

Tanzania Climb Kilimanjaro Northern Circuit Route Trekking

The Longest & Most Remote Trek to Uhuru Peak

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary and accommodations may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

We love talking travel!
Contact us at info@mtsobek.com
or call **800-974-0300**



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Unrivaled Expertise

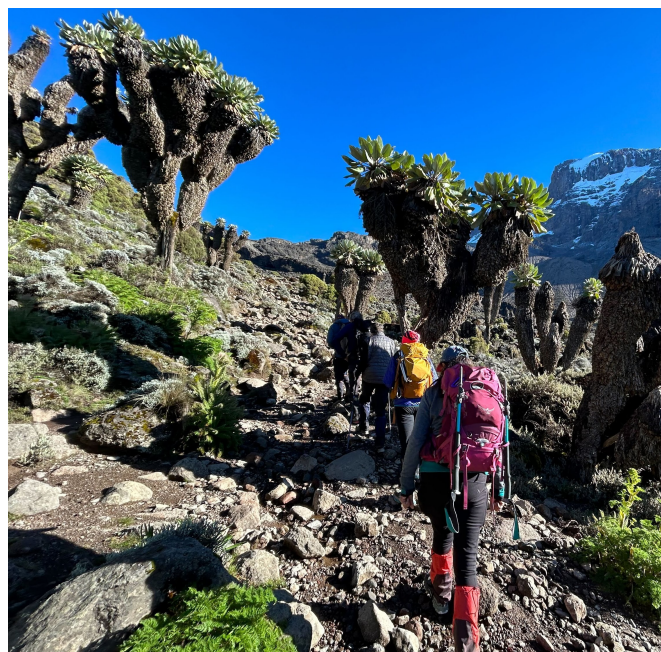
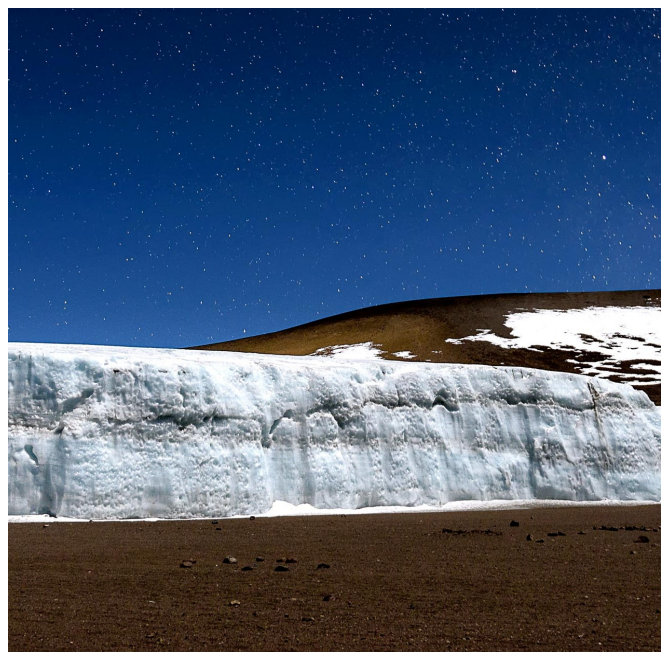
MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Travel Company by Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards.

Unique Trip Design

Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

Small Groups

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.





Leading the Way

World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.





Why take this trip with us?

REASON 1

Since 1969, MT Sobek has led adventure travel across the world's most storied mountain destinations, building a reputation for exceptional guides, thoughtful itineraries, and experiences that go deeper than the standard tour.

REASON 2

The Northern Circuit is the longest and most remote route on Kilimanjaro, circling the mountain's quiet northern and eastern slopes where most trekkers never venture. Eight days on the mountain, a pre-climb night on Mount Meru, and Crater Camp just 800 feet from the summit.

REASON 3

MT Sobek has led treks on Kilimanjaro since 1974 and holds a 98% summit success rate, the highest on the mountain. Expect highly qualified guides, full emergency equipment, nourishing meals, and a private acclimatization camp at 6,000 feet.

At A Glance

ACTIVITIES

Hike 3 to 8 miles per day through cloud forest and alpine desert, scramble over volcanic rock, take in a game drive, and camp under vast African skies at high-altitude camps.



LODGING

Nights split between a deluxe acclimatization camp with canvas-style tents set in tropical gardens and well-equipped high-altitude camps with four-season dome tents built for whatever the mountain throws at you.



CLIMATE

Warm and sunny in the bush, with occasional showers. On Kilimanjaro expect the full range, including dramatic temperature swings by elevation, wet days, cold nights, and the possibility of snow at any time of year.



KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

"What a total comfort to know that with MT Sobek, you're in the hands of professionals who have been doing it so long and so well. That was part of why we landed on them as our operators for our dream trip, and everything about the experience they gave us—from tailored expertise to unswerving professionalism—confirmed the company's emphasis on excellence." - Alex M.



