

ETA

**Empowerment
Through Adventure**
Climbing Beyond Our Limits

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Kilimanjaro Day to Day Itinerary **July 10 – 24, 2011**

July 10: Depart country of origin for Kilimanjaro International Airport, Tanzania. (JRO). [It is also possible to fly via Nairobi, Kenya. Please see website for full details on schedule and logistics for this option].

July 11: Arrive in Tanzania. Airport pick up and transfer to Arusha, Tanzania. Spend night at the New Arusha Hotel.

July 12: Rest day and gear check. O/N the New Arusha Hotel.

July 13: We jeep to the Machame trailhead, winding through coffee fields and small forests of ferns and flowers. After registering with the park service, we meet our porters from the Chagga Tribe, indigenous to the slopes of Kilimanjaro. They are an integral part of our African journey and become friends and provide insight into their culture and society. Our climb begins on the edge of a rain forest (elevation 5,800'). Below the watchful eyes of the monkeys, we trek seven hours to the Machame Camp (10,000') and set camp for the night.

July 14: Leave the Machame Hut, cross a small valley and begin our ascent. The environment changes from heath forest to moor lands. These moor lands are littered with two species of giant groundsel, Senecios and Lobelia. Halfway up the trail we meet a river gorge and ascend across the Shira Plateau (12,300'). We sleep at Shira Camp.

July 15: Today we climb to 14,800' while crossing a ridge and view the plains far below. Here we eat lunch and admire the ancient glacier ice of the Breach Wall before dropping to our 12,800' campsite at Great Barranco.

July 16: We climb up and over the Great Barranco, topping out at about 14,500' before dropping to our camp at the Karanga River at about 13,000'. This completes another day of acclimatization as we pass below the famous Breach Wall, the largest ice and rock face in Africa. The Breach Wall climbing route, known as 'The Icicle', was first climbed in the early

1970's by Reinhold Messner. Daytime temperatures can reach (80°F), while evening temperatures often drop below freezing.

July 17: From the Karanga River we climb about 5-6 hours to our high camp at Barafu (14,650'). As we wind through beautiful and rarely traveled regions, we enter a high desert plateau, littered with volcanic boulders. Looking south we view the desert plains as the pinnacles of Mowenzi Peak tower before us. At Barafu we prepare for the summit attempt. While our cook staff prepares the food, we spend our time packing and preparing for the early morning, 2:00am departure.

July 18: Summit day! Awake at midnight and prepare gear for the ascent. We climb wearing headlamps until the predawn light is reflected off the African plains. Following a distinct ridge we approach the crater's rim, then traverse northwest along the rim to the main summit, Uhuru Peak (19,340'). From here we view the Bismarck Towers, rock pinnacles along the rim and the hanging Rebman Glaciers.

As the sun rises over Africa, we are privy to a panorama of incredible views. To the north stands the second highest mountain on the continent, Mt. Kenya (17,056'/5199m), with its unique twin summits. The southern exposure reveals the sprawling plains of Tanzania and East Africa and Mowenzi Peak.

After enjoying the view from the top, we descend to Barafu, pack camp, and begin our traverse down the Mweka route on the southern side of the mountain.

July 19: The sunrises are exquisite as we awaken below the towering mountain. We descend through the lush green landscape of the Mweka route into the thickest jungle we have yet encountered. The environment becomes primordial, with 20 foot-tall fern trees creating a prehistoric atmosphere. After reaching the Mweka Gate we drive to Arusha and enjoy a celebratory dinner.

July 20: (Safari itinerary subject to change. Based on team size and availability, travel order of safari parks may be reversed). Begin the safari to Tarangire National Park. This beautiful valley overlooks African grassland, sprinkled with acacia and baobab trees and is known for its variety of large mammals. Here we overnight comfortably in a deluxe safari lodge.

July 21: After lunch we may visit a Masai village where we observe the tribal dance and local life-styles of the nomadic herders of the region. We then travel to Ngorongoro Crater and overnight comfortably in a deluxe safari lodge perched on the rim of the crater.

July 22: We spend the morning in Ngorongoro Crater, one of the world's most incredible natural wonders. Here we encounter herds of zebra, antelope, buffalo, elephant, rhino, cheetah and hippo. We proceed with a game drive through Serengeti National Park en route to a deluxe safari lodge and dinner.

July 23: Team members have a morning game drive in the Serengeti or an optional balloon safari. We have lunch at the lodge and then fly back to Arusha and prepare for late night international departures.

July 24: Arrive country of origin.