHIRA II CAMP  
3,810 m

MWEKA CAMP  
3100 m

MWEKA  
ROUTE

MWEKA GATE  
1600 m

MACHAME  
ROUTE

MACHAME CAMP  
3000 m

MACHAME GATE  
1800 m

— ASCEND  
— DESCEND



Google earth





# DAY 1 : MOSHI

You will be transferred from Kilimanjaro Airport to the Keys Hotel.

Situated south of the equator - in Tanzania - at 19,340 feet (5,895m), Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest mountain and the highest "free standing" mountain in the world. Huge permanent glaciers flow down from the summit, and spectacular views and beautiful ice formations are the reward for the successful trekker, as well as the satisfaction of conquering this mighty peak.

It is not for the faint hearted - this will test you to your limits, mentally as well as physically. The main problems encountered are altitude sickness, which can be countered by use of medicines, and lack of oxygen. The standard route is a hike - no climbing as such. It is very cold - correct kit is a must - but our kit lists and hire equipment are top quality. We have personally done the major routes, so can offer first hand advice.

# DAY 2 : MOUNT KILIMANJARO

After an early breakfast, a senior guide will do your climb briefing after which you will depart for the National Park Gate (approximately 1 hour), where you will meet your guide and porters. There is a lot that happens behind the scenes, e.g. porter loads being distributed, etc., so relax - it takes quite a bit of time. Sign into the National Park.

After the formalities at the gate have been completed, you will start your walk through the spectacular tropical rainforest, generally in the company of the assistant guides. The head guide will stay behind and sort out the balance of the arrangements and catch up with you later. The guides will stop at a designated spot for you to have your lunch pack that the hotel has provided. The entire day is spent in equatorial rainforest and you won't have good views of Kibo. Towards the end of the day, you will break out of the forest and arrive at Machame Hut (3,000m). This section of the climb should take you in the region of 5 hours to complete.







# DAY 3 : MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Ascend to Shira Hut at 3,800m. When you depart from Machame Hut, you will be in the heather zone and you will be climbing up one of the ridges on the mountain. It is a fairly steep start, followed by an hour or so of hard uphill, then 2 hours at a gentler angle through the lower moorland, which brings you to the top of a rocky bluff. Lunch is normally taken here.

From the lunch stop, you will start traversing westwards up towards Shira Cathedral. The last sections of this route are relatively flat and easy but, once again, take it very slowly.

Take a jersey with you today as it cools down considerably during and after lunch. Again, keep your wet weather gear handy and some snacks for the route. Drink plenty of water - it is vitally important to keep your fluid intake high as it aids the acclimatisation process.

Camp at Shira - it's a pretty exposed and cold campsite and you may get rain or sleet. In the morning, the ground and tents could be frozen over. You do, however, get to see some of the most spectacular sunrises and sunsets as your reward for camping here!





## DAY 4 : MOUNT KILIMANJARO

From Shira, you will set off to Barranco (3,900m), skirting just below Lava Tower. You are now walking at an approximate altitude of 4,500m while traversing around the southern side of the mountain. A few steep sections of uphill and valleys, some parts that look like a "moon landscape", and quite a steep descent to Barranco - it's a long and fairly tiring day.

This is part of your acclimatization - walking in height from 3,800m up to 4,500m and then overnighting at 3,900m. Once again, pace yourself to gain altitude slowly. The night temperature at camp could be cold (night frosts).

The views of the glaciers on Kibo are breathtaking from camp and, when you turn around, you have the most beautiful Umbwe Valley below you - one of the most scenic campsites on the mountain.





## DAY 5 : MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Continue from Barranco, across and up towards Karangu Valley (3,900m). The first obstacle this morning is the Barranco (Breach) Wall - it's a climb over rock and it looks like a sheer rock face, but it is a hike and there is no technical climb involved. It is a rather tiring, hard and long day though and the guides might use rope on some sections for peace of mind. There's a steep descent down into Karanga Valley, with a short, steep ascent out of the valley to the campsite on the other side of the valley where you will camp tonight. You should arrive around lunchtime.

Learn to pace yourself with your breathing - do not try to rush to catch up with anyone, go at your own most comfortable speed and you will arrive relatively comfortably. Listen to your guide(s) - they will help you. It will be very cold today, especially when you stop for lunch and rest. Dress warmly as you can expect some sleet on this day. You will be walking through the cloud.







## DAY 6 : MOUNT KILIMANJARO

From Karangu Valley, you'll continue the climb to Barafu, from where you will start your final ascent to the peak tonight. Along the way, there is a lot of shale rock - some of it paper thin! You'll have great views of Kibo along the way, if the weather is clear. You should arrive around lunchtime, which gives you a good few hours to rest before the midnight ascent.