Tanzania Climb Kilimanjaro Northern Circuit Route Trekking

The Longest & Most Remote Trek to Uhuru Peak

Follow MT Sobek's highly experienced guides up the Northern Circuit, also known as the Grand Traverse and the 360 Route, the longest and most remote route on Kilimanjaro. The trek begins on the scenic western approach then breaks away from every other route on the mountain, circling north and east across Kili's quiet, rarely-visited slopes. Eight days of gradual acclimatization on the mountain set you up for summit day at Crater Camp. At 18,800 feet, it is the highest camp on the mountain and just 800 feet below Uhuru Peak, meaning you climb 3,000 fewer feet than most trekkers on summit night.

12 Days

Start: Arusha, Tanzania

End: Arusha, Tanzania

Departing: June

Activities: Hiking & Trekking

Lodging: Comfortable Hotels, Comfortable Camping

Group Size: 4-12 Guests

ACTIVITY:



“

If you are looking for a challenge that is reachable, this is it. MT Sobek will feed your mind, body and soul as you move along with knowledgeable guides, who are educated in the environment, physiology, and psychology. This is a unique experience that is worth every penny.

- Caroline L.

Check mtsobek.com for date-specific pricing.

The Itinerary

DAY 01

Welcome to Tanzania

Arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO), where an MT Sobek representative will meet you and transfer you to the KIA Lodge, just five minutes from the airport. Tonight is yours to rest and recover. Enjoy a hot shower, a comfortable bed, onsite dining, and a savannah garden perfect for unwinding before your adventure begins.

DAY 02

A Game Drive in Arusha National Park

After breakfast, meet your guide and the rest of the group in the lobby for a brief introduction and welcome orientation. Then transfer into Arusha National Park, watching for giraffes, black-and-white colobus monkeys, and Cape buffalo along the way. Pause midday for a beautifully prepared picnic lunch in the open bush, then continue on to Itikoni Tented Camp, nestled in the lush forest of Mount Meru's slopes at almost 6,800 feet. Settle into your canvas tent, relax by the fire, and join the group for a welcome dinner beneath the stars.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 2-hour private transfer

ACTIVITY: Game drive

DAY 03

Hike the Forested Slopes of Mount Meru

Spend a leisurely morning soaking in camp views of Kilimanjaro, Meru, and the Ngurdoto Crater before lunch. Afterwards, gather for a briefing and gear check, separating what you'll carry on the mountain from what will be waiting for you when you return. Then head out for an afternoon hike through the cedar and podocarpus forests of Mount Meru, a 14,968-foot dormant volcano and Tanzania's second-tallest peak. A perfect introduction to the altitude, with good chances of spotting colobus monkeys, bushbuck, giraffe, and a host of bird life along the way. Look up and you'll catch impressive views of Meru's dramatic ash cone summit.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 1-2 hours/2 miles optional hiking with 2,000' elevation gain; camp at 6,000'



Trek Through Kilimanjaro's Montane Forest

Today your Kilimanjaro trek begins. After an hour's drive from camp you'll arrive at the forested edge of Kilimanjaro National Park. From here, walk about three hours through undisturbed cloud forest, ascending among moss-covered trees and through mist-shrouded jungle. Keep your eyes open for Colobus monkeys, signs of elephants, and other forest wildlife along the way. Enjoy a flora-filled ascent toward camp, stopping to replenish with a hearty lunch along the way. Settle into camp near Machame Hut at 9,000 feet, then gather with your group in the mess tent for a warm, thoughtfully prepared dinner before turning in for the night.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour private transfer

ACTIVITY: 4.5 miles/4-6 hours hiking with 1,750' elevation gain



Trek to the Shira Plateau at 11,600'

Embark on a slow-paced hike through the forest, ascending through Kili's enchanted cloud forest and into its high-elevation Hagenia forest zone. Colobus monkeys, blue monkeys, and Hartlaub's turacos are some of the wildlife and bird life you might spot as you make your way upward through these equatorial transition zones. Over the ascent, dense forest gradually gives way to the expansive moorland and heather of the Shira Plateau, where your camp tonight sits at 11,600 feet with stunning views of the 19,341-foot Kibo peak.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 7.2 miles hiking with 3,100' elevation gain



Traverse the Shira Plateau

Cross the Shira Plateau today, one of the highest plateaus in the world, on a relatively flat four-hour traverse through vast moorland and heather. Ancient lava flows and dramatic rock formations like the pyramid-shaped Shira Cathedral line the route as you move from the plateau's western edge toward Kili's eastern slopes. Spend another hour ascending the western slope of Kibo, the largest of the mountain's three volcanic cones, with the dramatic Western Breach coming into full view as you climb. Camp tonight at Moir Camp at 13,600 feet, one of the mountain's most remote and peaceful sites, surrounded by steep slopes and ridgelines that reward patient campers with dramatic sunsets and star-filled skies.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 6 miles/5 hours hiking with 2,000' elevation gain



