

## **MACHAME – route (6–7 days, 5–6 nights on Mt. Kilimanjaro)**

Once the more challenging route for mountaineers, Machame is catching up with Marangu in terms of popularity. It is the second most frequently climbed non-steep wall route (Umbwe) and, thanks to its easily accessible starting point, is attractive for mountaineers who start from A-rusha or Moshi. Its reputation as the most scenic route is definitely justified, with an



endless view of the Masai Steppe, Mt. Meru and the impressive Barranco Valley, which all climbers rave about. Growing popularity also means limited exclusivity, however, since at Machame the descent route does not lead along the ascent route, you only become aware of the growing popularity when you reach the camps. Anyway, Machame is still a lot calmer than the Marangu route.

## **Advantages:**

- **Camping** - Machame enjoys the exclusivity of camping with your own team of porters and mountain guides, creating a very family atmosphere
- **The reputation** - Machame has a reputation for being one of the most beautiful routes with the best view
- **Accessibility** - The access point is on the west side of the mountain, close to a good tar road, making it very easy to reach from Moshi and Arusha
- **Scenic beauty** - In addition to its reputation for offering the best views, it is without a doubt breathtakingly beautiful with a wide variety of ecosystems along its paths
- **Wilderness route** - The "Whiskey" route, compared to Marangu's "Coca-Cola", is heavier and less marked, with a longer climb and therefore attractive for more demanding mountaineers
- **Descent route** - In contrast to an identical descent, the Mweka descent allows the trekkers to see more of the mountain and not encounter mountaineers on their way to the summit

## *Itinerary*

### **Day 1: Machame camp**

After breakfast, you will leave for the village of Machame at around 8 a.m., where you will begin your ascent. From the park entrance gate, you will hike for about 2 to 3 hours through thick forest of figs and rubber trees, begonias and other tropical vegetation. A lunch break takes place halfway to the evening camp. With increasing altitude, you notice how the forest gives way to tall grass and gigantic heather. You hike on a mountain ridge with the Semira Strom on the left and the Weru Weru on the right. Depending on the walking speed, you will reach the Machame camp around 5/6 p.m. in the evening. Your camp is near some old huts that were once built for protection. This first phase is calm and relatively easy. There is no need to rush to the camp as the route is not too far. Mountain guides recommend a slow ascent for gradual acclimatization. Do not try to keep up with your porters, who usually run in advance. Instead, take your time to enjoy the beauty of the rainforest. If you are interested in botany, you should pack a small plant guide.

Dinner and overnight accommodation at Machame camp (3050 m)

## **Day 2: Shira camp**

Today you will be woken up at 6 a.m. You start the day with a steaming cup of tea or coffee and, if the weather permits, with a fantastic view of Uhuru Peak. Today's march takes you on a steep path through savannah with tall grass, volcanic rocks and heather. You will discover giant ragwort while hiking through a ghostly landscape with volcanic lava, caves and foamy streams. You can enjoy lunch directly below the Shira Plateau, about 3 to 4 hours away from the Shira camp. The total duration of today's ascent is about six hours and you should arrive at the camp between 2 and 3 p.m. Most climbers intentionally run slowly and rest about every half hour. Many feel tired and have a headache when they reach camp. The mountain guides advise hikers to drink tea and sleep a lot with signs of altitude sickness - and you should definitely follow this advice.

Dinner and overnight accommodation in the Shira camp (3800 m)

### **Day 3: Barranco camp**

The entire Shira Plateau welcomes you this morning with a view of Mount Meru and the Shira peaks. A constant march leads you on the path that leads to the Lava Tower (4570 m), where you will take a lunch break. Crossing the Bastains stream, you begin your descent to the Barranco camp. The descent takes you along a huge gorge called Grand Barranco. Along the way you can see numerous waterfalls, which are fed by streams flowing from the mountain and form here to the Umbwe river. Your camp is at almost the same height as the night before. Today's march lasts about 6 hours in total and you will finally reach your camp around 4.30pm to 5.30pm.

Dinner and overnight accommodation in the Barranco camp (3960 m)

### **Day 4: Karanga camp**

**In the 6-day route** days 4 & 5 are combined. So on day 4 it goes directly from the Barranco camp to the Barafu camp!

This morning you start your march to the Karanga camp, which is at the same height as the Barranco camp. You will encounter some climbers on the Barranco Rock and spend the rest of the trek running up and down the slopes of the mountain to the camp. This route is not particularly demanding and

you should arrive on time for lunch (estimated at 1 p.m.) after you have hiked for four hours. In the afternoon you have the opportunity to explore the Karanga Valley, where gigantic daisies and lorblias grow; nevertheless, you are advised to rest as much as possible to prepare yourself for the ascent ahead of you.

Dinner and overnight accommodation at Karanga camp (3960 m)

### **Day 5: Barafu camp**

During the picturesque ascent to Barafu you have a view of the Mawenzi summit, which sits majestically on your right and above you the Kibo summit, which "still" seems unreachable. The alpine desert zone that you come across here is a mainly mineral area with few lichens and mosses. Lunch is on the way before you reach the Barafu camp around 2.30pm. All climbers who want to climb to the summit go to bed very early today, as the following day will be the longest.

Dinner and night's accommodation at Barafu camp (4630 m)

## **Day 6: Final ascent to Uhuru Peak then descent to Mweka camp**

You will be woken up at midnight and after a light breakfast you will start your ascent at around 1 a.m. At this point, the climb will be much more difficult than before. Here very few will not suffer from altitude sickness in whatever form; the climbers should



carry as little as possible with them. Temperatures are around  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Climbing your way up, flanked by the Ratzel and Rebman glaciers, you climb about 6 hours before you reach the crater rim between the Stella and Hans Meyer point. Another hour of climbing will take you to the summit. Uhuru is at 19,340 feet / 5,895 m and is the highest point on the African continent. The path around the crater rim is rocky and icy. Pay attention to your feet and follow your mountain guide very closely on this route. The descent is now easier than the ascent. You will reach the Barafu camp after about three hours (around 11 a.m.). Here you can rest and freshen up before you descend to the Mweka camp for the night. When you arrive at the camp around five o'clock, you will have hiked a total of 13 hours.

Dinner and overnight accommodation in the Mweka camp (3110 m)

## **Day 7: Return to Arusha**

On the last day of the trip you hike down from the Mweka camp to the base. The descent to the gate takes about four hours and you usually arrive there before noon. Successful climbers get their summit certificates here. Those who have reached the Stella Point receive a green certificate and all who have reached Uhuru Peak receive a golden certificate. Your driver is waiting for you here and takes you back to your accommodation in Arusha.

## **Price overview**

6 days / 5 nights on the mountain & overnight in tents

<b>Number of people</b>	<b>Price per person</b>
2 persons	1.439 €
From 3 people	1.319 €