

DATE	ACCOMMODATIONS	ACTIVITIES
Day 1 Dec 18 Saturday	Travel Day	
Day 2 Dec 19 Sunday	Ngurdoto Coffee Lodge Arusha <b>Approximately 4,500 feet</b> Approximately 1,370 meters	Arrives Kilimanjaro, Tanzania (JRO) @ 9:30 pm  After a days journey by air, you arrive in Tanzania at Kilimanjaro Airport. (If you feel like you have landed in another world, you have.) Kambona Ole Tirra (“Kambona”) and Wil Smith will greet you upon arrival with a sign that says, “Bassman”. You drive out from the airport to the Ngurdoto Coffee Lodge. Dinner will be served after you arrive. You’ll meet your drivers Athumani Juma and Lawrence Gaudence at the airport.  Overnight at Ngurdoto Coffee Lodge. Kambona will arrange for the Ngurdoto chef to meet up with you during your visit to ensure that meal choices are as you prefer.
Day 3 Dec 20 Monday	Ngurdoto Coffee Lodge Arusha	Breakfast at the Ngurdoto Coffee Lodge. Spend the day acclimatizing in Arusha National Park, at the base of Mt. Meru, while doing some wildlife viewing. Arusha National Park contains savannah, lake, and forest ecosystems. Arusha National Park is rich in herd animals, interesting birds, and you may have sightings of the rare colubus monkey in the forest ecosystem. Seven shallow lakes were formed from the volcanic activity caused by Mount Meru’s eruption. Alkalinity in the lake from different algae is perfect food for filter feeders, including flamingos. It is also a great habitat for hippos. Between the floor of Ngurodoto Crater and the area called Little Serengeti you’ll have ample opportunities for sightings of zebra, buffaloes, elephants, giraffes, warthogs, and several species of antelope. Picnic lunch while wildlife viewing.  Return to the lodge and meet with Kambona to begin your mountain briefings and gear check. Kambona will check your climbing gear just to make sure you have left nothing behind: warm clothes, water bottles, sunscreen, eye protection, and your hat. We’ll make sure you have all the essentials for your comfort and protection before you go. Did you forget something? Kambona will make sure you are properly outfitted.  Dinner and overnight at Ngurdoto Coffee Lodge. (Kambona will store any luggage you want to leave behind. Those bags will be returned to you after you are off the mountain.)

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Day 4 Dec 21 Tuesday	Overnight at Machame Camp <b>Approximately 10,000 feet</b> Approximately 3,000 meters Hiking Time: 5 to 6 hours Distance: miles	Breakfast at the Ngurdoto Coffee Lodge. Drive from Arusha to Machame Park gate. Before you arrived we checked and rechecked our mountain gear. The radios are operative. The hyperbaric bag is tested and functioning and the oxymeter has been checked and packed. The food, shelter, cookware, water filter, and dishes are all packed and ready to go. Our porters will carry all but your water bottle, jacket and camera.
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Once you arrive at the trail head Kambona will introduce you to your climbing crew and his assistant guide, Godfrey Obedi. Clement Mtui, climb assistant will also meet you. Begin with a gentle climb up through the original montane forest carpeted with unique “busy lizzie” flowers, begonias, and ferns. The forest is a lively place, home to monkeys, colorful birds, and an occasional elephant or buffalo.

Lunch on the way with dinner and overnight at Machame Camp.

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Day 5 Dec 22 Wednesday	Overnight at Shira Camp <b>Approximately 11,300 feet</b> Approximately 3,444 meters Hiking Time: 4 to 6 hours Distance: 5.5 miles	You’ll enjoy a four to six hour walking safari that takes you through the shrubby heather zone. While hiking, you may see herds of eland, and even the occasional lion. Your hike today marks a dramatic change in environment. You’ll leave the shady canopy of the forest and trek across the haunting moorlands to the expansive Shira Plateau. Also, there are fascinating geological features in the old volcanic caldera which can be viewed during a half-hour optional walk in the afternoon. Shira Camp is at a confluence of trails. Other parties may be camping here. Your camp is just above Shira Hut at about 12,000 feet.
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Optional afternoon hike up to Shira Cathedral (about two hours) or Shira caves (about 30 minutes).