DAY
07

Descend to Pofu Camp

The day begins with an ascent out of the Moir valley to 14,200 feet, with an optional detour up Little Lent Hill for those wanting an extra push and sweeping views across the mountain. From here the trail descends to Pofu Camp, one of the most secluded camps on the entire mountain, sitting on the quiet northern base of Kibo at 13,200 feet. Along the way, take in vast sightlines across West Kilimanjaro and the Amboseli plains below, home to the free-roaming elephant herds long studied by renowned researchers Cynthia Moss and Joyce Poole.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 6.2 miles/5-7 hours hiking with 1,071' elevation gain and 1,623' loss



DAY
08

Acclimatize in the Alpine Desert at Third Cave Camp

A shorter day by design, giving your body time to adjust before the big push ahead. The trail follows the transition zone between moorland and alpine desert, where hardy shrubs gradually give way to rockier, dustier terrain and the mountain starts to feel genuinely raw. Trek past massive volcanic formations before arriving at Third Cave Camp at 12,900 feet. The setting is almost lunar, with large volcanic boulders, barren open desert, and dramatic views of the Kibo cone stretching out in every direction. A good day to breathe, eat well, and let the altitude do its work.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 3.6 miles/3-5 hours hiking with 232' elevation gain and 457' loss



DAY
09

The Long Climb to School Camp

Short on miles but relentless in climb, this is a continuous 2,600-foot ascent through Kilimanjaro's rock and ice zone. Pole pole, or "slowly, slowly," is the only sensible approach as the trail climbs through an increasingly stark and dramatic alpine landscape. School Camp at 15,600 feet is often described as the quietest, least-used camp on the mountain, and arriving here feels earned. Less than 3,000 vertical feet from the summit, your expert guides will walk you through a demonstration of MT Sobek's high-altitude safety equipment, including hyperbaric chambers and supplemental oxygen systems, before the following day's ascent to Crater Camp.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 3 miles/5-7 hours hiking with 2,600' elevation gain



DAY
10

The Push to Crater Camp — Africa's Highest Campsite

A big push today as you wind your way above School Camp to the summit crater rim at Stella Point, a major summit landmark on Mount Kilimanjaro's Kibo crater rim. From here you'll have an opportunity to explore the inner crater and ash pit before descending into the summit crater. Make your way to Crater Camp, perfectly perched beside Furtwangler Glacier at a breathtaking 18,800 feet in elevation. As the highest camp on the mountain, Crater Camp makes for a much easier summit day than most outfitter routes offer. Most trekkers face a grueling 3,000-foot overnight trek to reach the peak, while yours is an 800-foot climb. Enjoy spectacular westward views of the setting African sun on your final night before summiting.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 6-8 hours hiking



DAY
11

Summit Kilimanjaro

Summit day is finally here. Start your 800-foot ascent in the early morning, leaving enough time to be standing on Kili's 19,341-foot top near dawn. The moment at Uhuru Peak, Africa's highest point, is yours to take in. Soak up the views, breathe it in, and relish the accomplishment. Then begins the long descent: first to Barafu Hut to refuel, then continuing down to your final camp near Mweka Hut at 10,170 feet. The trail from Barafu is rocky and steep at first, but softens into lush rainforest as you drop through the lower slopes, a fittingly beautiful end to the mountain.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 8 miles/8-10 hours hiking



DAY
12

Down the Mountain & Back to Arusha

Start your morning with a final 4,500-foot descent, hiking 3 to 5 hours to reach the park gate and your pick-up point. A celebratory lunch awaits, along with the chance to say a proper goodbye to your mountain staff before boarding your transfer to the KIA Lodge in Arusha. A hot shower, a comfortable bed, and a story-swapping dinner with the group round out an extraordinary journey. Rest well before your flight home, or wherever your travels take you next.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch

TRANSPORTATION: 1.5- to 2-hour private transfer



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

KIA Lodge

Perched on a low hill less than five minutes from Kilimanjaro International Airport, KIA Lodge is your first real taste of Tanzania. Forty spacious thatched-brick cottages sit privately within a savannah garden alive with over a hundred bird species, each en suite with hot showers, air conditioning, and a mosquito net. The hilltop swimming pool looks out over Kilimanjaro, Mount Meru, and the Maasai plains in every direction. Add a full-service spa, open bar, onsite restaurant, and laundry, and you have everything you need to arrive tired and wake up ready for the mountain.

MT Sobek Camp—Itikoni Camp

Nestled at the base of Mount Meru in Arusha National Park, our deluxe camp offers luxury-style canvas tents with wooden beds, linens, comforters, pillows, and en-suite toilets and showers. Day hikes from camp lead to enchanting forests and waterfalls. Guests savor delicious meals in the dining tent or relax in the cozy library lounge with a wood-burning stove.

MT Sobek Camp—Kilimanjaro

Guests on the epic Kilimanjaro summit bid sleep in comfortable four-season Mountain Hardwear dome tents, sleeping up to two guests. Delicious hearty meals are served in the custom-designed mess tent. Each camp (Machame, Shira, Barranco, Karanga, Barafu, Crater, and Mweka) commands exceptional views of rugged plateaus or verdant valleys, often amidst afro-alpine scenery well above cloud level.

Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: June

What's Included

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portorage
- Sleeping bag and pad

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses



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