

Your Guide To The Kilimanjaro Trip

The XP Club is taking up to 15 individuals on a once in a lifetime adventure to the roof of Africa. Experience the adrenaline and excitement of ascending the highest free-standing mountain in the world. Starting in rainforest and climaxing in arctic conditions at the summit, where the view will simply blow your mind. Afterwards, you may make time to take in the exotic safari expeditions or a short flight to the paradise island of Zanzibar.



Where

Kilimanjaro is situated in Tanzania, on the east coast of Africa. You will arrive at Kilimanjaro International airport via Kenya or Ethiopia and take a 45-minute journey by road to the town of Moshi, located at the feet of the mountain. Your Airport Transfers will be arranged by The XP Club.

See the section about Flights

Moshi is where you will find our hotel where the rest of The XP Club will be waiting, drinks in hand and smiles on faces.

See the section about Hotels

When

The XP Club hosts trips all-year round. 'Day 1' refers to the day you arrive, if you are unsure what date this is, please check your booking or get in contact via info@thexpclub.com



On **Day 1**, you will arrive and spend a night at the Chanya Lodge hotel in Moshi with the rest of our party, getting a chance to know everybody.

On **Day 2**, we'll do some exploring of the local village, giving you an authentic experience of how Tanzanians live. You'll get a chance to visit the orphanage and the school that we serve and help; you may even get an opportunity to teach a mini-class to the children (a very rewarding experience for both you and them)!

Day 2 will also include a briefing from our head guide. He'll make sure everybody in the group is prepared for the hike. At this stage, you will have an opportunity to visit the local equipment rental shop to loan any items that you didn't bring with you (walking poles, waterproofs, etc.)

We'll finish **Day 2** as early as possible to maximise your rest before the big day. This is the time to get your belongings together and ready for safe-keeping in the Chanya Lodge luggage room. The next morning we will start early, and you'll just need your essentials for the climb (which our Head Guide would have confirmed with you earlier that day).

The hike begins on **Day 3** and

we reach the peak in the early hours of **Day 8**. We will be back at the hotel on **Day 9** where we will celebrate with a closing party and certificate ceremony before getting some well-earned rest.



Day 3

Machame Gate (1,640 meters) to Machame Camp (2,835 meters)

Zone: Rainforest

The first day trekking begins at Machame Gate (1,640 meters). We will be driven from the town of Moshi to the gate, which takes approximately an hour. On the way you will get to see farming and the town of Machame. At the Gate you will meet your trekking crew – your guide, porters and cook.

There will be a flurry of activity as porters assemble gear for the trek; weighing packs to ensure they don't exceed 20 kilograms. You, your guide and climbing team will begin the ascent through the stunning rainforest that covers the South-West of the mountain. The first day trek on the Machame Route takes approximately 5-7 hours to complete. The day's trekking ends at Machame Camp (2,835 meters) which sits near the border of the rainforest zone and the low alpine zone.

By the time you arrive your porters will have already setup your camp and tents, and dinner will be served.



Day 4

Machame Camp (2,835 meters) to Shira Camp 2 (3,850 meters)

Zone: Rainforest / Low Alpine Zone

On day two you rise early with the sun, pack your gear and prepare for the trek from Machame Camp to Shira Camp 2 (3,850 meters). The trek is relatively steep as you enter the low alpine zone which is characterised by moorlands and grasslands. From here you can really start to get a perspective of the sheer vastness of the landscape; the mind begins to boggle and your imagination wanders back through time as the guide offers some ancient knowledge.

Shira Camp 2 sits on a plateau which provides you with the first views of Kibo in the North-West and Mount Meru in the East. Day two takes approximately 4-6 hours and covers a distance of 5km / 3miles.



Day 5

Shira Camp 2 (3,850 meters) to Lava Tower (4,600 meters) and then Barranco Camp (3,900 meters)

Zone: Low alpine zone / High alpine zone

Day three is a challenging trek East off the Shira Plateau through the 'Garden of the Senecios', up to Lava Tower and the Shark's Tooth rock formation at 4,600 meters and then back down via the Southern Circuit to Barranco Camp (3,900 meters).

The route is approximately 11km / 7 miles in length and takes 5-7 hours to complete. Although you end the day at a very similar elevation to when you started from Shira Camp, it gives you a chance to climb high and sleep low which is important for proper acclimatisation.



Day 6

Barranco Camp (3,900 meters) to Karanga Camp (3,960 meters)



Zone: High alpine zone

Day four on the Machame Route begins with a steep traverse up the Barranco Wall; a 257 meter rock face that requires basic scrambling skills to the top of the Karanga Valley. **Most climbers say Barranco Wall is the most fun part of the whole trek!** The path then follows a series of inclines and declines to Karanga Camp (3,960 meters).

We spend a night at Karanga Camp before continuing onto Barafu.

Day 7

Karanga Camp (3,960 meters) to Barafu Camp (4,680 meters)

Zone: High alpine zone

When you arrive at Barafu around mid-afternoon you will be served an early dinner and encouraged to get some shut-eye as the summit trek, the final piece of our journey, commences around midnight. Why midnight? So that you can reach the peak for sunrise!



