



KILIMANJARO LUXURY TREK & SAFARI 2018 TRIP NOTES





Kilimanjaro 5,895m / 19,340ft

Luxury Trek and Safari Options

Expedition Notes 2018

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When you stand on the broad summit of the highest point in Africa, you sense the vast expanse of the continent that breathes to a different rhythm to the rest of our planet. The blood red dawn begins to illuminate the surrounding plains of the Serengeti broken only by the occasional distant peak. Weird ice formations sit stranded on the coarse gravel around the summit plateau, like isolated icebergs left by the ebbing tide. Inexplicably, it makes you smile. You are really here.



Yes, this is the summit of Kilimanjaro, the culmination of a seven-day hike that has taken you from the red earth plains up through tropical rainforest and alpine moorland to this arid landscape. There has been no escaping the vibrancy of the landscape, emphasised by the sounds emanating from the local support crew that fade in and out on gentle thermals, occasionally accentuated by bursts of Maasai tribal song.

Kilimanjaro is a fulfilling achievement but not extreme by any means. The early part of the journey follows trails that ascend through the various climatic zones. Each day you hike 4-8 hours arriving into a well-appointed tent camp that is carried ahead by the porter staff and set up for your arrival at the end of the day. At the highest camp, you

prepare for the summit day, a long hike through the night that greets the dawn from close to the summit. From here you can absorb the grandeur of the very high elevations.

An ascent of Kilimanjaro is not merely for the super fit. Ordinary people from all walks of life climb Kilimanjaro on a daily basis. However, the summit day is long and is at high altitude, so team members do need to exercise regularly and be capable of walking on uneven terrain. It is regularly climbed by people in good shape, who are in their sixties and seventies.



The journey is supervised by an Adventure Consultants guide with many years of experience trekking and climbing in the world's highest mountains. Your guide is there to ensure your wellbeing and safety. You are supported by a substantial staff of local guides and porters, who are very capable and specifically trained for Kilimanjaro ascents. You will be served palatable and wholesome fresh food by our specialist trained cooking staff ensuring your energy levels are elevated throughout the climb.



Prior to and after the climb on our private expeditions, we stay in 5-star hotel accommodations on a large coffee plantation offering the best in African architecture, ambience and service.

For those who want to experience the true wonders of Africa, you can treat yourself after the climb to a safari in the Serengeti National Game Park and the UNESCO Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Here you can reward yourself for your efforts on the mountain with a luxury tented safari, which is a truly unique African experience that cannot be missed. Have friends and family join you after the climb so they too can enjoy the exhilaration of having lions saunter by to stop in the shade of your vehicle, while cheetahs, leopards, rhinos and elephants wander close by. At the end of the day, enjoy your meal as you sit back to watch the intense red orb of the sun drop below the horizon.



Life's path follows a series of moments in time, yet it is moments such as these that often have the most poignant significance. We cannot pre-plan the exact moment this will occur, but we can increase your opportunities by being there in the first place.

About Kilimanjaro

The highest point in Africa, Kilimanjaro is a romantic destination and perhaps one of the best-known

mountains in the world. It is one of the Seven Summits – the highest peak on each of earth’s seven continents. Immortalised by Ernest Hemingway in his book ‘The Snows of Kilimanjaro’, the peak, to this day, elicits emotions of travel and adventure.

The first ascent of the peak itself was in 1889 by German climber, Hans Meyer and Swiss guide, Ludwig Purtscheller. Like most dormant volcanoes, the slopes of Kilimanjaro are mostly of reasonably low angle with occasional steeper sections, none of which are more famous than the Breach Wall - a towering cliff of snow and ice descending dramatically from the summit slopes, a feature we observe during our journey to the summit.

The summit area is a large dormant volcanic crater with its highest point known locally as Kibo, with an altitude of 5,895m or 19,340ft.

Like an island, Kilimanjaro is surrounded by the hot and dry plains of Africa. It amazes all with its widely contrasting vegetation; from rainforest to moorlands to towering cliffs and glaciers. Kilimanjaro is the highest free-standing mountain in the world. It is a dormant volcano and lies 400km south of the Equator, just inside Tanzania’s border with Kenya.

We climb the mountain by the picturesque Machame Route, which traverses several of the scenic micro-environments found at different elevations on the mountain.

The Route and How the Expedition will Operate



We meet you on arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport and from here we travel to the main town in the region, Arusha, to be accommodated at a 5-star hotel.

