

The Machame Route

Then they began to climb and they were going to the East it seemed, and then it darkened and they were in a storm, the rain so thick it seemed like flying through a waterfall, and they were out and Compie turned his head and grinned and pointed and there, ahead, all he could see, as wide as all the world, great, high, and unbelievably white in the sun, was the top of Kilimanjaro. And then he knew that there was where he was going.

Ernest Hemingway, *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*

Ask any guide or tour agent which is the best walk to do on Kilimanjaro, and nine times out of ten they will choose this, the Machame-Mweka Route (usually just shortened to the Machame Route, a convention we have adopted here). Though some of them doubtless say this because it's easier to organize – requiring no hut-

booking or long-haul driving – it is not difficult to see why the route is so popular with everyone: beginning on the south-western side of the mountain and ascending to the summit from Kibo's south-eastern side, the trail passes through some of the mountain's finest features, including the **cloud forest** of Kili's southern slopes, the dry and dusty **Shira Plateau**, the delightful senecio-clad **Barranco Campsite** and finally the daunting **Barafu trail** to the summit, with the Rebmann Glacier edging into your field of vision on your left as dawn breaks behind Mawenzi on your right; unlike the Marangu Route, the Machame Route does not double back on itself either, but comes down via the Mweka Route, a quick but very pretty descent encompassing inhospitably dry mountain desert and lush lowland forest in a matter of a few hours. (For details of the New Alternative Mweka trail that you may well be obliged to use, see p218.)

Curiously, though the Machame Route is widely reckoned to be that much harder than the Marangu Route (and is thus nicknamed the Whiskey Route, in opposition to Marangu's softer soubriquet of the Coca Cola Trail), the proportion of trekkers who reach the top using this route is marginally but significantly higher. Whether this is evidence that the Machame Route allows people to acclimatize better – at one point on the third day the trail climbs to 4530m, before descending again to finish the day at 3950m – or whether this higher success rate is merely an indication that more experienced, hardened trekkers – ie the very people who are most likely to reach the summit – are more inclined to choose this route, is anyone's guess.

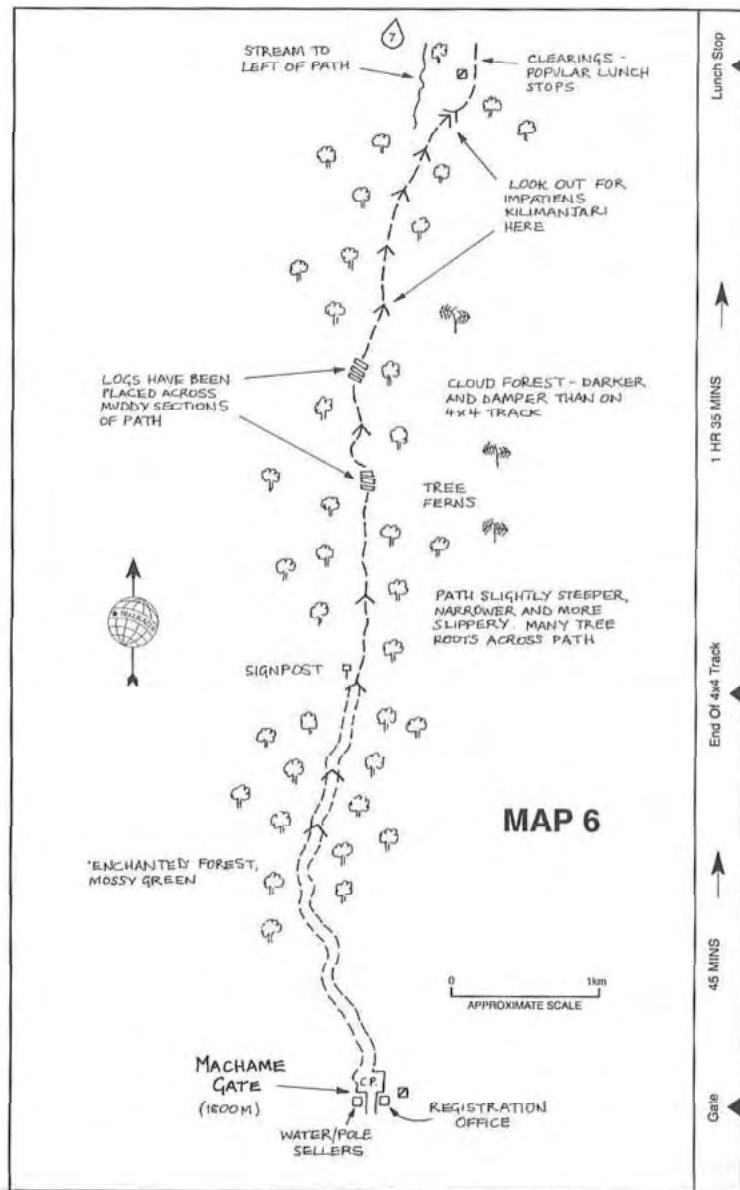
The walk traditionally lasts for six days and five nights, though it is becoming more common for trekkers to opt for an extra night during the ascent, usually in the Karanga Valley. Not only does the extra day aid acclimatization, but this also reduces from around six to just over three the number of hours walked on the day that precedes the exhausting midnight ascent to the summit, thereby allowing trekkers more time to recover their faculties, relax and prepare themselves for the final push to the top.

