

Kilimanjaro

This trip introduces you to some of the fantastic variety of scenery, wildlife and cultures which make Africa such a special destination. Starting with a game viewing session where we get to see lions, rhinos, elephants and many other animals – we take a walk in the Ngorongoro conservation area to the famous Empakaai crater, visit a thriving Masai village and then traverse the 'Roof of Africa', Mt Kilimanjaro (5896m). After our return from the peak of Kilimanjaro we fly to Zanzibar to explore its ancient alleyways and relax at the Sau Resort to explore its exotic reefs.

Our journey starts with a flight to Nairobi, the modern capital of Kenya. From where we fly to Kilimanjaro airport near Moshi in Tanzania. Moshi is the start and finishing point for our day and half of game viewing and day walk through the volcanic scenery of the Ngorongoro conservation area. We follow cattle trails past Masai villages and crater lakes, which often hold flocks of flamingos. It is a very pleasant walk through picturesque landscape. It also gives us an insight of the traditional Masai culture. We have a view of Oldonyo Lengai (2878m) a volcanic cone for most of the way.



Depart-Sydney: 14th.December 2006
Return-Sydney: 2nd.January 2006

20 day trip Cost: \$7645.00 inclusive of Airfare
(not including airport taxes and charges)



After a night's rest in our hotel in Moshi we drive to Londorrosi, the starting point of our traverse of Africa's highest mountain. Unlike the two most common climbing routes on Kilimanjaro, the Machame and Marangu, known locally as the Whiskey and Coca Cola routes respectively, we start our climb from the northwest of Kilimanjaro along the Shira Plateau to the Mweka Route then head for the top.

Another difference between the route we have chosen and the more common routes is that we will be taking 6 days to reach the summit as opposed to the more common 4 or 5 days.

Noting that less than half the people who attempt Kilimanjaro reach their goal and based on our own extensive experience in the Himalaya we have chosen to give ourselves the same level of acclimatisation time that we do around Everest and Kangchenjunga.

Apart from being the highest point in Africa Kilimanjaro is famous for the variety of its vegetation and scenery from the dense bush on its lower slopes through the moorland zone with its giant Lobelia plants to the glaciers on its summit.

After our successful climb we descend via the Marangu route and make our way back to Moshi for our flight to Zanzibar.

Here we spend three days exploring the old slave town, the beautiful beaches and coral reefs and of course the spice plantations for which the island was so famous hundreds of years ago.

Services covered in cost

- * Bed and breakfast on twin share basis in hotels, full board and all camping equipment while under canvas
- * All tour costs and entry fees where these are specified in the detailed itinerary
- * All transfers and ground transport (mini buses, regular bus transport)
- * The Ex Sydney cost includes the Sydney to Nairobi -Zanzibar return airfare

Services not covered in cost

- You will need to pay for
- * lunch and dinner when in hotels;
 - * Airport charges and taxes;
 - * personal items such as inoculations laundry, postage, tips, excess baggage etc.
 - * tips for guides and porters visas and, last but by no means least, travel insurance.

ITINERARY

Day 1 & 2 :Travel to Hong Kong and then to Nairobi from where we fly to Kilimanjaro airport. Reception and drive to Moshi.

Day 3: Drive Nainokanoka in the Ngorongoro conservation area, afternoon wildlife viewing; overnight stay at Simba campsite.

Day 4: Game Viewing in Ngorongoro then drive to Nainokanoka campsite.

Day 5: Walk from Nainokanoka to Empakaai crater; stunning views into the crater. The crater floor is partly submerged under a lake where one often can see huge flocks of flamingo; good chance of seeing wildlife. After an excursion to Naiyobi Masai village.

Day 6: Drive back through the Ngorongoro conservation area again and back to Moshi.

Day 7: Free day in Moshi.

Day 8: Drive to Londorossi and trek the Shira route to camp site at 3658m.

Day 9: Trek to Shira Camp Hut at 3880m.

Day 10: Walking to Barranco hut (3950 m) we pass by the great Lava Tower, which some of us might want to scramble up.

Day 11: Trek to Karanga Hut. We pass some quite steep parts up the Barranco wall. With care this will pose no great problem. You will note the change in vegetation pattern from the moor to the barren country of the high altitudes.

Day 12: Trek to Barafu hut (4600 m). A relatively short day - which gives us time to rest for our night time attempt to climb up Kilimanjaro.

Day 13: We start very early in the morning for the final leg up towards the top. After about 6 hours we watch the sunrise at Gillman's point on the crater rim, 5680 m. From there we follow the crater around to Uhuru Peak, 5896 m, the highest point in Africa; fabulous views out over the landscape and down into the crater. The descent fast down to Barafu hut for a short meal break and then on to Horombo hut, 3700 m. This is a long day.

Day 14: Down through the moors and on the track through the rain forest to Marangu gate, where the cars pick us up to go to the hotel for a well earned shower and rest.

Day 15: Fly to Zanzibar and drive to the East Coast Sau Resort. Relax!

Day 16: Free day to go snorkeling, soak in the sun, have a massage or go sailing on a Dhow.

Day 17: Drive to the town of Zanzibar. Exploring Stone Town with its exotic atmosphere, fascinating architecture and ancient rhythms; in the afternoon excursion to Changuu (Prison) Island; Chavda Hotel.

Day 18: Free morning to explore the town and in the afternoon catch a flight to Nairobi and to Hong Kong.

Day 19 & 20 :Travel home. Arrive Sydney on day 20 early in the morning.