The following day, your guides will help you sort equipment and brief you on the details of your upcoming adventure. As time allows you may visit the Meserani Snake Farm or enjoy a shopping expedition to the stimulating art and artefact Cultural Heritage Centre, which specialises in works from all over Africa. Early the next morning, we travel to the base of the mountain by vehicle and begin the trek to the first camp, following well-formed paths through the tropical rainforest.

Each day, the porter staff will travel ahead to set up our camp for our arrival. Once there, you will be ushered to your tent, where your luggage will have arrived and you can freshen up with a bowl of warm water before enjoying a sumptuous dinner. No doubt you will sleep well from the exertions of the day!

Water will again be delivered in the morning so that you can start the day refreshed for the coming hike. A filling breakfast will set you up as you ascend to higher elevations on the trail. The size of the

foliage reduces as you go higher and the high peak of Kilimanjaro reveals itself above, while the plains are slowly left behind as you climb. A nutritious lunch is served at the halfway point. If the weather is fine, an outdoor table will enable you to enjoy the surrounding views while you catch up with the other members of your group. If there is wind or precipitation, a dining tent will be erected.

Each day as you ascend, your body adjusts to the elevation gain and the steady walking activity. Time passes without reference to the usual busy timeframes in which we tend to live, and it is easy to relish in real time as we make progress up the mountain.

There are numerous highlights, whether it is interpersonal moments with our teammates or the fascination with the unique plant life such as the giant Senecio found on Kilimanjaro, a quirky plant that was surely the inspiration for Dr Seuss's zany flora.

Before you know it, summit day arrives. This entails a midnight start and night time ascent to Stella Point on the crater rim. From there, a traverse around the rim takes us to the summit known as Uhuru Peak. We move at a slow and steady pace and the local guides frequently remind us of the Kilimanjaro climbing mantra, "pole-pole" (pronounced **pole-ay pole-ay**), which means slowly-slowly in Swahili. Dawn swathes the mountain as you approach Stella Point, giving views across the slopes and over the plains. From the crater edge, you gain views of the dormant glaciers where huge blocks of ice sit like high rise buildings on the crater floor.

The trail ascends for another 45 minutes to the summit itself and culmination of the journey. It's time to celebrate and make the most of the photo opportunity at the highest point on the continent.

The descent to your last camp passes quickly and you can enjoy a hearty lunch. Soon after, the group descends to a camp lower on the mountain making for a shorter stroll the following morning to the end of the trail. A short celebration with the staff is followed by lunch, and then it's time to head back to the hotel for a well-earned rest.



No trip to Africa is complete without experiencing a safari and as Tanzania has some of the most incredible animal populations on the continent, we highly recommend that after the climb you sit back and enjoy the safari experience!

Itinerary: 9-day (climb) + 5-day (safari) programme.

Machame-Barafu Route

- Day 1:** Arrive into Kilimanjaro International Airport, Tanzania. Transfer to Arusha and stay at the Arusha Coffee Lodge. Evening team meal.
- Day 2:** Morning sightseeing options followed by equipment check and expedition briefing in afternoon. Overnight at the Arusha Coffee Lodge.
- Day 3:** Drive to the Machame Gate of the National Park. The trail begins from here,

winding up through the lush tropical forests and out onto the heather moorland. Overnight at Machame Camp (3,000m/9,800ft).

- Day 4:** Trek to Shira Plateau, walk through open moorlands. Overnight at Shira Cave Camp (3,840m/12,600ft).
- Day 5:** A long trek to Barranco Camp. This camp lies in a sheltered area below the spectacular cliffs of the Breach Wall. The Breach Wall, the dome of Uhuru and the edge of the Heim Glacier dominate the head of the valley. Overnight at Barranco Camp (3,900m/12,800ft).
- Day 6:** Trek to Karanga Camp via the Barranco Wall. Huge glaciers and cliffs can be seen which mark this part of the mountain. Overnight at Karanga Camp (4,200m/13,800ft).
- Day 7:** A short day takes us to Barafu Camp (4,600m/15,100ft) which is the top camp and staging point for the summit bid later tonight.
- Day 8:** At midnight, the climb begins up the steep scree slopes to reach Stella Point. From here, we walk steadily up the ridge and around the crater to reach Uhuru Peak at 5,895m/19,340ft. From the summit, we descend to overnight at Millennium Camp (3,800m/12,500ft).
- Day 9:** Covering the last section of the mountain, the trek continues down through the forests to the gate. Here we must separate from our friendly local staff, who have worked so hard to make our trip enjoyable and successful. Together, they sing songs describing the folklore around their mystical mountain and spiritual homeland. Reluctantly, we say our goodbyes and board our vehicles that transport us to Arusha. For those catching an evening flight, it is the end of the journey but for those staying on for a well-earned safari, your vehicle will take you to Arusha and the hotel where a shower and a real bed await!