STAGE 1: MACHAME GATE TO MACHAME HUTS

[MAP 6, p186; MAP 7, p188]

Coming from Moshi, the drive to the Machame Gate, at an altitude of 1800m, takes just under an hour; the tarmac doesn't last that long, petering out after about 40 minutes. On the way to the gate ask the driver to point out the house of the local chief, a simple yet large bungalow on the left-hand side of the road. Passing through Machame village you'll soon arrive at the gate itself, a small collection of buildings huddled around a 4WD car park. Register in the office, set a few metres back down the hill, and use the toilet facilities behind them – you may not think much of them now, but believe me, compared to some of the latrines on the trail these are heavenly.

Back at the car park, porters are busy haggling over who is going to take what, water-sellers and walking-pole vendors are accosting new arrivals, while the trekkers themselves are quietly steeling themselves for the rigours ahead. To one side of this chaos is the beginning of the trail...



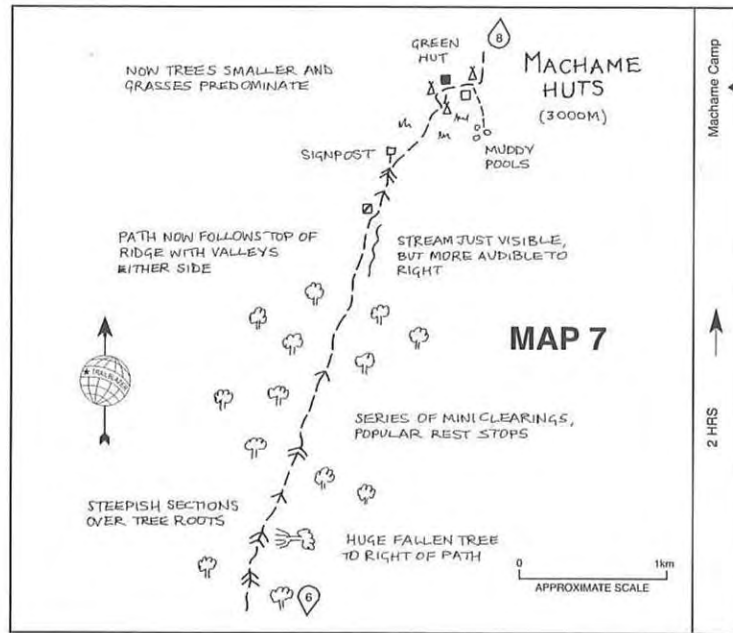
The ten-kilometre, first-day walk itself starts with a three-kilometre amble up a 4WD track, a wide snaking trail that cuts through the kind of deep dark enchanted forest that Hansel and Gretel would be familiar with. Green moss hangs thickly from the branches that creak and groan in the wind. It's a magical start to a wonderful adventure. After 45 minutes, the track arrives at a sign advising hikers that Machame is for those ascending the mountain only. The sign also marks the end of the 4WD road, the gentle curves and steady incline giving way to a narrower, steeper, more slippery, pedestrians-only path. The forest closes in on all sides now, with tree roots encroaching onto the trail itself, forcing trekkers to watch their step and alter their stride to ensure they don't stumble. It is this breaking of the walker's rhythm – as much as the humidity and the gradient of the slope – that makes this first day such a tiring one. To aid walkers, logs have been placed across the muddier sections of the trail. If you do manage to look up from the path you'll notice that the vegetation is already changing as you progress deeper into the **cloud forest**; the scarlet and yellow *Impatiens kilimanjari* and the violet *Viola eminii* and *Impatiens pseudoviola* now flourish between the roots of the huge 30-metre tall trees; tree ferns also proliferate here.

