

Kilimanjaro Lemosho Climb via the Western Breach

February 11

Four members of the team arrive tonight. All are transported back to the hotel.

(Chuck, Linda, Kellie, Ted)

February 12

For the group that arrived, we will explore the town of Moshi, get adjusted to life in Africa, and learn the basics of Tanzania: how to get around, where to go, the few places to find good food. Five team members arrive tonight. (Jann, Donna, Michael, Jim, Lisa, Jon)

February 13

Arrive in Tanzania

For those that have arrived, we will head away from Mt Kilimanjaro, about 20 miles outside of town, into the hot dry bush. Here we are going to explore a Masai village that only a handful of outsiders have seen. (This is a place Donovan discovered in 2000 when we living with an African family nearby). The Masai are dramatically different ethnic group than the Chagga people. The Masai have somewhat remained tribal, semi nomadic and still follow a number of old world customs. These are the people you will see enroute to the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maasai>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chagga>

Two team members arrive tonight (Ed, Ben)

February 14

Today as a full group we will do a short hike and explore some remote villages high up on Mt. Kilimanjaro in an area where Donovan used to live, at approximately 5,000 to 6,000 feet. We will also visit a local church, school, bar and explore. Sundays are the best days to visit the villages, as it is a day that people stop working, relax, play soccer, and go to church.

In early evening, we will have a brief orientation and equipment check.

Please note: Everything up until this day is optional. However, given that Donovan knows the secret areas, he highly suggests that you come!

February 15

Londorossi Gate to Mti Mkubuwa

Hike time: 3 hrs - 4 hrs

Elevation Change + 650 meters/2100 ft

Estimation distance: 10 km

Final Elevation 2650 M/8900 feet

The most adventurous trek over Mt. Kilimanjaro visiting huge glaciers and sleeping at one of the highest camps on the mountain. Explore the many variations in landscape and climate on the way up the mountain and spend time capturing breath-taking photos of your surroundings as you move from jungle, to high desert, to snowy terrain on the Western Breach, one of the more advance routes on the mountain, but still manageable by the average adventurer.

After a three-hour drive to the Londorossi Park Gate on the western side of Kilimanjaro, we meet our game ranger, who will join us in the event that we encounter elephants and buffalo during our trek. With flora and fauna heavier and richer here than on any other route through the thick rainforest, Chamber's Route cuts through underbrush that is so untouched it at times grows right across the narrow trail. After three to four hours, we'll reach our camp, Mti Mkubwa, which means "Big Tree" in the Tanzanian language Kiswahili.

February 16

Mti Mkubwa to Shira One Camp

Hike time: 5 - 6 hrs

Elevation change + 950 M/3100 feet

Estimation distance: 12 km

Final Elevation: 3,610 M/11,800 feet

We start the full-day climb across the remaining rainforest toward the giant moorland zone. At around 10,000 feet we stop for lunch in a lush valley just outside the Shira Crater. After lunch, we cross into the

Shira Caldera, a rarely visited high altitude desert plateau. Lava flowing from Kibo Peak fills Kilimanjaro's third volcanic cone. The crater rim has been decimated by weather and volcanic action. We gain 2,000 feet in altitude today, and you will get your first close views of Kibo – the dramatic summit of Kilimanjaro.

It is an easy paced acclimatization day. You will hike over streams, a river gorge, and moorlands. Camp is located on the Shira Plateau, providing views of Kilimanjaro and Mt. Meru.

Please note: There are a couple route variations in the itinerary for the next two days, before we get to the Western Breach. We have discussed a few during our meetings. Ideally, we are going to follow the route below. We can hike longer one day, take an extra rest day, or go to Shira 2 camp. However, we can change the itinerary based on the strength of the group and the decision from our guide.

February 17

Shira One Camp to Moir Hut

Hike time: 6 to 7 hrs

Elevation change: + 640 m/2100 ft

Elevation distance: 10 km/6.2 miles

Final elevation: 4,150 m/13,650 ft

After breakfast we head east across the Shira Plateau and past the Shira Cathedral toward Moir camp. It's about a six-hour hike to camp. On the way we pass the first of many Giant Senecios, some of Kilimanjaro's otherworldly massive plants. Positioned below a massive lava flow, Moir Camp resembles an amphitheater.

February 18

Moir Hut to Lava Tower

Hike time: 5 hrs

Elevation change: +700 M/2300 feet

Estimated distance: 6 km / 3.7 miles

Final elevation: 4650 M/15,200 feet

Today is one of the most important days for acclimatization; we head to Lava Tower, around the southern flank of Kibo near the start of the Western Breach.

