



## 2024 MT KILIMANJARO RACE, SAFARI AND HIKE

### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1

Depart Canada for your Great African Adventure!

#### DAY 2 - Arrival

Arrive at the Kilimanjaro International Airport in Tanzania (KIA) and be greeted by a rep who will transfer you from the airport to the Honey Badger Lodge.

The Honey Badger Lodge is situated close to Mt Kilimanjaro and hence offers amazing views of the mountain! Off the beaten path and in a quiet suburb but still a short taxi ride into the town of Moshi, the Honey Badger Lodge offers a quiet escape and is equipped with a pool, bar, restaurant and landscaped grounds. You'll be using the same property throughout the trip which will make it easier with regards to leaving unneeded luggage while on Kilimanjaro or during the safari.

Overnight at the Honey Badger Lodge.



Situated in a rural community, the lodge offers breath-taking views of Mt Kilimanjaro (the highest mountain in Africa). Joseph, Jenny and the Honey Badger Lodge staff warmly welcome you and endeavor to make the

Honey Badger feel like home. We recognize that everyone has different preferences and expectations for their travels, and we are ready to accommodate your needs.

### **DAY 3 – Kilimanjaro Hike Day 1**

Machame Gate (1490m) to Machame Camp (2980m)

Hiking time: +/- 7 hours 18KM

Habitat: Mountain Forest

Prior to departure, you will need to pack the bulk of your clothing and gear into a large rucksack or duffel bag which will be carried by the crew. Note, no bag on Kilimanjaro (irrespective of who carries it) should weigh more than 15 kg and will be weighed at the gate). Clients will carry a smaller backpack or day-pack with key items of clothing and personal effects.

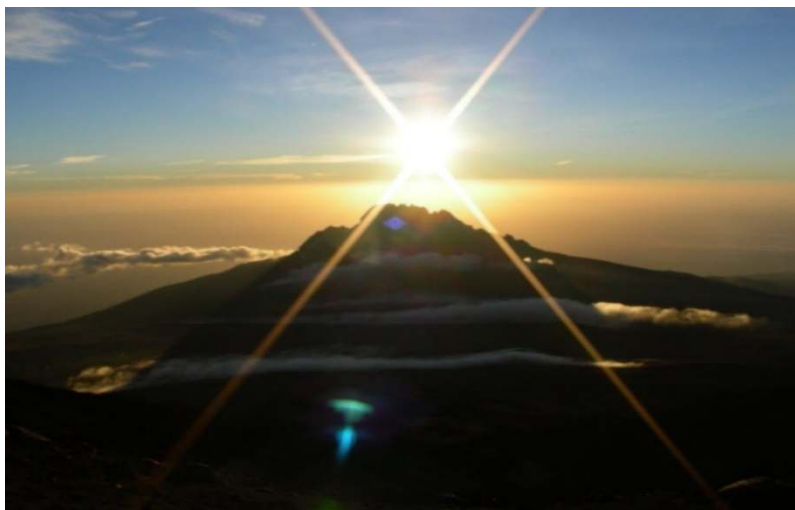
The **Machame Route** is arguably the best route as it has the best scenery and maximizes the time and options available for hiking while allowing for a more leisurely pace.

The nights are spent camping and we provide top mountain guides, porters and cooks to look after you. Camping equipment is provided and is carried by the porters. There are no shower/bath facilities while doing the hike and toilets will be long drops.

After a hearty breakfast your guides will come to collect you and you will drive from the lodge to Machame village gate (although you may have to walk to the gate depending on the road conditions). After registering at the gate, you will begin by entering the rain forest.

You will have a welcome packed lunch stop about halfway and will reach the Machame camping area in the late afternoon. The crew will set everything out at your campsite and all you have to do is sit back, relax and enjoy the great outdoors.

All meals included today but you may want to bring your own snacks.



#### **DAY 4 – Kilimanjaro Hike Day 2**

Machame Camp (2980m) to Shira Camp (3840m)

Hiking time +/-6 hours 9KM

Habitat: Moorland

After an early breakfast, you will hike for an hour or so to the top of the forest and then for 2 hours at a gentler grade through the moorland zone.

