



PROJECT DOSSIER AND PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

MT. KILIMANJARO CLIMB

(option)

NAIROBI TO NAIROBI

OR

MOSHI to MOSHI

7 days (6 nights)

Northern Tanzania

Guideline Itinerary and timings from Nairobi or Moshi

MARANGU ROUTE

- Day 1:** Arrive at the Moshi Hotel (late if driving from Nairobi). Climb preparation. Overnight at Hotel.
- Day 2:** Drive to Kilimanjaro National Park entry gate at Marangu 1,800m. Hike to Mandara Hut 2,735m. An easy, but sometimes wet walk through grasslands and forest (approx 4 hours).
- Day 3:** To Horombo Hut 3,735m. A sharp climb through woods and heath to Podocarpus Hill, then easy going over moor lands of rock and wild flowers (5-7 hours).
- Day 4:** To Kibo Hut 4,712m. Harder going as the altitude increases. Exposed reaches of sand and volcanic dust across the saddle between Mawenzi & Kibo Peaks (6-7 hours).
- Day 5:** To summit 5,895m and return to Horombo Hut. At 1.30am start to reach the first summit at sunrise, with steep and hard going over the last 300m of snow to Gillman's Point 5,685m (5-6 hours). Around lip of crater to Uhuru Peak 5,895m (2 hours). Quick & easy descent to Horombo Hut.



- Days 6:** Return to Marangu and drive to Moshi. Descent usually takes 6 hours with a break at Mandara. Overnight back at the Moshi Hotel.
- Day 7:** End arrangements after breakfast, if staying in Moshi, or full days drive to Nairobi.

N.B. The Kilimanjaro climb and all arrangements from your arrival on Day 1 & onwards are operated by the Hotel with local staff. This is not an Encounter project and we have no staff involved on the climb.

THE CLIMB

The volcanic snow cone of Kilimanjaro stands alone. There is no attached mountain range and there are no other peaks to detract from its immensity. "Kili" stands in solitary majesty, rising from the plains as a monument to the geological forces which shaped Africa. The ascent is a hard but rewarding uphill walk. No technical

climbing is involved but you need to be in reasonable physical condition to enjoy the trek. You will definitely feel the effects of altitude & oxygen deprivation on the fourth & fifth days and these effects increase severely above approx 4,800m. The climb is not recommended to anyone with the slightest respiratory or heart difficulties. Before dawn, temperatures at the top can reach -25° C.

The climb is led by experienced local mountain guides supported by porters and cooks. Porters carry the food, equipment and personal gear; cooking is done in the Alpine style huts that are used each night. However there are often sudden weather changes on the mountain and you will personally need to carry a daypack containing a cold weather jacket, sweater, rain gear, water bottle, camera and any other daytime necessities.

The first night is at the joining Hotel in Moshi or Arusha, the small town & railhead nearest to the base of the mountain.

After breakfast on Day 2 is a short drive by minibus along the southern flanks of Kilimanjaro to the small village of Marangu and the park HQ. The hike from here to Mandara Hut is an easy climb of 940m along often muddy trails through the rainforest & grassland of the lower slopes.

Mandara's A-frame huts with bunk beds are grouped around a large central chalet, and there is running water from the springs above. The next days hike to Horombo Hut is harder, a steep climb of approx 14kms and a gain in altitude of 1,020m. The trail leads out of the forests to Podocarpus Hill & the slopes of Mawenzi, then easier going across rocky moorland & heath. The large Horombo Hut is similar to Mandara in its layout & facilities.

On Day 3 there is a climb of 980m to Kibo Hut and the hiking becomes harder as the effects of altitude are felt. A slow & unhurried pace is best on this climb to the saddle between Mawenzi & Kibo Peaks. The terrain is open and exposed with stretches of rock, sand & volcanic dust. Kibo Hut is a more basic stone built structure with bunk bed dormitory rooms and the night time temperatures at this altitude can be extremely cold.

The fifth day starts at a chilly 1.30am to climb, without porters, an ascent of 970m to Gillman's Point. The last 300m are steep & hard going over snow. The time between sunrise and 09.00 is the best & clearest for spectacular views across to the jagged peak of Mawenzi, and down across the panorama of the surrounding plains. A two hour high altitude walk up 210m and around the lip of Kibo's crater leads to the summit at Uhuru Peak 5,895m - the roof of Africa. Then, around 09.00,

the mists & cloud close in to shroud the summit and obscure the views. You then descend rather quickly down the scree to Kibo Hut for a late breakfast.