We have a mostly uphill climb today of 5 hours to the alpine moorland zone where plants are extremely hardy and consist of lichens, grasses, and heather. After an early afternoon rest we will take a 2 hour roundtrip acclimatization climb up the Lava Tower. This scramble will help prepare us for the ascent up the Western Breach

February 19

Lava Tower to Arrow Glacier Camp

Hike time: 3 hrs

Elevation change: +258 M/846 feet

Estimated distance: 3 km / 1.86 miles

Final elevation: 4908 M / 16,102

All the preparation, acclimatization, and hiking we've done to prepare for the Kilimanjaro climb will be put to the test today as we ascend the Great Western Breach, an imposing, steep wall of rock leading to the edge of Kibo's Crater.

Rather than traversing farther around the southern slopes of the mountain we ascend up and slightly westward, climbing easy terrain through scree and rocky ridges. The ascent gives us stunning views of the Western Breach wall and the Breach Icicle. As we near the Arrow Glacier and our campsite, the views open toward the west and the entire Shira Plateau lies below us

*Note: The Western Breach is the most difficult and advanced of all the routes due to the ascent up the Western Breach wall on Day 8. It's not technical, but there is scrambling and this route is for fit climbers. Depending on the weather, time of year and other factors such as rock fall the Western Breach route may be closed by Tanzania National Park Service.

February 20 & 21

Arrow Glacier to Uhuru Peak (Summit) to Millenium Camp

Summit time: 6 hrs

Elevation change: +987 m/ +3241 ft

Estimated distance: 5km/3.2 miles

Final elevation: 5896 m/19,343 ft

Descent time: 5 hrs

Elevation change: -2800 m/-9186 ft
Estimated distance: 12km/7.5 miles
Final elevation: 3100 m, 10,170 ft

This is a long day, starting at 1:00 a.m. and hiking until the next afternoon. You begin your summit attempt late at night, and will arrive at the Kilimanjaro summit before sunrise. This is the toughest part of the journey as you will be climbing more than 3000 ft in five to seven hours.

You will reach Uhuru Peak, the summit of Kilimanjaro at 19,340 feet, around 8 a.m. At this early hour, before the clouds close in, we have spectacular views of Africa in all directions. You then head back down, via the Mweka route, where your tents will be pitched for the last time. The section from Uhuru down to Barafu is scree, then you head down through the various vegetation zones, on a continual downhill. ! It is a long descent and trekking poles are recommended. Congratulations, you made it to the Roof of Africa!

This is a tough power day, but rewarding at the end.

February 22

Millennium Camp to Moshi

Descent time: 5 hrs

Elevation change: -1250M/ -4000 ft

Estimated distance: 10km

Final elevation: 1828 M/ 6000 ft

In the morning we have about a 5-hour hike to the gate. After a welcome lunch, you will get your climb certificate and say goodbye to your crew and porters. We then shuttle you back to the hotel in Moshi where you will spend a night.

Tonight will be a night out to dinner, and a marathon event to get our clothes washed before we leave on safari.

Northern Circuit Wildlife Safari

February 23

Moshi to Tarangire National Park

After morning breakfast, we will head to Tarangire National Park, a few hours out into the bush in Masai country.

Located 120km from Arusha, Tarangire is the sixth largest park in Tanzania. With baobab and acacia trees, much like the Serengeti, Tarangire is home to legions of elephants, which inhabit this park in large herds. In the park you also find other game such as rhino, buffalo, eland, warthog, the fringe-eared oryx, lesser and greater kudu, gerenuk and a large number of impala.

The rains scatter the seasonal visitors over a 20,000 square kilometre (about 12,500 sq miles) range until they exhaust the green plains and the river calls once more. But Tarangire mobs of elephant are easily encountered, wet or dry. The swamps, tinged green year round, are the focus for 50 bird varieties, the most breeding species in one habitat anywhere in the world. On drier ground you find Koori bustard, the heaviest flying bird; the stocking sized ostrich, the world largest bird; and ground hornbills that bluster like turkeys. Tarangire pythons climb trees, as do this lions and leopards, lounging in the branches where the fruit of the sausage tree disguises the twitch of a tail.

Tarangire National Park is one of the most underrated parks and you could spend a great deal of time exploring this park.

Jon, Jim and Donovan are transported to the airport today.

February 24

Tarangire National Park to Lake Eyasi

Tribal Camping Area

After a morning game drive, we will leave and head out to visit the home of the one of the last hunter-gather societies that follow the migration of the animals.

