



SLEEP IN THE CRATER ON KILIMANJARO

Take your Kilimanjaro climb to the next level with Ian Taylor Trekking's exclusive 9-day Crater Camp itinerary. This route not only gives you excellent acclimatization and a strong chance of summit success—it also offers the rare opportunity to sleep at Kilimanjaro's volcanic crater, just below the summit at 5,730m/ 18,800 feet.

After a successful sunrise ascent to Uhuru Peak, you'll descend into the heart of the crater, surrounded by towering glaciers and dramatic lunar landscapes. This is one of the most unique and unforgettable experiences available on any mountain in the world.

Designed for strong, well-acclimatized trekkers, this itinerary is for those looking to go beyond the ordinary—and with our world-class guides and success-focused approach, you'll be in the safest hands every step of the way.

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive in Kilimanjaro – Overnight at Hotel in Arusha
Day 2: Lemosho Gate onto Big Tree Camp
Day 3: Shira Camp 1
Day 4: Shira Camp 2
Day 5: Barranco Camp
Day 6: Karanga Camp
Day 7: Kosovo Camp
Day 8: Stella Point – Crater Camp
Day 9: Summit – Mweka Camp
Day 10: Mweka – Exit Gate – Overnight at Hotel in Arusha
Day 11: Hotel - Airport transfer

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport

You should aim to arrive as early as possible the day before the trek. Once you arrive, you will be picked up from the airport and taken on a 50-minute transfer to the hotel in Arusha, where you will be booked on a shared bed and breakfast basis. You will have a group briefing in the evening with our head guide to prepare you for the journey ahead. Our head guide was named the Mountain Guide of the year in 2019 on Kilimanjaro and you can read more about him here:

<https://iantaylortrekking.com/blog/kilimanjaro-mountain-guide-of-the-year-2019/>.



Day 2: Lemosho Gate to Mti Mkubwa (9,186ft / 2,800m)

After breakfast at the hotel, our local team will be there to pick the team up to start the journey! Normally, the meeting time will be 8am, but this will be confirmed at the briefing the night prior. A three-four-hour drive from Arusha takes us to the Lemosho Gate (7,550ft / 2,300m), located on the western side of Kilimanjaro. We should arrive by midday, to register at the gate and enter Kilimanjaro Park, and this process can take up to a couple of hours. While we wait, we will have our lunch at the gate and sign into the National Park. Here you will begin to realize that we are on one of the least trodden routes compared to the "standard" lines of ascent such as Machame and Marangu. The flora and fauna are richer here and in places the vegetation is so untouched that it grows right across the narrow track. Our trek today will be along a little used track known as Chamber's Route. In approximately three hours, we will reach our camp in the forest at Mti Mkubwa, otherwise known as Big Tree Camp, at 9,186ft / 2,800m.

Day 3: Mti Mkubwa to Shira One Camp (11,480ft / 3,500m)

After breakfast, we start the climb through the rainforest towards the giant moorland zone. Today is a full day's trek with a significant gain in height. So, it will be tough, even at a relatively low altitude. We will take a lunch stop at the crest of a ridge, just below the Shira Crater at approximately 3,000m/9,850ft. After lunch, we follow the ridgeline steadily upwards towards the Shira Caldera, a high-altitude desert plateau, which is rarely visited. Shira is the third of Kilimanjaro's volcanic cones and is filled with lava flow from Kibo Peak. The crater rim has been massively eroded over time by weather and volcanic action. Today we'll get our first close views of Kibo - the central volcanic cone and literally "the Roof of Africa". The second of the 3 volcanic spouts that make up Kilimanjaro is Mawenzi, but this lies hidden for the time being to the east of Kibo. Today's walk will be approximately 6 hours before reaching the camp at 3,500m/11,480ft.

Day 4: Shira One Camp to Shira Two Camp (12,795 ft / 3,900m)

After breakfast, we continue to hike east across the Shira Plateau past the Shira Cathedral (12,470ft / 3,880 m), towards Shira Two Camp. The views of the plateau, across the mountain and to the plains below are nothing less than spectacular. After lunch we will hike up to 13,123ft / 4,000m. for some additional acclimatization. Today we will hike approximately 4 hours to Shira Camp 2, which covers 6.2miles/ 10 km. Then, after lunch we will hike for another hour approximately to cover another 500m/ 1,640 feet.

Day 5: Shira Two Camp to Baranco Camp (12,795 ft / 3,900 m)

Today is a tough seven-hour hike in superb country. We start the day before lunch in a steady uphill ascent towards the Lava Tower. Today, we will focus on a similar pattern/pace that will happen on the summit night. Once we reach the Lava Tower at 15,223ft / 4,640m, we will stop for a hot lunch and rest before we slowly descend to



Baranco, our most spectacular campsite, situated at the foot of the Kibo Peak. As we travel, we will look up to the hanging cliff of the Breach Wall, which has given the likes of Messner some extremely hard climbing – when he took a new route up a hanging icicle draped from the top of the wall. As we descend to Baranco, the southern ice fields will come more clearly into view. Sleeping at a similar height as we did the night before, gives excellent acclimatization after reaching a new height record for the trip at the Lava Tower. Today we will be hiking for approximately 7 hours and will be a challenging but rewarding day.

