

NOVEMBER 2012 • KILIMANJARO DAILY ITINERARY:

- **Day 1)** Arrive in Nairobi
- **Day 2)** Fly to Kilimanjaro International Airport, and on to Moshi. Met by our vehicles and transfer to the Keys Hotel. Meet our guides and porters, get our briefing, sort gear and get set to rock. (Night at Keys Hotel)
- **Day 3)** Drive to the base of the mountain, start our gentle hike through the lovely tropic forest. Today is not a tough day at all; entailing about six hours of walking or less, typically. We've gain a little elevation today as well. Night camped in the forest.
- **Day 4)** Today, we climb up steeply for a bit, and then, quite suddenly and dramatically, bust out of the forest onto the moorlands and get our first stunning views of the mountain and all its grandeur. You'll be impressed and perhaps somewhat stunned by how high Kilimanjaro actually is. You'll have started your walk at about 5,000 feet and have over 14,000 vertical feet to go! Once we're in the moorlands we hike gradually now, on up to the Baranco Campsite. We'll be in camp by early afternoon, if not for lunch. We'll have pack lunches with us, so we're covered either way, and have no pressing time schedule at all. In the afternoon people can relax, go for a hike up towards Lava Towers, and just read and drink tea in camp. Night at Baranco Camp site.
- **Day 5)** Easy day today; we'll be at our next camp by lunch time. Today, is also a stunningly beautiful day as we basically traverse across the front of the mountain, from southwest towards the east. We'll have a steep climb up the Baranco Wall right away, but then its level, or slight up and down all the way to Karanga Camp. We'll be in camp by lunch time, easily, and after lunch we'll hike up towards Barafu, a very important acclimatization hike. We'll go up to about 15,000 feet, and then come back down to Karanga Camp for the night. This acclimatization hikes are most important; following the old adage of "climb high, sleep low." It will help you immensely.
Night at Karanga Camp
- **Day 6)** Another easy day, with about 1,500 feet of elevation gain, leaving us at just over 15,000 feet by lunch time; which is when we'll arrive in camp. Again, after lunch and a rest we'll climb on up to about 17,000 feet and then come back down to Barafu Camp for the night. And again, this walk will help you sleep better and make the following day much easier on your body.
Night at Barafu Camp



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- **Day 7)** Today starts in the dark at midnight, or slightly before. And, there's nothing else to say, but TODAY WILL BE A TOUGH DAY, no matter how fit you are, this will be hard work. The climb isn't at all technical; I never take poles, much less an ice ax. But you're going to gain 4,340 feet today, and then still descend over 9,000 feet as well. This is the crux day and you need to be mentally set up for it. All the acclimatization walks, all the water and tea you've been drinking, are all about this morning. We'll wake you about 11:00 p.m., give you tea and something to eat and then start gently chugging up towards the summit., This dark walk is a beautiful thing. THE STARS ARE BELOW YOU and the silent and beautiful world is all yours. Within an hour and a half you are already higher than any other people on the whole African continent, and you still have over 2,000 feet to go. Impressive!!! We should be on the summit at sunrise and can take our sweet time, photograph away, laugh, giggle, try and rest, drop dead and play in the snow. Or it could be 30 below zero and blowing at 50 mph (which it was on my last trip up the mountain). But either way, properly dressed and equipped, we'll have a great time on the summit and then head down, down, down. We'll stop back at our previous night's camp and have lunch and then head farther south to Mweka Camp. The air there will seem thick and heavy, though we'll still be at 10,000 feet. Amazing! Night at Mweka Camp.
- **Day 8)** A short hike down to the trail head and we're back to the lodge for lunch and we can either stay there for the night or fly on to Lamu this same day (which is what I would suggest.). Night at hotel or Lamu Island.
- **Day 9)** Fly to Lamu, via Malindi airport to clear customs and immigrations back into Kenya. Then another 30 minutes and we're landing on Manda Island, right across from Lamu Island. A boat will be sent over from Peponi's Hotel to pick us up and take us over to our hotel. We'll be staying at Peponi Hotel, so check their website and I won't have to say anything else at all. <http://www.peponi-lamu.com/> Night at Peponi's Hotel.
- **Days 10-11)** Two full days on Lamu Island, based out of Peponi's Hotel. We'll go fishing, swimming, diving, sailing at night under the stars, bop into Lamu town to try all the street food; and basically just soak it all up and relax. Peponi's Hotel has THE BEST food in all of Kenya, and not just the Swahili seafood either; but all of it. Their seafood certainly is amazing, what with their fresh lobsters, crabs, prawns and Yellow-fin tuna. You'll just be floored. And breakfast on your verandah, or in the restaurant, with fish cakes and hot sauce, Swahili donuts, fresh fruit smoothies, etc., you'll survive and more than make up for any weight that you might have lost on the mountain. Lamu Island is a World Heritage Site so you might want to check it out on the web as well, and that will give you a really good idea of why this place is so amazing. Nights at Peponi's Hotel.
- **Day 12)** We'll fly back to Nairobi late probably around mid-morning today and you can all base at my house and clean up before your flights back to the US, or whatever your onward plans might be. An extension to Kolunga Village will be available. Pricing will depend on how many wish to make the visit.