Kilimanjaro Northern Route Traverse and Circuit

Trip Code: KNR

Version:

WALK & TREK	GUIDED GROUP	8 CHALLENGING



HIGHLIGHTS

- A rarely walked route meaning the paths and campsites are quieter
- Substantial acclimatisation with 9 days on the mountain, giving a higher chance to summit than some other routes

- Incredible local guides and support crew
- Summit Uhuru Peak (5895m) along the ridge from Gilman's Point

AT A GLANCE

- 9 days trekking
- Max altitude - 5895 metres
- Join at Kilimanjaro International Airport

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

This is our ultimate Kilimanjaro itinerary. On this Northern Circuit Route we have 9 days on the mountain, maximising our acclimatisation and in turn summit success. This trail starts on the Lemosho Route in the west, briefly meets the Machame Route at Lava Towers before skirting around the back of the mountain with views of the Kenyan plains before coming around to where the Rongai Route summits from the famous Gilman's Point, and then we descend along the Mweke Route. Much of our trek is along the lesser used paths contouring the northern flanks, so it is a more personal experience as we attempt to summit this mighty majestic mountain. Our porters and guides make the trip a delight as they assist you with their confidence, experience, smiles and singing to boost your spirits on the journey together to the summit of Africa. Standing on the summit is incredible - it's worth the effort.

Is this holiday for you?

For most, standing on the summit of the highest peak in Africa is either a life-time goal, a personal challenge, or indeed both. On Kilimanjaro walking days are between 4-7 hours, most being around 6-7 hours. The summit day is long with a pre-dawn start and around 14-16 hrs of walking. All trails on the mountain are well marked and kept. Higher up there are some sections of scree which we have to negotiate. They are easy to follow, however you will always be behind your expert guide to ensure that you walk slow enough to adjust to the altitude.

A typical day starts with early morning tea in your tent at 0600. After a hot breakfast, our porters take their loads and we leave camp for our days walk. Lunch is at around 1100 and we aim to be at camp at around 1500-1600 to relax before dinner in the mess tent later. Of course certain days are longer, especially the summit day!

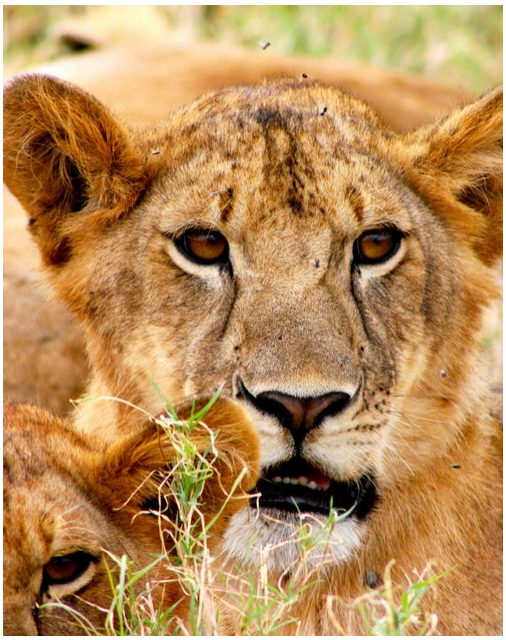
Don't forget - Kilimanjaro is a big mountain (Africa's biggest in fact!), you will need to be fit and mentally prepared to ensure summit success, and return home with the unique memories and the satisfaction of this massive achievement. You should aim to be fit enough to walk for at least two days in a row for 5-7 hours without a problem, and more than 12 hrs on summit day. Put on your boots and get walking and with a huge amount of determination you'll be able to do it. Get training now and you can join the exclusive group who have summited.

Itinerary

Version:

Extensions

When booking your holiday, you will be able to 'add an extension option'. Once we have received your booking we will contact you to discuss additional services required for the extension and to take any additional deposit.



Tanzania Safari Extension (3 nights)

The world's finest game viewing can be found in the Tanzania National Parks of Tarangire, Manyara and in the crater of Ngorongoro. There is an excellent chance of spotting the 'big five' of elephant, rhino, leopard, buffalo and lion, as well as wildebeest, cheetahs, giraffe, zebra and hyena. From our comfortable permanent tented lodge accommodation, we go out on safari with expert guides and trackers, in 4WD vehicles which are specially adapted for game viewing.