After a short lunch and rest, you will continue up a rocky ridge onto the stunning Shira plateau, due west of Kibo, from which you will be able to see the breathtaking glaciers.

After a short hike you will reach the Shira campsite at 3,840m. The climbing crew will provide you with a tasty meal and you will then have plenty of time to sit back and relax.

All meals included today but you may want to bring your own snacks.



#### **DAY 5 – Kilimanjaro Hike Day 3**

Shira Camp (3840m) to Lava Tower (4630m) to Barranco Camp (3950m)

+/-7 hours 15KM

Habitat: Semi Desert

The route now turns east into a semi desert and rocky landscape surrounding Lava Tower. Before lunch you will climb a rocky scree path to the Lava Tower (4630m). This first part of the day's hike can take up to 5 hours. This will probably be your hardest day so far and some climbers may begin to feel the altitude. However, our experienced team will coach you through the symptoms and provide you with all the advice and support you need.

After lunch by the Lava Tower, you descend again by almost 680m to the Barranco camping area, whilst it may seem illogical to be going down at this point, you will quickly appreciate its true acclimatization benefit. This descent to Barranco camp takes about 2 hours, bringing the day's hike to a total of about 7 hours.

This day offers great opportunities to take some beautiful photographs of the Western Breach and Breach Wall. The camp is situated in a valley below the Breach and Great Barranco Wall, which should provide you with a memorable sunset while you wait for the preparation of your dinner.

All meals included today but you may want to bring your own snacks.



#### **DAY 6 – Kilimanjaro Hike Day 4**

Barranco Camp (3950m) to Barafu Camp (4550m)

+/- 9 hours. 13KM

Habitat: Alpine Desert

Your day begins by tackling the awesome obstacle of the Great Barranco Wall. Whilst initially an imposing site, its climb is invariably easier than anticipated. You will quickly appreciate how beautiful the mighty Kilimanjaro is when you reach the bottom of the Heim Glacier.

You will then head down to the Karanga Valley. From there you will make your way over the ridges and valleys and join up with the Mweka route. After another hour or so, you reach Barafu (Swahili for Ice) Hut. This camp gives you a real experience of the icy elements. The camp is exposed to the ever-present gales the tents are pitched on a narrow, stony ridge. You will appreciate your warm and cozy sleeping bags on this night! The summit is now only a further 1,345m up and you will make the final ascent the same night. The team will help you to prepare your equipment and clothing for your summit attempt. You will go to bed at about 19h00 and try to get some precious rest and sleep.

All meals included today but you may want to bring your own snacks.



### **DAY 7 (Summit Day) - Kilimanjaro Hike Day 5**

Barafu Camp (4550m) to Uhuru Peak (5895m) to Mweka (3100m)

+/- 8 hours to peak 7KM

+/-7 hours to Mweka 23KM

Habitat: Stone scree and ice-capped summit

At about 11:30PM you will be awoken to some tea and biscuits before heading off. You will head in a north-westerly direction and ascend through heavy scree towards Stella Point on the crater rim. Many climbers find this 6-hour walk to Stella point the most mentally and physically challenging aspect of the hike.

At Stella Point (5,685m) your efforts will be rewarded with a short rest and the most magnificent sunrise you are ever likely to see (weather permitting).

From Stella Point you will normally encounter snow all the way on your 2-hour ascent to Uhuru Peak, the highest point in Africa. This will be an achievement you will remember for the rest of your life!

The walk back to Barafu from the summit, takes about 3 hours. Here you will have a well-earned but short rest and collect the rest of your gear, before heading down to Mweka hut (3,100m). The route is not difficult and will take you down the rock and scree path into the moorland and eventually into the forest. Here you will rest and feel proud of your achievement.

All meals included today but you may want to bring your own snacks.