Their language resembles the click languages of other bushmen further south in the Kalahari – and there are approximately 600 of them living in this area. They live entirely off the bush and from hunting, generally small antelopes and baboons, although in rainy seasons gazelles and antelopes come down from the Ngorongoro or Serengeti to their then lush bush lands offering them richer pickings.

Links

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadza>

<http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/cultural/oldworld/africa/hadza.html>

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2002/0813/p18s02-hfks.html>

This experience is very organic and raw – meaning it's not controlled, and we have to go with the moment and energy. Although we interact locals, they are very different from us and our guides.

Today you will want to explore the villages, meet the people, and just hang out. The key to understanding Tanzania is to just relax and hang out with everyone. It's just laid back, slow moving culture.

February 25

Lake Eyasi to Serengeti National Park

From Lake Eyasi, we will travel to the legendary Serengeti National Park. This will be about a four to five hour drive, driving on the Rim of the Ngorongoro Crater.

More than 6 million hooves pound the legendary plains of the Serengeti. Every year, triggered by the rains, more than a million wildebeest, 200,000 zebra and 300,000 Thomson's gazelle gather to undertake the long trek to new grazing lands. Tanzania's first and most famous park, the Serengeti is renowned for its wealth of leopard and lion. The vast reaches of the park help the black rhino to fight extinction and provide a protected breeding ground for the vulnerable cheetah. Today you will witness predator vs. prey and the fundamental independence of the Serengeti's abundant species, from more than 500 varieties of bird to 100 types of dung beetle.

February 26

Serengeti National Park

We have a full day of game drives in the Serengeti from sunrise to sunset, exploring hippos pools, looking for lions, and discovering animals around every corner. This is the day we will try to head to the migration.

Depending upon the wildebeest migration vicinity, we will begin with a morning game drive, return to the camp for lunch, and have an

afternoon to sunset game drive. This will be the day that you will see most likely the most animals.

February 27

Serengeti National Park to Ngorongoro Crater Rim

Begin with an early morning departure through the Serengeti and head to Ngorongoro Crater. Leaving the Serengeti behind we drive past Olduvai Gorge, which was made famous by the Leakey's in their quest for the origin of mankind. Fragments of a skull were unearthed in 1959 dated at 1.8 million years old and later in 1979 the Laetoli footprints were discovered dating back 3.5 million years.

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area, which lies between the Serengeti and the Lake Manyara National Parks boasts the largest unbroken, inactive, and unflooded caldera in the world. Perhaps having once been about the same size as Mount Kilimanjaro, when the volcanic activity subsided, it collapsed inward resulting in a crater 18 kilometers (11 miles) across. Surrounded by very steep walls 610 meters (2000 feet) deep, this natural amphitheatre covers an area of about 260 square kilometers (100 square miles) and is home for up to 25,000 larger mammals. Nearly half of those being zebra and wildebeest while other species found are buffalo, gazelle, eland, hartebeest, warthog, and the elusive black rhino. Lion, hyena, cheetah, and leopard are among the predators within the crater.

Tonight we will sleep in a new luxury tented camp that Donovan arranged. This is based on double occupancy.

February 28

Ngorongoro Crater - Moshi

After breakfast, we begin with a sunrise game drive, which is always rewarding to watch the animals eating early in the morning. We have a half day of game drives in and around the Ngorongoro Crater from sunrise to afternoon, exploring hippos pools, looking for lions, and discovering animals around every corner. The goal is to find the black rhino.

After lunch, we begin a long journey back. It will take most of the day to get back to Moshi or Kilimanjaro Airport. We will stop at some of the abundant craft markets as we return.

Everyone is dropped off at the airport, except Ed & Ben who are transported back to Moshi.

Land Costs Include:

- Transportation in Tanzania
- Park, rescue and village fees
- A trained, certified, English-speaking mountain guide
- All transfers between airports
- 3 meals per day (lunch & dinner not included in Moshi.)
- Mountain Equipment
- All hotels, game lodges and inns

Land Costs Do Not Include:

- International round-trip airfare to Tanzania
- International visas for Tanzania
- Meals and hotels outside the regular itinerary
- Excess-luggage charges and airport taxes
- Personal gear
- International vaccinations
- Medical/Evacuation trip insurance
- Tips and gratuities

Other

- The outline itinerary is a guide that the Company will adhere to. The final itinerary may differ in the order that you visit areas and the places where you stay overnight. We reserve the right to make changes based on weather, road and/or operating conditions imposed by owners of accommodation facilities, etc.
- All participants must be adequately insured.
- The client must confirm that he or she is in good health, unaware of any reasons why he or she may be unsuited for the expedition or may likely suffer illness or injury during the expedition.