4 days from
¤9,223,372,036,854,776,000 per person

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional and qualified tour leader
- Airport transfers to/from the group hotel on arrival and departure
- All accommodation as described
- All meals
- All land transport required by the itinerary
- National Park entrance fees (value of $1240)

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Mandatory additional travel insurance required for Tanzania - https://inbound.nicinsurance.co.tz/ (Note: This is in addition to your own travel insurance)
- Visas
- Tips for guide / porters and other staff
- Miscellaneous personal expenditure - drinks and souvenirs etc

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

Return airport transfers from/to Kilimanjaro International Airport to/from the group hotel are provided for all passengers.

If you have additional nights which are not booked at the group hotel then we can provide private airport transfers at an additional cost.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All meals are included in the holiday price from dinner on Day 1 until breakfast on Day 11.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

Drinking Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. If you are on a trekking or cycling holiday, water is supplied to fill up your individual bottles. This will be boiled, filtered or provided in large jerry cans or 5 litre bottles. Additionally you should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a Water-To-Go bottle) to treat your water when in towns or where water is not supplied. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Being hydrated and well fed is important element to summiting success. Our head chef and cook team works hard to ensure that the menu is carefully planned as you ascend, especially as it's not unusual for people to lose their appetites at altitude. It is pretty amazing what this team of experts are able to produce on the side of the mountain.

At breakfast we have a hot drink (tea, coffee or hot chocolate) with porridge, or eggs, sausages and toast with jam, marmalade or honey. Lunch is usually three courses; starting with soup, followed by a hot meal such as cheese toast or chicken and ending with some fresh fruit or sometimes a muffin. Afternoon tea is served at camp shortly after we arrive, usually around 1500-1600, which is a hot drink with a snack such as peanuts, popcorn, or malt biscuits. Dinner is usually three-courses. Starting with soup, then a carbohydrate such as rice, pasta or potatoes, with beef, chicken, sausage or corned beef and cheese. The end of the meal there will be some fruit or something sweet. Vegetarians will have beans or a vegetable mix with different sauces. Please inform us of any special dietary requirements. You should bring your own trail snacks for the walking days.

Accommodation

At the start of the holiday you have one night at a comfortable hotel with swimming pool a 15 minute drive from Kilimanjaro Airport. We have another night here at the end of the trek.

Whilst on the mountain there are 8 nights camping. We use high quality, spacious 3 person tents. These are Simond Makalu or Mountain Hardware Trango 3 tents and are expedition quality. Only 2 people and their bags stay in each tent. They are surprisingly warm at night. You will need to bring your own sleeping bag, although you can hire them through KE if you prefer. Camping mattresses are provided by KE. We also have a dining tent with a table and chairs for meal times. The team put up the tents and take them down in the mornings for you - so you don't have to worry about that. You will be looked after very well.

We take along our own portable toilets and a little tent for privacy. These are kept nice and clean, and loo roll is provided. There are long drop toilets at each campsite which are maintained by the National Park Authority - but we find its just best to avoid these!

If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Single hotel rooms and single tents are available for a supplementary cost. If you are planning on extending your holiday additional nights at the group hotel are available on request. All hotel accommodation is subject to change.

Group Leader & Support Staff

Our groups are led by a professional and qualified tour leader. They have led groups for many years and have considerable experience on the mountain. Summit success is often attributed to the quality and experience of the guides. We are also supported by a full trek crew including cooks and porters.

Altitude

This holiday involves going to very high altitude. During the course of your trip you will be spending at least one night above 4000 metres and/or trekking to 5000 metres or above. This is not something that you should worry about; the human body is quite capable of adapting to a very wide range of altitudes, but it is important that we follow some simple rules in order to acclimatise successfully. Before coming on this holiday you should read the advice on trekking at high altitude. Unless you have previous experience of trekking above 4000 metres you should consult one of our trekking experts before embarking on this holiday. On this trip we carry a portable altitude chamber (PAC-bag) and/or bottled oxygen for use in emergencies.

Park Fees & Permits

The entrance fees and camping fees for the Kilimanjaro National Park form a considerable part of the cost of climbing this peak and are also prone to increase. We include these fees in your holiday price.