Note: If you are not departing until the following day and are not continuing on the safari we can book you an extra night at the hotel and arrange an airport transfer to suit. If you have limited time, but are interested in seeing some of the wildlife, a half day safari in nearby Arusha National Park is highly recommended.

5-Day Luxury Safari Itinerary

- Day 10:** This morning, we fly to Manyara Airstrip located on top of the Rift Valley Escarpment and overlooking Lake Manyara. The day unfolds with wild game viewing in the Lake Manyara National Park, where we are treated to sightings of many of Africa's amazing species including antelope, elephants and the occasional big cat. Our chefs prepare a bountiful spread for lunch under Acacia trees, complete with sparkling wine to celebrate the start of a great safari. After lunch, we continue game viewing for another hour or two, then onto Gibbs Farm; a gorgeous spa retreat set in lush surrounds on an established coffee farm that borders the pristine Ngorongoro Forest. Enjoy a British style afternoon tea on arrival or the ritualistic "sundowner", while taking in spectacular views over the surrounding countryside. After settling into your room and taking a hot bath or shower (inside or al fresco), enjoy a gourmet dinner made with organic produce from the farm. For those keen on a massage, it is possible to arrange with the talented spa team - either before dinner or even before bed. Overnight at Gibb's Farm (Luxury Farm Cottage).

Day 11: Leave early for the famous UNESCO World Heritage site, the Ngorongoro Crater. This is Africa's Garden of Eden, a 10 square mile unbroken caldera teeming with wildlife. The early birds have the best shot at seeing the elusive rhinos, but there is plenty to keep one in awe on the crater floor from herds of elephants to warthogs, to lions and leopards. Return to Gibbs Farm to relax or you might enjoy watching the talented on-site ebony carvers, in-resident artists or simply sip tea and enjoy the abundant birdlife. The air is pristine, the gardens lush and vibrant. At night, fall asleep to the call of bushbabies (lemur-like nocturnal primates). Spend the night at Gibb's Farm (Luxury Farm Cottage).

Day 12: Transfer to the Manyara Airstrip (30-45 min drive) for a scheduled flight to Serengeti South Airstrip (or Ndutu, Lobo or Kogatende dependent on the season), arriving mid-morning. The flight may stop at one or two other airstrips en route (depending on where the other passengers are going). Upon arrival, you will be met by the Serengeti Migration Camp vehicles and guide/s with game viewing as we travel to the camp. Here we have lunch and settle in, before an afternoon of game viewing. Overnight at the Serengeti Migration Camp.



Day 13: Full day to explore the Southern Serengeti and if during the migration, we will be searching for the herds of wildebeest. Plan your day with the camp manager based on the seasonal movement of the wildlife. Overnight at the Serengeti Migration Camp.

Day 14: After breakfast, game drive to the Serengeti South Airstrip for the scheduled flight to Arusha, with possible stops one or more times en route.

Note: Other safari options can be arranged for any length or level of service for groups and individuals. Have your friends and family join you for the safari after the Kilimanjaro climb.

The Expedition Fee

The cost of the Private Luxury Kilimanjaro Expedition is based on the number of team members and level of services required:

	4 people	6 people	8 people
Kilimanjaro Climb	US\$11,800	US\$9700	US\$8600
Safari	US\$6100	US\$6100	US\$6100

*All prices per person

The Private Luxury Expedition fee includes:

- Adventure Consultants Guide and Local Guides
- All expedition organisational requirements
- 5-star Hotel in Arusha within expedition dates, based on shared rooms (single room supplement available for extra fee) including dinner and breakfast (day 1 & 2 on climb & day 9, if on safari).
- Group climbing equipment, tents and lodging, all meals and snacks while in the Kilimanjaro region and on optional safari
- Transport to and from the National Park
- Porters, drivers, park fees and climbing permits
- Private toilets for your group
- Heated dining tent, shower tent and stand up sleeping tents (twin-share)
- Solar charging kit and USB connections

The expedition fee typically does not include;

- Personal clothing and equipment
- Entry visa for Tanzanian and/or Kenya
- Airport transfers – typically US\$95-\$120 for a Landcruiser vehicle which can be shared between team members arriving/departing at similar times
- Lunches in Arusha
- Travel insurance including trip cancellation and medical evacuation or any rescue costs
- Any costs associated with early departure from the expedition
- International round-trip travel costs into and out of Tanzania and/or Kenya
- Extra hotel nights
- Spending on personal items such as gifts etc.
- International travel vaccinations
- Excess baggage charges and airport taxes
- Bottled beverages
- Tips and gratuity - members to contribute US\$250 to US\$500 each (depending on final group size) to tip pool for local staff, we will advise you of final amounts based on the number of people and extra additional services

Luxury Services

There are many levels of service available on Kilimanjaro; from basic services with a minimum of support and quality to a fully serviced and catered expedition.