After supper, drink as much fluids as possible and settle down for an early night. Drink plenty of fluids as you are in a "desert" area, despite the cold, and tomorrow will be a long, hard day.

# DAY 7 : MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Today is a very long and strenuous day. Drink lots of fluid before you start - you will be very thirsty by the end of it. If you can manage, carry 3 liters of fluid with you.

You will be woken at about 23:00 or 00:00 with tea and biscuits. Put on all your clothing, ready for the final ascent.

You will be climbing up scree for approximately 4 - 5 hours. The guide(s) will stop frequently to rest and check on the group. It is very important to listen to your body and breathing, and try to get into a rhythm. Because of the slowness of your walk, your fingers and toes are likely to get extremely cold. Three pairs of socks should be considered for today and two pairs of gloves (inner and warm outer). The views from the mountain (on the way up) are spectacular - you gain incredible height over a short distance.

You arrive at Stella Point (5,750m) on the crater rim and have a quick rest the sun should be shining! From here, continue around the crater rim to Uhuru Peak (5,895m), the highest point in Africa.







## DAY 8 : MOSHI

It is a 3 - 4 hour descent through the pretty rainforest to the Park Gate at Mweka where the vehicle will meet you. There are generally beers and Cokes for sale at the park gate. You will then be transferred by vehicle to the hotel (approximately 45 minutes' drive), ready for an evening of celebration.

Your certificates are generally handed out by the guides (either at the gate or, on occasion, they may join you at the hotel).

Overnight at Keys Hotel with full English breakfast included.



## DAY 9 : LAKE MANYARA

During your private tailor made safari, you will be accommodated in or near the parks as described below. The days will be spent giving you the best game viewing experience possible in each park, with either morning and afternoon game drives, or full day excursions. If you are opting to do a "drive-in" safari, the drives between parks may be broken with cultural visits to local villages, or historical hotspots and further game viewing, guaranteeing that your transfers are far from boring. Your itinerary is fairly flexible from day to day and options may be discussed with your guide before setting off for the day.





## DAY 10 : LAKE MANYARA

Lake Manyara National Park is famous for its tree climbing lions, who spend most of the day spread out along the branches of Acacia trees six to seven meters above the ground. Nestled at the base of the Great Rift Valley escarpment, the park is noted for its incredible beauty. As visitors enter the gate, they pass into the lush forest, home to troops of baboons and both blue and vervet monkeys.

Further along, the forest opens up into woodlands, grassland, swamps and beyond the soda lake itself, covering 200 square kilometers and sanctuary to over 400 species of bird including flamingo, pelican, stork, sacred ibis, cormorant and Egyptian Geese. The park is particularly noted for its huge herds of buffalo and elephant, as well as giraffe, hippo, reedbuck, warthog, wildebeest, zebra and a great variety of smaller animals.



# DAY 11 : TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK

Depart after breakfast and drive to the Ngorongoro Crater where you will spend the rest of the day game viewing including picnic lunch.

Head down into the Ngorongoro Caldera below and spend the rest of the day enjoying game viewing in one of the most spectacular places on earth! Photographic opportunities are abundant, and one often sees four of the Big Five in a short time. Have a picnic lunch at the floor of the crater at a pleasant lakeside location where you can stretch your legs and soak up the magnificent scenery.





# DAY 12 : TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK

Tarangire National Park is the sixth largest national park in Tanzania, it is located in the Manyara Region. The name of the park originates from the Tarangire River that crosses the park. The Tarangire River is the primary source of fresh water for wild animals in the Tarangire Ecosystem during the annual dry season.

The Tarangire Ecosystem is defined by the long distance migration of wildebeest and zebras. During the dry season thousands of animals concentrate in Tarangire National Park from the surrounding wet season dispersal and calving areas.





# DAY 13 : TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK

The park is famous for its high density of elephants and baobab trees. Visitors to the park in the June to November dry season can expect to see large herds of thousands of zebra, wildebeest and cape buffalo. Other common resident animals include waterbuck, giraffe, dik dik, impala, eland, Grant's gazelle, vervet monkey, banded mongoose, and olive baboon. Predators in Tarangire include African lion, leopard, cheetah, caracal, honey badger, and African wild dog.





## DAY 14 : MOSHI

Following breakfast and a game drive you will be driven back to Moshi where you will spend your last night on this trip.



## DAY 15 : END OF ITINERARY

You will be driven to your international flight departing from the Arusha Airport. The flight will head to Amsterdam where you will then connect with your US based flight the next day.

