

6-Day Fast-Track Machame Route Itinerary

Destination: Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania
Route Elevation: 1,800m to 5,895m
Challenge Level: Very High (Experienced Pace)

Day 1: Arrival & The Rainforest Zone

Route: Machame Gate to Machame Camp
Elevation: 1,800m to 3,000m
Distance: 11 km
Hiking Time: 5–7 hours
Terrain: Montane Rainforest

After a drive from Moshi/Arusha and park registration, you begin trekking through deep rainforest. The zone is misty and muddy with ancient trees covered in moss.

Goal: Maintain a slow, steady pace for acclimatization.

Day 2: The Heath & Moorland Zone

Route: Machame Camp to Shira 2 Camp
Elevation: 3,000m to 3,840m
Distance: 5 km
Hiking Time: 4–6 hours
Terrain: Moorland

The trail becomes steeper as you leave the forest. You cross streams and reach Shira Plateau with views of Kibo Peak.

Goal: Arrive early, rest, and enjoy sunset.

Day 3: High Altitude Acclimatization

Route: Shira 2 Camp to Barranco Camp via Lava Tower
Elevation: 3,840m → 4,630m → 3,950m
Distance: 10 km
Hiking Time: 6–8 hours

Climb high, sleep low strategy. Ascend to Lava Tower, then descend to Barranco Valley.

Goal: Improve acclimatization and prepare for summit.

Day 4: Endurance Day

Route: Barranco Camp to Barafu Camp
Elevation: 3,950m to 4,670m
Distance: 9 km
Hiking Time: 8–10 hours

Climb Barranco Wall and continue to Barafu Camp.
Goal: Reach base camp and rest early for summit push.

Day 5: Summit & Descent

Route: Barafu → Uhuru Peak → Mweka Camp
Elevation: 4,670m → 5,895m → 3,100m
Distance: 17 km total
Hiking Time: 12–15 hours

Midnight climb to summit, then descend to Mweka Camp.
Goal: Mental strength and endurance.

Day 6: Final Descent

Route: Mweka Camp to Mweka Gate
Elevation: 3,100m to 1,640m
Distance: 10 km
Hiking Time: 3–4 hours

Return through rainforest and receive certificates.
Goal: Safe descent and celebration.

Preparation Checklist

Hydration: Minimum 4L per day.

Knee Protection: Use trekking poles.

Thermal Layers: Temperatures can reach -15°C at summit.