Adventure Consultants are able to offer you the highest level of services and support on your Kilimanjaro ascent due to our extremely capable and friendly staff, our high degree of attention to detail and our many years of experience operating on the mountain. While the majority of operators provide services that cater only to the budget market, our capability enables us to deliver at a superior standard.

We cater to groups of all sizes ranging from one person to much larger groups. Generally, it becomes unwieldy to have groups over 12 people but on occasion that too can be catered for.

With the Luxury Services option, you can **add additional services** onto your expedition as follows.

- Single sleeping tent (instead of shared) US\$175
- Luxury lounge tent*
- Bottled water (instead of treated water)*
- Extra days for longer acclimatisation timeframes*
- Additional portable toilets (1 supplied for 4 people, 2 for 5-8 people) US\$440
- Additional porter support (over the standard 15kg per person) US\$265 for 15kg
- Additional local guides (for personal support) US\$660
- Safari options catered to your timeframe and requirements*

*Please enquire for pricing

Visas

All visitors from non-Commonwealth countries are required to have a valid visa unless their country has an agreement with Tanzania, under which the visa requirement is waived. Check for updates before travelling. Visas can be obtained on arrival for most nationalities for a fee of US\$100 for American citizens and US\$50 for other nationalities.

Equipment List

Adventure Consultants will supply all group gear (e.g. tents, tables and chairs, stoves, utensils etc.) whilst expedition members are to provide their own personal clothing, day pack, duffel bag, footwear and sleeping bag. An equipment list will be provided to expedition members upon confirmation of your participation, and rental equipment is also available in Arusha.

Safety Communications and Insurance

To safeguard members of the expedition we will be carrying mobile phones, a handheld VHF radio and satellite telephone. We require expedition members to carry additional insurance for evacuation and repatriation as well as normal travel medical expenses. Contact us for expedition insurance advice.

Deposit and Balance Payments

A non-refundable deposit of US\$2,000 is payable to secure your Kilimanjaro Luxury Trek and US\$1,000 for the Kilimanjaro Luxury Safari.

The balance is payable 90 days prior to the expedition start date.

Payments

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

**Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
1 Willis Street
Wellington
New Zealand**

for the account of **Adventure Consultants Limited**

Account # **1000-594771-0000**
Account Type: **US Dollars**
Swift Address: **BKNZ22**

Note: All bank transfer charges are for the **remitter's account**.

We can also accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Amex) plus a 3% credit card fee.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Once you have paid your deposit your trip is confirmed, subject to payment of the balance of fees owing 90 days prior to your trip commencement date. An expedition trek member may then cancel his/her participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 90 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
- For cancellations made within 89 - 60 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the full fee.
- For cancellations within 59 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

Team members should take out private insurance if they wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical, personal or other reasons. This is called Trip Cancellation Insurance and can be obtained from your normal travel agent.

Team Membership

The team will have a **minimum size of 1 member and 1 guide** and a **maximum size of 12 members**.

Food

The food on our Kilimanjaro climbs is exceptionally good - we place emphasis on providing nutritious meals and a good supply of snack food throughout the trip. Please inform us if you have any special dietary requirements.

Medical Examination

Expedition members will be provided with a medical questionnaire and may also be asked to visit their family physician to receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted only by Adventure Consultants' expedition doctor and treated with full confidentiality. Advice on immunisations will be provided at this time.

How to Join this Expedition

If you would like to join our Kilimanjaro Luxury Trek, please complete our online application form at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/seven-summits/kilimanjaro-luxury-trek/book-now> and submit your trip deposit. Please also contact us if you'd like any further information or assistance in planning your trip:

Adventure Consultants Ltd
PO Box 739
20 Brownston St
Lake Wanaka 9343
New Zealand

Phone: + 64 3 443 8711
Fax: + 64 3 443 8733

<https://www.adventureconsultants.com/contact-us/>

Email: info@adventure.co.nz

Web: www.adventureconsultants.com



Adventure Consultants – is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and is a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA/UIAGM standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.

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