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

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Day 6 Dec 23 Thursday	Overnight at Barranco Camp <b>Approximately 12,900 feet</b> Approximately 3,950 meters Hiking Time: 5 to 7 hours Distance: 5 miles	Arise early enough to enjoy a mountain sunrise. After breakfast you will trek towards the main peak, with the western glaciers clearly visible across the rugged high-altitude desert to volcanic rocks and boulders. Skirting around its base and under the imposing Western Breach, descend into the sheltered Barranco Valley for mid-way camp. At this latitude, it is the southern side of the mountain that is cooler and more glaciated. You are entering the arctic zone, a place of boulders, lichens, and ice. The rarefied elevation is where experience pays off. It is assuring to know that Kambona has scaled this peak over 100 times. Now you’ll begin learning from an expert the mountaineering secrets that lead to safety and summit success. We hope you’ll begin to notice that Kambona is an outdoor philosopher, a mentor, and a gifted coach.
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Breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Day 7 Dec 24 Friday	Overnight at Karanga Camp <b>Approximately 12,700 feet</b> Approximately 3,800 meters Hiking Time: 3 to 4 hours Distance: 2.5 to 3 miles	Today you will climb the steep Barranco Wall which includes some sections of very easy scrambling. You'll drop later in the day into the Karanga Valley. This is a short walking day, 3 to 4 hours.  Remember the safety gear that was packed before you arrived? Here you will get a demonstration of all the high altitude safety equipment. The hyperbaric bag, oxygen, and pulse oxymeter are all ready to go. A short lesson will familiarize you with it all. We demonstrate every aspect of mountain safety here. Kambona is a certified mountain medic and he will brief you on every detail of how to keep your journey safe. After the safety equipment demonstration you can take an optional acclimatization hike up the Barafu Camp trail for an additional 1,000 feet altitude gain.  Breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
Day 8 Dec 25 Saturday	Overnight at Barafu Camp <b>Approximately 15,200 feet</b> Approximately 4,750 meters Hiking Time: 3 to 4 hours Distance: 4 miles	Climb out of Barranco Valley and up to Barafu camp, perched high on a rocky bluff. You'll gain fantastic views across to Mawenzi Peak. Today is another short walking day, with less exertion and a good rest in the afternoon before summit day! Don't expect to have a lot of energy at this altitude. Most people simply rest for tomorrow's ascent. You can sleep well tonight knowing that your guides are awake. They will take turns monitoring the camp all night long so that everyone is safe, comfortable, and well rested. Weather permitting, the sunset should be stunning.  Breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
Day 9 Dec 26 Sunday	<b>Summit at 19,340 feet</b> Summit at 5,894 meters Overnight at the oxygen rich Mweka Camp at 10,000 feet Mweka Camp at 3,000 meters Hiking Time: 7 to 10 hours Distance: 7 miles	Arise around midnight. After a meal you'll start to climb upward on the frozen scree. You'll be climbing for 6 to 7 hours, aiming to reach Stella Point on the crater rim for sunrise – another 45 minutes to an hour and you're at the highest point on the continent.  The view from the roof of Africa takes in all of East Africa; north across the plains of Kenya, west to the Rift Valley, south into traditional Tanzania, and east to the coast. Photos and snacks at the summit before you begin the descent to Mweka Hut at 10,500 feet.  After the summit, a welcome, but long, downhill hike awaits. Begin descent over 2 -3 hours back to Barafu camp for lunch. After lunch, continue trek descent over 3 – 5 hours to Mweka Camp on the southern slopes of the mountain. This is a long hard day but you will feel absolutely ecstatic when you have finished. Enjoy dinner and a good night's rest.  Breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
Day 10 Dec 27 Monday	Ngurdoto Coffee Lodge Arusha	Breakfast on the mountain. A final morning descent of 4,500 feet brings you back into the southern slopes of the montane forest zone and the park gate of Mweka. The park warden provides climbing certificates for the successful summit. Say your goodbyes to staff.  Arrive at Ngurdoto Coffee Lodge for late lunch and welcome showers. Celebrate your summits over dinner.



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