After breakfast you descend further to Horombo Hut which is quick and easy, followed by the six hour hike down to Marangu the following day. This evening (Day 6) is spent back at the Hotel in Moshi before the start of your onward travel arrangements the following day.

GROUP SIZE

Up to 15 plus guide, cooks & porters but since climbs start on any day of the week groups are usually much smaller. You may even find that you are climbing on your own with staff or with just one or two others.

INCLUDED IN COST

All meals & accommodation, transport, park entry fees, hut fees, rescue fees, guides, cooks & porters, and food supplies from arrival in Moshi on Day 1 until after breakfast on Day 7.

NOT INCLUDED IN COST

Transport, meals & accommodation before and after your joining point (Nairobi or Moshi). Personal clothing & equipment on climb, tips to porters, (although it is expected by the guides & porters who accompany and assist you with your climb, any monetary gratitude extended by you is a personal offering which is dependent on your satisfaction of the services provided. If you are not satisfied, then don't tip.)

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING

You should include the following in your clothing & equipment: a pair of mountain or hiking boots (not canvas); a cold weather jacket (e.g. down/holofil); a water & windproof outer jacket or rain poncho; thick socks; a warm hat and warm gloves or mittens; heavy down or holofil sleeping bag, (a less expensive alternative is a thick holofil material sleeping bag liner used inside your ordinary bag); a pair of long-johns, thermal underwear or a tracksuit wearable beneath your outer clothes; a small rucksack or large daypack (to carry yourself); a small/medium sized soft-sided bag for extra clothing, sleeping bag etc. (carried by porters). **No suitcases!**

Walking sticks can be obtained locally.

The extreme cold of the upper reaches of the mountain should not be underestimated and temperatures at the top can reach -25°C. You should be satisfied that your sleeping

arrangements will keep you comfortable at temperatures down to freezing point.

Reasonable quality equipment (sleeping bag, rain gear, warm jacket, hat, gloves, water bottle etc) can be hired at the start of the climb at approx US\$ 40 equivalent for the 5 days of the climb. This equipment is generally well-used and stocks can be limited. We suggest that you bring your own gear but if this is utterly impractical you should at least bring your own boots (worn in).

Film: light levels, glare and reflection are high at the upper altitudes of Kilimanjaro and we recommend you include some slow-speed film (60-100 ASA) for the climb. An ultra violet filter can also be useful.

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

Nights 1 & 6 are at the Hotel in Moshi on a full board basis. Nights 2 to 5 are spent in the Alpine style huts on the mountain. Facilities are simple but there are bunk beds with mattresses. Meals on the climb are prepared by cooks & porters (fresh, canned & dried food stocks carried from Moshi).

COST & BOOKINGS

The cost of the climb package will be supplied on a quotation basis depending where you join and time of year. **Ex Moshi US\$690 rising to high season rate US\$780, prices subject to change without notice.** This includes all entry & government fees, guide, porters, reserves mountain hut accommodation, food. Hotel & meals before and after the climb. Under Tanzanian law this amount can only be paid in hard currency or travellers cheques (not Tanzanian Shillings) and is payable directly to the Hotel (the climb operators) in Moshi on your arrival. The climb may be started on any day of the week.

If you like, Encounter can make a confirmed reservation for you. There is a **non-refundable administration fee charged by Encounter of £30/US\$50 (or equivalent) plus non-refundable reservation deposit required by the local operator of US\$30/£20 (or equivalent).** In the peak periods of July-September and December-January reservations are usually necessary to avoid disappointment as only a limited number of people are allowed on the mountain.

If you want Encounter to make a reservation for you, please advise us or your agent of the date you wish to start (i.e. your Day 1 in Moshi) and forward **the total of £50/US\$80 (or equivalent)** reservation and administration fee. Your

reservation will be made with the hotel and confirmed back to you or your agent.