### **DAY 8 - Kilimanjaro Hike Day 6**

Mweka Camp (3100m) to Mweka Gate (1980m)

+/- 3 hours 15KM

Habitat: Forest

After an early and well-deserved breakfast, it is a short 3-hour and scenic hike back to the Park gate where you will receive your certificates. Those climbers who reached Stella Point (5,685m) are issued with green certificates and those who reached Uhuru Peak (5,895m) receive gold certificates.

You will be picked up and brought back to the Lodge for a warm welcome, a cold celebratory drink and a hearty meal.

Overnight at the Honey Badger Lodge.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

*If you interrupt your climb, for whatever reason (illness, through choice, bad weather etc) and return from the mountain early, then you will be liable for extra transport and additional hotel nights, meals etc. No climbing fees and related costs will be refunded. These additional amounts must be settled with the hotel prior to departing Moshi.*

### **DAY 9 - Time to Relax**

Today is a well-deserved recovery day. Sit poolside at the Honey Badger Lodge and sip drinks while looking through your hiking photos from Kilimanjaro or head into Moshi to grab some souvenirs.

Today you will also need to collect your race bib from the marathon host hotel in Moshi.

Then, be sure to rest up for tomorrow!

Overnight at the Honey Badger Lodge.

## **DAY 10 – Marathon Day**

Today you depart pre-dawn for the start of the Mt Kilimanjaro Marathon!

### **Marathon Route**



The 42.2KM marathon route leaves Moshi Stadium and heads down towards the town, and then along the main road to Dar es Salaam for approximately 8 to 9KM. This section of the route is relatively flat, and there are plenty of well-wishers along the road. Turn around and head back to the town of Moshi, tracking down into the actual town itself before turning toward the mountain and heading up a long, steady ascent towards Mweka. The uphill climb is gradual, but with Kilimanjaro towering above and all the local villagers out to cheer you on, the time passes quickly. The turnaround point marks approximately 10KM and the last section is a fast-downhill run back towards the stadium. Regular water tables as well as "sponging points" and the odd "shower" keep you refreshed and cool along the entire route.



Should you be running the Half Marathon (21.1KM), the route for this race covers the second half of the full marathon. You leave Moshi stadium and start slowly ascending the road up towards Mweka. It's a gradual climb, and Kilimanjaro should be in full view as you steadily ascend the route. At approximately the 10KM mark you turn and head back down the same route in a fast descent.

The 5KM Fun Run takes place through the shady streets of Moshi. The start is from the stadium, but the route differs to the full and half marathons. Water will be provided enroute and there is usually a large crowd of well-wishers to cheer the athletes along.

The route passes through many small farms, villages, parts of town, banana and coffee plantations and patches of forest, providing great excitement to the residents who give ample vocal support.

After the race you will be transferred from Stadium to the Honey Badger Lodge.

Overnight at the Honey Badger Lodge. Breakfast is included.

## **DAY 11 – Safari Day 1**

After breakfast, your driver-guide will collect you, and your safari will commence. You will drive from Moshi to Manyara National Park. This takes approximately 4 hours including time to stop by your lodge before entering the park. After enjoying a picnic lunch, you will go on the first game-drive of your safari and in this park; the afternoon is the best time to view animals. Frequently seen in Lake Manyara National Park are zebras, impalas, monkeys, giraffes, buffalos, hippos, warthogs among many others. Before dark you shall return to the Lodge for dinner and overnight stay.



**Lake Manyara National Park** is famous for its tree-climbing lions, which spend most of the day spread out along the branches of Acacia trees six to seven meters above the ground. Nestling at the base of the Great Rift Valley escarpment, the park is noted for its incredible beauty. As visitors enter the gate they pass into the lush forest, home to troops of baboons and both blue and velvet monkeys. Further along, the forest opens up into woodlands, grassland, swamps and, beyond, the lake itself covering 200 square kilometers and sanctuary to over 400 species of bird including flamingo, pelican, stork, sacred ibis, cormorant, and the Egyptian goose. The park is particularly noted for its huge herds of buffalo and elephant, as well as giraffe, hippo, reedbuck, warthog, wildebeest, zebra, and a great variety of smaller animals.

All meals are included today.

