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Eyes on Africa

your African guides

Mount Kilimanjaro, 5 Day Umbwe Rout Climb

Umbwe Route the most challenging route up the mountain and is generally only suggested for those who have previous climbing experience. It is incredibly steep right from the start and becomes increasingly steeper as one ascends. However, once at the Barranco Camp, you continue on with the other Machame hikers on the South Circuit.

Day 1 Moshi – Umbwe Gate – Umbwe Cave

You will be collected from your chosen hotel in Moshi and driven to Umbwe Gate (1800m). After registration with Park Authorities, commence climbing Kilimanjaro from the gate (1800m) to Umbwe Cave Camp (2850m) where camp is set at the first escarpment for dinner and overnight stay. Transcend through lush canopied montane rainforest near the base of the mountain for approximately 6 hours. The trail is a tough one which requires maintaining an intense level of concentration so as to avoid tripping over the many roots and stumps which are scattered along the way. Umbwe Cave, the first of many impressive caves located along the Route.

Day 2 Umbwe Cave – Barranco Camp

Leave the enclosure of the rainforest behind and ascend heading through the open moorland habitat in this semi-desert zone to Barranco Camp (3840m) which lies in the Great Barranco Valley. The valley offers terrific views of the sloping landscape and the snowy peak above. The walking time is approximately 4 – 5 hours.

Day 3 Barranco Camp – Barafu Camp

After breakfast, leave Barranco Camp (3840m), slowly crossing the floor of the Great Barranco Valley and up on a steep ridge passing the Barranco Wall; continue across a high desert alpine plateau and drop into Karanga Valley (3960). Continue on and pass the junction which connects with the Mweka Trail slowly trekking to Barafu Camp (4600m). You have now joined the Southern Circuit Route, which offers views of the summit from many different angles. From here you will have excellent views of Kibo and Mawenzi peaks. The camp is situated on an exposed and dangerous ridge, so it is necessary to familiarise yourself with the terrain before dark. Dinner and overnight at Barafu Camp. Approx. 8 hours of walking. Rest and prepare for summit night.

Day 4 Barafu Camp – Uhuru Peak – Mweka Camp

In the very early hours of the morning, start to conquer the highest point in Africa. Leave Barafu Camp (4600m) and head in the north western direction winding your way up the steep scree slope to Stella Point (5700m) on the crater rim (about 6-7 hour hike). This is the most mentally and physically demanding part of the trek. After a short rest and an opportunity to see a magnificent sunrise, turn left and heading towards the ice-capped summit of Uhuru Peak (5895m), the roof of Africa (taking 1-2 hours). Follow the same route down to Barafu Hut stopping here for lunch and continue descending to Mweka Camp (3100m) for overnight



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camp. The descend takes 7 – 8 hours. The vegetation reasserts itself as you began to drop lower towards Mweka Camp which is situated in the upper forest.

Day 5 Mweka Camp – Mweka Gate - Moshi

Descend over 3 – 4 hours from Mweka Camp (3100m) to Mweka Gate (1450). Walk slowly and admire the forest – tall trees, dense tangled patches and sunlit glades where mosses and lichens glow. Register at Mweka Gate to complete your climb and collect your certificate. A vehicle waits to transfer you to your chosen hotel in Moshi.

End of Climb