

EXPEDITIONS



2010 Kilimanjaro Expedition & Safari

No experience necessary; good physical fitness a must.



Kilimanjaro (19,341 feet) offers a true climbing adventure. The mountain is rugged, and its summit sits far above the infamous plains and game parks of East Africa. While the route we will travel is non-technical, the summit cap has glaciers and is at very high altitude. Kilimanjaro is the highest point on the African continent (one of the seven summits) and its summit is almost 5,000 feet higher than any point found in the contiguous United States!

Our trip will combine two of Africa's greatest experiences. First, Kilimanjaro: We will ascend the mountain via the Machame Route, thought by many to be the most aesthetic route on the mountain. The Machame Route is a challenging but non-technical route. We will be treated to steep forest paths, stunning views, and towering cliffs above and below us. Our nights will be spent in tents, and during the day we will have the assistance of local porters to carry our loads. A reasonable acclimatization schedule will give us plenty of time to enjoy our incredible surroundings AND will keep us healthy.

After reaching Kilimanjaro's highest point, we will descend the Mweka Route. This will afford us a different look at the mountain. The Mweka is known for its lush jungle, a stark contrast as we leave the alpine world of Africa's highest point.

We spend the final two days of our expedition on safari. The East African plains are unrivaled for their big game and huge roaming herds. Traveling in specially equipped vehicles and spending our evenings in quality lodges, we will see the best that Tanzania has to offer. We will visit Lake Manyara National Park, and the famed Ngorongoro Crater. We can expect to see zebras, lions, rhinos, hippos, cheetahs, and countless more, all wild on the plains. A trip to Kilimanjaro would not be complete without exploring these parks.



The highest point in Africa

Kilimanjaro is probably the world's most underestimated mountain, and every year this leads to accidents and rescues on its flanks. Your choice to climb with Earth Treks is essential to your enjoyment and safety. Our mountaineering program focuses 100% on high altitude climbs and treks. We consider Kili a strenuous climb, suitable for beginners yet one that must be respected for its size and objective hazards. As with all of our expeditions, part of our time will be focused on each team member developing the skills essential to travel wisely at high altitudes on big mountains.

This trip will be guided by senior Earth Treks Guides. Earth Treks has guided more than 150 international mountaineering expeditions, including multiple yearly trips to Kilimanjaro over the past 7 years. We will also be joined by a host of local Tanzanian assistants and guides. Their personal and professional climbing experience and thoughtful approach to the challenges of mountaineering and sustainable African tourism will be vital ingredients in the success of your trip.



"I wanted to write you guys and personally thank you again for your efforts during our two week adventure. Having returned to the creature comforts of the States, I still marvel at all that occurred in Tanzania. My sense of accomplishment (personally and collectively as a team) is unparalleled. I never thought I would learn so much about myself and others as well as my decision making process. None of this growth would have been possible without your tireless efforts and support along the way...The lessons learned will certainly change the way I engage the world and those around me in the years to come."

—JC, Wharton Leadership Ventures

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Daily Itinerary

Day 1 Monday, May 31. Depart USA flying via Europe. Be certain to confirm that your flight arrives by the evening of May 22.

Day 2 June 1. Arrive Kilimanjaro International Airport in the PM. Shuttle to local hotel.

Day 3 June 2. Acclimatization and organization day.

Day 4 June 3. Drive to the Machame Trailhead. After organizing our porters we will begin our climb. Five hours of hiking will take us through a temperate rain forest to a small clearing. We will establish our first camp here at the Machame Camp (10,000 feet).

Day 5 June 4. We continue up a ridge, leaving the lush forests behind as our trail gets steeper. There are short sections of scrambling today, requiring the use of our hands and feet. By mid-day we will have climbed above tree line. We will stay at Shira camp, 12,800 feet.

Day 6 June 5. Today we head Southeast around Kilimanjaro's main peak. Today's hike takes us closer to the famed Breach Wall and Lava Tower, crossing a broad high alpine plateau and eventually descending to the Baranca Camp.

Day 7 June 6. Today will be a much needed rest day, allowing the teams to better prepare for the last three days of the climb.

Day 8 June 7. Hike to Karanga Valley camp. The trail, in places carved from the cliff faces, is stunning and challenging. Lots of short rock scrambles will give us a taste of what climbing to the summit will demand of us.

Day 9 June 8. Hike to the Barafu High Camp. This is a "short" day, but at this altitude, it will still tax our resources. Once in camp, the team will prepare for the summit; an early dinner and bed time will be needed as most of us will start towards the summit before mid-night.

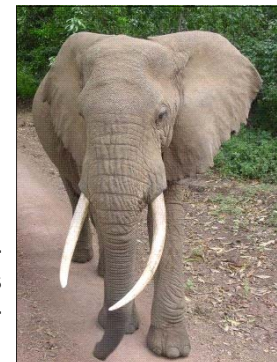
Day 10 June 9. **Summit Day!** After a midnight start, we will scramble along a rock rib to Stella Point, on the crater rim. From here, we must still hike for nearly a mile, all above 19,000 feet, before standing on Africa's highest point (19,341 feet). Descent is down the Mweka route. We will set up camp, after at least a 12-hour day, at 10,200 feet.

Day 11 June 10. Five to six hours of hiking will take us down through Mweka's dense jungle to the trailhead. A private van will take us from there to our hotel. Hot showers and a celebratory dinner are part of the rewards.

Day 12 June 11. Travel to Lake Manyara National Park, where we begin our safari. Manyara is known for its African flamingos, as well as elephants, baboons, lions, and herds of antelope. In the evening we will drive to the Ngorongoro Crater.

Day 13 June 12. The Ngorongoro Crater has the highest density of big game anywhere in Africa. This safari, starting before dawn, will allow us to photograph lions, rhinos and dozens of other wild animals. In the late afternoon, we will return to the Kia Lodge. Earth Treks reserves a day room for folks departing later in the evening. we will drive to the Kilimanjaro airport and catch evening (5:00 pm or later) flights for USA via Europe.

Day 14 Sunday, June 13. Arrive USA.



Raj approaching the summit

"One of the nation's biggest schools for rock and mountain climbers – one that will help Girl Scouts dangle their way up the indoor training wall and lead die-hards up Everest."

-The Washington Post

"... a fantastic trip; it was so far beyond our expectations and hopes! Your attention to both the big picture and details enabled everyone to squeeze life in the pips in Ecuador. I sincerely believe the expedition had a profound affect on us all." -TW, alumni of three mountaineering expeditions