Day 8

Barafu Camp (4,680 meters) to Uhuru Peak (5,895 meters) and then Mweka Camp (3,100 meters)

Zone: Glacial zone and then all previous zones

Day six is summit night (and day)! You will be awoken around 1130PM (Yes, PM) with hot tea and biscuits. Hopefully you have managed to get a few hours' sleep; don't worry if you haven't as most people struggle to sleep before summit night. The adrenaline of being so close to the very roof of Africa kicks in.



Make sure that all your kit, including warm clothes, headlamp, insulated water reserves and snacks are ready for a sharp departure at Midnight. The trek up Kibo is steep and slow. The trick is to keep your momentum moving forward, one step at a time. It takes about 6-8 hours to reach the top of the crater rim where you will see the sign for Stella Point (5,739 meters). This is not the summit of Kilimanjaro.

You still have another 156 meters of altitude to walk around the crater rim to Uhuru Peak (5,895 meters).

We will be resting briefly at Stella Point and potentially having some hot tea or hot chocolate. At this point, Dawn is approaching. Take a moment to savour where you have got to, huddle up with your group for a pep talk and then dig deep for the energy to push for the summit.

At this point you will make the decision as to whether you wish to push on to the Uhuru peak. Over 60% of climbers stop at Stella Point but most can make it to the summit if they muster the metal strength to push through. The descent can be very gruelling on your joints. It is recommend you use trekking poles and potentially wear gaiters to avoid fine glacial scree getting into your boots. Mweka is situated in the upper part of the rainforest zone. The richness of oxygen and moisture in the air will be a very welcome surprise.



Day 9

Mweka Camp (3,100 meters) to Mweka Gate (1,640 meters)

Zone: Rainforest

Day seven is the final day of trekking on the Machame Route. By now you will be brimming with pride and captivated by everything you just experienced. You'll be exchanging stories and reliving the memories with your new XP Club friends.

This trek is a pleasant one through the lower rain-forested slopes and down to Mweka Gate (1,640 meters). Although you cover 9km / 5.5 miles, the trek only takes 3-4 hours. Assuming you successfully reached Stella Point or Uhuru Peak you will be presented with official certificates. It is customary to tip your trekking crew before being transported back to our hotel in Moshi.

Chanya Lodge, Moshi



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As part of your XP package, you have two nights' stay on arrival and a final night's stay on departure. Here you can take advantage of delightful services from the massage parlour to the bar/restaurant where we will be holding our final celebration, hosted by The XP Club.

You can find out more information about the hotel here- <https://chanyalodge.co.tz/>



The XP Package Includes:

- Transfer via private taxi from Kilimanjaro airport on your arrival
- Some local excursions such as our partner school
- 3 nights' accommodation (single room, please inform us if you wish to share a room) at Chanya Lodge on half board basis [Inform us if you plan on staying longer or arriving earlier]
- Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA) conservation fees (entry fees)
- Kilimanjaro National Park compulsory rescue fees
- Kilimanjaro National Park hut fees
- KINAPA trained and certified English-speaking guide/s
- KINAPA trained and certified porters (1 porter per person for personal mountain luggage of 15kg max.)
- KINAPA trained and certified cook / chef, utensils, cutlery, crockery etc.
- All meals and refreshments on the mountain on full board basis
- 1 x transfer from Moshi to Marangu Park Gate per group
- 1 x transfer from Marangu Park Gate to Moshi per group
- Safe and luggage storage at Chanya Lodge while on trek
- Basic first aid kit per group

Kit List:

After you have finalised your booking with us, we will guide you regarding: clothing, baggage, sleeping kit, health related items and more.

Thankfully, due to our experience we can give you a realistic view of how much you need and what will be superfluous.

Flights

Flights are not included in our package.

If you are coming from the UK, your best options are to fly via Amsterdam (KLM), Kenya (Kenyan Airways) or Ethiopia (Ethiopian Airlines). There are no direct flights from the UK to Kilimanjaro International Airport.

Check www.skyscanner.net for further information

Don't Want To Come Home Straight Away?

Ask us about Tanzanian safari, hot air ballooning and the neighbouring paradise island of Zanzibar

Payment Plans

- You can pay in instalments, but all payments must be complete 2 months ahead of the climb.
- The payments are non-refundable.
- If you wish to pay in one lump sum rather than stages, please let us know.

Notes

- Your deposit is non-refundable. This is because once we receive your deposit, it is immediately sent to our partners in Tanzania to reserve your space. We're unable to reverse this transaction.
- You are expected to arrive with the necessary physical preparations to be ready to take on the expedition. Typically, a good level of fitness is sufficient. The XP Club does not take responsibility for your performance or accomplishment before, during or after the trip.
- You are expected to conduct your own due diligence on entry requirements, legalities and cultural practices in any country you visit or pass through.
- Please remember to bring cash with you to the trip as porters, cooks, and other staff expect donations and tips – contact The XP Club to understand how much you should bring for the tipping ceremony.