### **DAY 12 – Safari Day 2**

Drive to Serengeti National Park via Olduvai Gorge, which takes between 3 and 4 hours. Olduvai George is an archaeological site located in the eastern Serengeti plains, where early human fossils were first discovered. It has the amazing landscape that earned it the Maasai name Serengeti – Endless Plains. In the evening, enjoy a game drive in the Serengeti. Again, this is a great time to view



game – particularly the carnivores as this is their favorite time to hunt. Before dark you shall return to the Lodge for dinner and overnight stay.



The **Olduvai Gorge**, located within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, is a short drive off the main road between Ngorongoro and the Serengeti. The name “Olduvai” derives from “Oldupai”, which is the Masai word for the type of wild sisal that grows in the gorge. It was here that, in 1959, Dr Louis Leakey and his wife Mary discovered the skull of first *Zinjanthropus Boisei*, or “nutcracker man”, and then, a year later, the remains of *Homo Habilis* or “handy man”, regarded as mankind’s first step on the ladder of human evolution. But many more fossils have been discovered here, including those of prehistoric elephants, giant-horned sheep, and enormous ostriches. There is a small museum and an observation platform, overlooking the gorge, where visitors can listen to an informative talk from the resident guide.

All meals are included today.



### **DAY 13 – Safari Day 3**

After breakfast, begin your day with a morning game drive in the Serengeti, and then later in the afternoon drive to Ngorongoro via Olduvai Gorge. Once at the crater’s rim, get some rest and dinner at the Lodge where you will spend the night.



**The Ngorongoro Crater**, at 2,286 meters above sea level, is the largest unbroken caldera in the world. Surrounded by very steep walls rising 610 meters from the crater floor, this natural amphitheater measures 19.2 kilometers in diameter and 304<sup>2</sup>km in area. It is home to up to 30,000 animals, almost half being wildebeest and zebra. Buffalo, elephant, hippo, hyena, jackal, lion, ostrich, several, warthog, bushbuck, eland, hartebeest, reedbuck, waterbuck and huge herds of both Thomson's and Grant's gazelle are easily seen on the crater floor. Thanks to anti-poaching patrols, the crater is now one of the few places in East Africa where visitors can be certain of seeing black rhino, with the number now approaching 25. Leopard may occasionally be seen in the trees of the forest surrounding the crater while cheetahs are also present. Countless flamingos form a pink blanket over the lakes while more than 100 species of birds not found in the Serengeti have been spotted. The crater, which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, lies within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, which covers more than 8,300<sup>2</sup>km.



The **Serengeti National Park** is arguably the best-known wildlife sanctuary in the world. Serengeti means “endless plains” in the Masai language, and within its boundaries are more than three million large mammals. About 35 species of plains animals may be seen here, including the so-called “big seven” – buffalo, elephant, lion, leopard, rhino, cheetah and African hunting dog. The black rhino population of the Serengeti has developed well in recent years thanks to constant surveillance. Other animals frequently seen in the Serengeti include baboon, caracal, civet, bat-eared fox, genet, giraffe, hippo, honey badger, hyrax, mongoose, ostrich, several, both Grant's and Thomson's gazelle, velvet monkey and some 20 types of antelope including hartebeest, impala, kudu, reedbuck, roan, topi, waterbuck and the much smaller dik dik, duiker, klipspringer and oribi. There is, of course, also a profusion of birdlife. Over 500 species including bustards, cranes, eagles, herons, owls, storks, vultures, and the bizarre, long-legged secretary birds.

All meals are included today.



#### **DAY 14 – Safari Day 4**

After breakfast, drive down into Ngorongoro Crater and enjoy a half day game drive. This is undoubtedly one of the best places to see the rare black rhino in Africa, not to mention the prides of lion and the magnificent black-mane lions. There are lots of colorful flamingos and the variety of water birds. In the crater you are also likely to see leopards, cheetahs, hyenas, many members of the antelope family, and small mammals of all sorts. In the late afternoon, we will drive you back to the Honey Badger.

Breakfast included today.

#### **DAY 15**

Today you will be transferred to the Kilimanjaro International Airport for your return trip to Canada.

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