

Daily Itinerary for the 2018 Kili Climb

DATE	DAY	Altitude/ KM	DAILY ITINERARY (with elevations)
2/2/2018	Friday	Depart US for Kilimanjaro	Depart US cities through to Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) , probably via Amsterdam (AMS) on KLM
2/3/2018	Saturday	Land at JRO from AMS (8pm?)	Depart AMS in afternoon and fly to JRO, with pickup by guide company and travel to Bristol Cottage Hotel in Moshi .
2/4/2018	Sunday	Rest day	Rest day, rent additional equipment for climb, get orientation.
2/5/2018	Monday	Moshi (915 m/3,000 ft) to Londerossi Gate (2,250 m/7,380 ft) to Lemosho Glades (2,000m/6,560 ft) to Mkubwa Camp (2,750 m/9,020 ft) 18 km, 4-5 hours Montane Forest.	Drive from Moshi or Arusha to the Londerossi Park Gate . From here follow a forest track in a 4WD vehicle for 11 km/7 mi (45 minutes) to Lemosho Glades and a possible campsite. From the Glades, walk for 3 hours along beautiful forest trails to the Mti Mkubwa (big tree) campsite.
2/6/2018	Tuesday	Mkubwa Camp (2,750 m/9,020 ft) via Shira Camp 1 (3,500 m/11,485 ft) to Shira Camp 2 (3,840 m/12,600 ft) 6 km, 2 hours Alpine Desert (3,500 m/11,485 ft) 12 km, 5 hours Semi-Desert	The trail gradually steepens, enters the giant heather moorland zone, then crosses the Shira Ridge at 3,600 m/11,810 ft and drops gently to Shira Camp 1 located by a stream on the Shira Plateau. A gentle walk across the plateau leads to Shira Camp 2 on moorland meadows by a stream. A variety of walks are available on the plateau making this an excellent acclimatization day.
2/7/2018	Wednesday	Shira Camp 2 (3,840 m/12,600 ft) to Lava Tower (4,630 m/15,190 ft) to Barranco Camp (3,950 m/12,960 ft) 15 km, 7 hours Semi-Desert	After breakfast, you will hike east up a steepening path above the highest vegetation toward Kilimanjaro's looming mass. After several hours, you walk through a rocky landscape to reach the prominent landmark called Lava Tower at 4,630 m/15,190 ft. This chunky remnant of Kilimanjaro's earlier volcanic activity is several hundred feet high, and the trail passes right below it. For extra credit, the sure-footed can scramble to the top of the tower. After a lunch stop near Lava Tower, descend for 2 hours below the lower cliffs of the Western Breach and Breach Wall to Barranco Camp at 3,950 m/12,960 ft. There are numerous photo opportunities on this hike, especially if the walls are festooned with ice. Barranco Camp is in a valley below the Breach and Great Barranco Walls, which should provide you with a memorable sunset while you wait for your dinner. On this day, be careful to notice any signs of altitude sickness.
2/8/2018	Thursday	Barranco Camp (3,900 m/12,800 ft) to Karanga Camp (4,200 m/13,780 ft) 7 km, 4 hours Alpine Desert	After breakfast, we continue up a steep ridge to the great Barranco Wall, then you climb this imposing obstacle, which turns out to be easier than it looks. Topping out just below the Heim Glacier, you can now appreciate just how beautiful Kilimanjaro really is. With Kibo's glaciers soaring overhead, you descend into the lush Karanga Valley to the Karanga Valley campsite. From the camp, you can look east and see the jagged peaks of Mawenzi jutting into the African sky. After a hot lunch in camp, your afternoon is at leisure for resting or exploring. After two long days, this short day is very important for your acclimatization, since your summit push is about to start.