Day 6: Baranco Camp to Karanga Camp (13,300ft / 4,050m)

After breakfast, our first challenge is to overcome the Baranco Wall, which is 984ft / 300m high and takes us to an altitude of 13,924ft / 4,244m. The Baranco Wall will look daunting from the camp, however it is less difficult than it looks! It looks as if it is a steep path, however the path which we take, winds its way up the wall and never feels exposed or dangerous. There are short sections of easy scrambling, which are fun and quickly overcome. From the top, the receding Heim Glacier on Kilimanjaro's south face is clearly visible. The route then continues eastwards underneath the Decken and Rebman Glaciers to the Karanga Camp (13,287ft / 4,050m), which is situated above the Karanga Valley. Today will be a fun four to five-hour trek to the Karanga Camp at (13,300ft / 4,050m).

Day 7: Karanga Camp to Kosovo Camp (16,010ft / 4,880m)

Today is another reason how we are differing from other trips! From Karanga Camp, we will head steadily upward to the high camp of Kosovo, which will give our teams a better chance of reaching the summit. A 4-hour steady walk takes us to Kosovo Camp (16,010ft / 4,900m) from where we will set up to make our summit attempt. This is a short day, but included to give some essential pre-summit acclimatization, without being too physically exhausting. The air is noticeably thin now, and you will be running short of breath as you climb out of the Karanga Valley. It is a slow, tough hike up to the Kosovo Camp and we will be moving extremely slow as a group as we pass Barafu Camp, where most other teams will be stopping for the day. On arrival, we begin to get ourselves ready for our summit attempt. This means preparing all our gear and water for the push up to the top, as well as getting as much to eat and drink as possible and going to bed very early. We will wake at approximately 12am to prepare for our summit attempt! If the weather is not in our favour, and it is too windy at the Kosovo Camp, we may have to stay a bit lower at the Barafu Camp at (15,250ft / 4,650m), but our goal will always be to reach Kosovo Camp!

Day 8: Kosovo Camp to Stella Point to Crater Camp (18,800ft/ 5,730m)

We will rise today around 6am, after the rest of the team has already left for their summit attempt. After a full breakfast and packing up our belongings, we will make our way up to Stella Point. We head in a north-westerly direction and ascend through heavy scree towards Stella Point on the crater rim. This should take approximately 5 hours, and the journey to get to Stella Point will be mentally and physically the most



challenging phase on the entire route. At Stella Point, 5,756m/ 18,885 feet, we will stop for a short rest before turning down into the crater. It will take approximately 30 minutes to reach the real crater of Kilimanjaro's volcano and camp will be set up for you here at 5,730m/ 18,800 feet. After some rest and once everyone is feeling ok, we will explore the crater and have the unique experience on this famous and unique landmark. Dinner tonight will be served while watching the sun set from the top of Kilimanjaro. Hopefully, you will be able to get some rest for the final push tomorrow.

Day 9: Uhuru Peak (19,340 ft / 5,896m) to Mweka Camp (3,100m / 10,170 ft)

After an early breakfast at around 5am, we will move start the final ascent towards the summit! We will enjoy the sunrise view as we complete the approximately one-and-a-half-hour hike to reach the roof of Africa at 5,896m/ 19,340 feet. We will have plenty of time to celebrate this unique experience at the top of the mountain, before starting our way back down the trail. After approximately 2 to 3 hours, you will arrive back at the Kosovo Camp, where we slept just two nights ago! From there, we continue back down the trail for another two hours before reaching High Camp (Formerly Millennium Camp) at 3,800m/ 12,467 feet. Here, you will be served lunch and have break. After lunch, we will continue down the trail another two hours to the Mweka Hut at 3,100m/ 10,171 feet, where you will sleep for the night. Dinner will be prepared, and you will be able to enjoy your success of the day!

Day 10: Mweka Gate to Arusha

We will wake early in the morning today to begin our final walk off Kilimanjaro. After breakfast the entire team will come together for a farewell ceremony where we will say 'kwaheri' or goodbye to the porter. Here is where the team can offer any tips to the staff before heading down the trail. The walk today will take us approximately 4 hours to get from the camp to the Mweka Gate. Then take a short 5-minute ride in the vehicle to our final lunch spot, where you will also have a chance to do a little souvenir shopping before getting back in the vehicle for the three-hour journey back to Arusha. Here you will get to enjoy a well-deserved shower and bed to sleep in!

Day 11: Arusha

Today will be spent at leisure in Arusha. You can decide to sit by the pool at the hotel or exploring the town of Arusha. We will transfer you back to the airport to catch your international flight home. There is also an option for you to stay on in Tanzania and do one of our Safari options, sampling some of the world's most unique wildlife: <https://iantaylortrekking.com/kilimanjaro-treks/safari-in-tanzania/>

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Every effort will be made to keep to the above itinerary, but as this is Adventure Travel in a remote mountain region, we cannot guarantee it. Weather conditions, road conditions, vehicle breakdowns and the health of participants can all



contribute to changes. The Trek Leader will try to ensure that the trip runs according to plan, but an easy-going nature will be an asset!

What the price includes:

- 1). National Park fees and Peak Permits
- 2). 2 night's hotel B&B on a shared basis
- 3). Airport transfers
- 4). All road transport by private vehicles.
- 5). All camping facilities and meals during the trek (quality menu & tents)
- 6). All porterage costs (15kg/33lbs per person)
- 7). All costs for Tanzanian guides, cook staff, camp crew and porters (not including tips. We recommend \$300 per person)
- 8). 5 days a week professional office support before your trek
- 9). Flying doctor's insurance cover
- 10). Toilet tents & 3, 3 course meals per day

What the price does not include:

- 1). Visa fees (\$50 - \$100)
- 2). Bar bills and laundry
- 3). Lunch and dinner in Arusha
- 3). Travel insurance. (Compulsory)
- 4). Optional trips (e.g. a Safari Extension) and sightseeing tours
- 5). Tips (US\$350 per person)