Spending Money

Approximately £250 per person (or equivalent in US dollars or Euros) should be allowed for tips, soft drinks, snacks and miscellaneous expenses. If your flight departs in the late afternoon or evening, you may wish to budget for a lunchtime snack on the last day. Alcoholic drinks, souvenirs and optional activities are additional so you may wish to budget for these.

You can choose to take your money in pounds sterling, US dollars or euros, but US dollars in small notes can also be used in emergencies where change facilities are not available. Tips to trek staff can be paid either in Tanzanian shillings or in US dollars, or a mix of both (USD are preferable). There will be the opportunity to change money into local currency on arrival at the airport on arrival, and we advise you to use the facilities here. Credit cards are useful and it is a good idea to carry one in case of emergency, however be aware that not all lodges/hotels accept cards.

Guidance on Tipping

Tips are the accepted way of saying thank you to your guides and porters. Tips they receive are seen as a personal thank you from group members and are entirely dependent on the service that was given. Tipping should be decided and given by the group as a whole rather than from individuals. As a rough guide we suggest that a total contribution of approximately $185-260 from each group member. This will then be divided between the guides and support staff.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage, which should be a soft and sturdy duffel bag and a daypack. Your bag on trek will be carried by porters and should not weigh more than 14kg. This weight allowance is strictly enforced. It is possible to leave clothes or other items not required on trek at the group hotel. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

Please be aware that plastic/polythene bags are illegal in Tanzania. The law says that they are not allowed to be manufactured, imported, used or sold in Tanzania (since Jun 2019).

For Zanzibar extensions your the total allowance, per person is 20kg (this is all luggage, including your day pack and any camera equipment). The airline also recommends soft bags as hard cases can get damaged.

For Safari extensions there are no restrictions, however you will need to be able to lift and move your own bag.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Visa Tanzania

UK passport holders do require a visa. The visa fee is $50 (single entry) and is obtainable on arrival or prior to departure online at https://eservices.immigration.go.tz/visa/. The online application requires a scanned passport photo, a scanned copy of your passport bio page and evidence of your return flight details.

If you are arriving into Kilimanjaro Airport, Dar es Salaam or into Tanzania via the Namanga border crossing, we advise you to get a visa prior to arrival as there can be long queues for visas services at customs.

For visas on arrival you require 2 passport photos for the visa, however we recommend you travel with 4 passport photos just in case. Payment must be in cash when getting your visa on arrival.

USA passport holders do require a visa. The visa fee is $100. It is advised to obtain this prior to departure, full and up to date information can be found online https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Tanzania.html

We (KE) require copy of the information page of your passport in order to make the arrangements in Tanzania. A colour scan must be emailed or posted to us at the earliest opportunity.

If you are travelling to Zanzibar you will also need to purchase specific insurance (as well as your standard travel insurance), through the Visit Zanzibar website - Visit Zanzibar

Travelling With Under 18s

If the children (under 18yrs) with whom you are travelling have a different surname to yours, you should consider taking with you the child's full birth certificate. It is not a requirement, but some border personnel in Tanzania as well as the UK, may request to see it when travelling to/from Africa.

If you are travelling via Kenya to your destination you may also require a visa for Kenya. If you have connecting flights and your baggage has been checked all the way through to your destination you will not need a Kenyan visa.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The unit of currency in Tanzania is the Tanzanian Shilling.

Preparing for your Holiday

The fitter you are the more you will enjoy your holiday and you are more likely to summit if you are not totally exhausted at the end of each day. Training should not be a chore, use your Kilimanjaro trip as a good incentive to get out in the evenings after work or a walking weekend in the hills. Aerobic activities such as running, biking and swimming help overall fitness. You should aim to be at least fit enough to walk for at least two days in a row for 5-7 hours without a problem. Put on your boots and get walking and you'll be able to do it. The summit day is a tough day with an 8-10 hrs ascent and a 6-8 hrs descent - and alongside the fitness you need plenty of determination for this day!

There is little you can do to prepare for the altitude but if you have an excellent level of fitness this can help.

We would recommend wearing and testing out the equipment and clothing that you will be taking with you before you go. Best to find out before you go that your new boots give you a little blister, or the trousers are just a little on the tight side, or the jacket just has too many pockets. At least you can do something about it before the trip.