2/9/2018	Friday	Karanga Camp (4,200 m/13,780 ft) to Barafu Camp (4,550 m/14,930 ft) 13 km, 8 hours Alpine Desert	In the morning, you hike east over intervening ridges and valleys to join the Mweka Route, which will be your descent route. Turn left toward the mountain and hike up the ridge through a sparse landscape for another hour to the Barafu Hut where you will receive a hot lunch. The last water on the route is in the Karanga Valley; there is no water at Barafu Camp, even though Barafu is the Swahili word for "ice." The famous snows of Kilimanjaro are far above Barafu Camp near the summit of the mountain. Your tent will be pitched on a narrow, stony, wind-swept ridge, so make sure that you familiarize yourself with the terrain before dark to avoid any accidents. Prepare your equipment and warm clothing for your summit climb, and drink a lot of fluids. After an early dinner, go to bed for a few hours of precious sleep.
2/10/2018	Saturday	Summit Day! Barafu Camp (4,550 m/14,930 ft) to Uhuru Peak (5,895 m/19,340 ft) to High Camp (3,700 m/12,100 ft) 7 km up, 23 km down 8 hours up, 3-5hours down Scree and seasonal snow	You will rise around 11:30 PM, and after some steaming tea and biscuits, you shuffle off into the night. Your 6-hour climb northwest up through heavy scree between the Rebmann and Ratzel glaciers to Stella Point on the crater rim is the most challenging part of the route for most climbers. At Stella Point (5,685 m/18,650 ft) you stop for a short rest and a chance to see a supremely sanguine sunrise. At Stella Point you join the top part of the Marangu Route, but do not stop here too long, as it will be extremely difficult to start again due to cold and fatigue. Depending on the season and recent storms, you may encounter snow on your remaining hike along the rim to Uhuru Peak . On the summit, you can enjoy your accomplishment and know that you are creating a day that you will remember for the rest of your life. After your 3-hour descent from the summit back to Barafu Camp , you will have a well-earned but short rest, collect your gear, and hike down a rock and scree path into the moorland and eventually into the forest to High Camp (3,700 m/12,100 ft) . Dinner, and washing water will be prepared.
2/11/2018	Sunday	High Camp (3,700 m/12,100 ft) to Mweka Gate (1,980 m/6,500 ft) to Moshi (890 m/2,920 ft) 15 km, 6 hours Forest	After a well-deserved breakfast, it is a scenic, hike back to the park gate. At Mweka Gate , you can sign your name and add details in a register. This is also where successful climbers receive their summit certificates. Climbers who reached Stella Point are issued green certificates and those who reached Uhuru Peak receive gold certificates. From the Mweka Gate, you will continue down to the Mweka Village, possibly a muddy, 3 km, 1 hour hike if the road is too muddy for vehicles. In the Mweka Village you will be served a delicious hot lunch after which you are driven to the Masailand Lodge for an overdue hot shower and comfortable night in hotel.
2/12/2018	Monday	Drive to Serengeti	After full hot breakfast at Masailand Lodge, we drive into Serengeti National Park , then relaxing dinner and overnight camping at the Serengeti Campground .
2/13/2018	Tuesday	Serengeti to Ft Ikomo Gate, then Musoma (Epheta Hostel)	Start day with 6am morning game drive (best wildlife viewing), then return to break camp after hot breakfast, stop at Seronera Visitor's Center, then drive through the Serengeti National Park to Musoma via Fort Ikomo Gate and rest at Epheta Spiritual Retreat Centre on the shores of Lake Victoria .
2/14/2018	Wednesday	Celebration Day in Nyegina!	Deliver the funds we have raised to the M. Nyerere Library and Community Resource Center in Nyegina . Enjoy the singing and dancing celebrating our Kilimanjaro Climb achievement and the gifts of books that we bring to the school children and their families.
2/15/2018	Thursday	Depart for US	Bus to Mwanza International Airport for flight home to US via Dar es Salaam (and Amsterdam).
2/16/2018	Friday	Arrive US destinations	Flights arrive Chicago (or elsewhere in the US) in early afternoon.
2/17/2018	Saturday	Celebrate Kili Climb with Family and Friends	Spend the day telling your stories (between naps!)