It is also possible to make your own arrangements locally to climb Kili. Government entry, rescue fees etc are fixed & compulsory, as is the hire of a guide. If you camp instead of using the huts, buy & carry your own food & arrange your own transport etc, the climb can be done for around US\$400-450.

Making all your own arrangements takes time. Other local operators can be found at around US\$500 per person, but accommodation & meals before and after the climb, as well as transport from the Park HQ at the base of the mountain are not included. Further, the standard of guides and food is questionable and you cannot be sure of services being available.

DELAYS

If you make a reservation through us to climb Kilimanjaro and your Encounter project in Africa is delayed en route, we will reschedule your climb date as required and as a priority with the Hotel.

GETTING THERE

From Nairobi

Riverside Car & Shuttle Hire (tel: 335561 or 253129) leave Nairobi at 07.30 (will pick you up from your hotel) and cross the Tanzanian border to Arusha. The one way fare is approx US \$25 to Arusha. You will then need to catch one of the frequent local buses to Moshi, a journey of a further 2 hours – approximate cost of US\$8. There are also frequent minibuses & shared taxis operating between Nairobi & the border at Namanga, with similar services operating from Namanga on to Arusha and Moshi. Total cost and journey times are similar. It is therefore quite possible to depart Nairobi on the early morning of Day 1 of your intended climb date and arrive in good time in Moshi on the same day.

From Kilimanjaro International Airport

The airport is 44kms west of Moshi. Air Tanzania buses operate between the international airport and Moshi in conjunction with arriving / departing flights. The one way fare is approx US\$ 8 (equivalent) in Tanzanian Shillings. Taxis from the airport to Moshi are expensive, with fares from US\$25 (equivalent) in Shillings per person in a shared taxi and US\$70 for private taxi.

From Dar es Salaam

Direct daily flights to / from Kilimanjaro (approx US\$135 each way) or via Zanzibar (approx US\$ 160). Trains leave Dar es Salaam for Moshi every

Friday at 16.00, arriving 07.00 the next day (approx US\$25 each way). Buses daily at 07.30 & 09.00 (approx US\$20 one way).

GETTING BACK (from Moshi)

To Nairobi

Daily buses (a.m. departures) & minibuses from Moshi to Nairobi as before. You can leave Moshi on the morning of Day 7 of the option and be back in Nairobi the same evening.

To Kilimanjaro Airport

Services from Moshi as before.

To Dar es Salaam

Daily flights and buses as before.

CONNECTING IN ARUSHA WITH ENCOUNTER PROJECTS

The "East of Africa Safari", "African Genesis" & "Safari South" projects all spend either their second day (on departure from Nairobi), or their second to last day in Arusha. The district town of Arusha is 68kms west of Moshi along the main road. Regular bus, minibus & shared taxi services operate between the two towns at fares of approx US\$9 in Tanzanian Shillings.

If you are joining any of the above ex-Nairobi Encounter projects and would like to climb Kili beforehand, you might like to arrange your climb timings so that day 7 of your climb is Day 1 of the Encounter project. You would therefore join the Encounter truck in Arusha on the evening of Day 1, missing out Nairobi (but you must let Encounter know in advance if you're going to do this). There is also the advantage that you could fly from home directly from Kilimanjaro International Airport.

The same works in reverse on these, and any other Encounter project ending in Nairobi, where you would leave the truck on the last day of the project in Arusha. This same day would therefore be Day 1 of the Kili option.

(On "The Great Safari" departures from Nairobi you will need to be actually in Nairobi for the pre-departure meeting).

Kilimanjaro can also be climbed during the Mid-way Layover of "Africa A-Z", "Africa Encompassed" and "The Great Overland Encounter".

JOINING YOUR KILIMANJARO CLIMB

When you arrive in Moshi you should go to the hotel as advised.

Keys Hotel

Uru Road (opposite the YMCA)

Moshi

Tel: (55) 52250

Fax: (55) 50073

Email: keys@form-net.com

If you are arriving prior to Day 1 of your climb you should beware of pick pockets and bag snatching in Moshi, particularly around the market area. Valuables should be left in safe keeping at your hotel.

OTHER COSTS/EXPENSES

Local Payment

Return flights.....

Visas.....

Vaccinations.....

Insurance.....

Personal Spending Money.....

Total _____

The information in this dossier has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However, it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and Encounter Overland Ltd.