Climate

The driest months are June to October when there is the least likelihood of rain or clouds higher up. This is also peak season to climb Kilimanjaro, especially as many people are on summer holidays. January to end March is also a drier period compared to the long rainy season in April/May and a second, shorter rainy period in November/early December. January to March is usually a bit colder, which can put some people off, but means that there are less people on the mountain. Rain is usually lower down during this period. Temperatures vary greatly with altitude. At the foot of Kilimanjaro it's usually approximately 25-28ºC, dropping to 15ºC at night. At 3000m, daytime temperatures can be around 15ºC. Above 4000m, the night-time temperatures will fall below freezing and it is usually no more than 10ºC in the day.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Maps

AFRICA - THE HIGHEST PEAKS. KILIMANJARO 1:150 000 & 1:50 000 - TERRAQUEST

A great laminated map of Africa's highest peaks: Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya and the Rwenzori. The main Kilimanjaro map covers the whole mountain at 1:150 000 including Moshi and Arusha, with all trekking routes and campsites marked. And the smaller inset of the summit is at 1:50 000. The map is contoured and coloured and clear.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the 'baggage allowance' section for further details.

You should bring the following items:

- Sleeping bag (comfort rated -15°C)*
- Hiking boots (waterproof)
- Trainers / sandals for camp
- Trekking poles
- Walking / trekking socks
- Underwear
- Trekking trousers
- Waterproof jacket and overtrousers
- Warm fleece
- Fleece jacket
- Warm / down jacket (to go over the fleece jacket)
- Thermal baselayer - leggings & top
- T-shirts, tops and/or casual shirts
- Thermal gloves
- Warm and waterproof gloves or mittens
- Warm hat
- Sunhat
- Sunglasses
- Sun protection (including for lips)
- Water bottles for 3 Litre capacity(we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Washbag and toiletries
- Trek towel
- Daypack 30 litres
- Selection of dry bags (to keep trek bag contents dry)
- Antibacterial handwash
- Basic First Aid Kit including: painkillers, antiseptic cream/spray, throat lozenges, plasters and blister

treatment, Diamox (for the altitude), insect repellent, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite) and diarrhoea treatment (Imodium)

The following items are optional:

- Sleeping bag liner (essential if hiring a sleeping bag)
- Gaiters
- Shorts
- Buff (it can get dusty)
- Spare laces
- Travel clothes
- Camera
- Pen-knife (remember to put all sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Notes:

Equipment hire: Items marked * can be hired through KE Adventure Travel. Please make all requests at least 6 weeks prior to your departure date. The items are issued in Tanzania. Hire sleeping bags are not suitable for people over 6 feet in height.

Sleeping mattress: A thick foam sleeping mattress (3" thick) is provided.

Hold baggage: We recommend that you do not pack your hiking boots and other essential items in hold baggage due to the possibility of baggage being delayed.

PHD Gear Advisor:PHD specialise in cold weather equipment, from the world's lightest right up to the very warmest. So to help you choose what you need to keep you warm, PHD have listed the gear that is appropriate for this Kilimanjaro trek.

Please be aware that plastic/polythene bags are illegal in Tanzania. The law says that they are not allowed to be manufactured, imported, used or sold in Tanzania (since Jun 2019).

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining at the hotel in Arusha, Tanzania. For clients making their own flight arrangements, Kilimanjaro International Airport is the most convenient for transfers to the group hotel.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London Heathrow to Kilimanjaro International airport Outbound flights depart the UK in the afternoon, arriving the morning (day 1 of the land only itinerary). Return flights will depart Kilimanjaro International airport in the evening of the last day of the itinerary, arriving in the UK on morning of the following day.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Very few operators do this 9 day northern remote route. 10 Reasons you should climb Kilimanjaro with KE Adventure Travel rather than another operator...1) We don't mess with essential acclimatisation.2) Vastly experienced guides and a summit crew on a 1:2 guide to client ratio.3) Emergency PAC/Gamow bags and oxygen cylinder on all trips.4) All meals and Kilimanjaro Park Fees are included.5) We've been taking people to Kili's summit for over 20 years.6) Speak to someone who's done it.7) Pre-trip acclimatisation ascents of Mt Kenya (4985m) or Mt Meru (4562m) available.8) Our porters and team of guides are fun (they sing a lot!), kind and extremely motivated.9) No worries about the Porter Welfare.10) Ultimately - KE have a 95% Kilimanjaro summit success rate.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change