Ninety minutes or so from the end of the 4WD track, the path widens momentarily to form two small clearings (the first with en-suite toilet facilities) that make for popular lunch stops. Those who've already drunk their water bottles dry can replenish their supplies from the stream down in the valley to the west. Listen out for the primate-like call of the black and red turacao which nests around here, and watch your lunch too: it's not uncommon for the forest rodents to sneak into lunchboxes and drag off a samosa or two.

The post-prandial hike varies little from that which has gone before, though the gradient of the path increases slightly the higher you climb. As the forest gradually begins to thin out you'll notice that you are actually walking on a narrow forested spine between two shallow valleys. A stream – more audible than visible – runs briefly to the right of the trail.

Forty minutes later a second signpost of the day appears, this time warning against the careless discarding of cigarette butts; as well as dispensing some sound advice, this signpost also demarcates the border between the cloud forest and the heath, where the long grasses dominate, and the robust trees of the forest give way to the spindly, tree-like giant heathers. *Kniphofia thomsonii* (known to you and me as red hot poker) make their first appearance at this altitude, as do a number of other wild flowers and shrubs such as the bushy *Phillipa excelsa*. With the forest thinning, the **Kibo peak** hoves into view for the first time to the east.

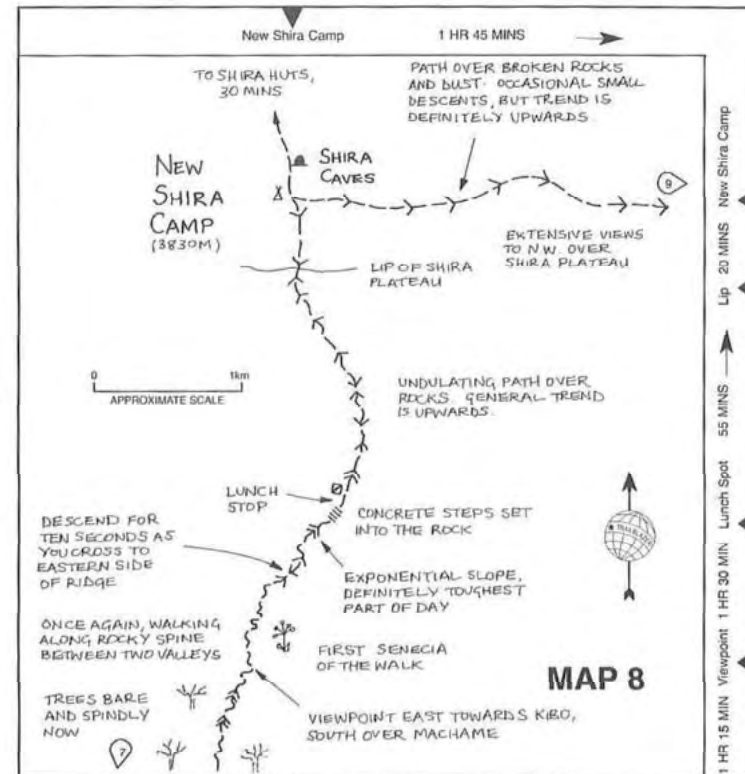
It is only fifteen minutes from the signpost to **Machame Huts** (3000m), a series of level pitches cut into the grass, each with its own toilet. Make sure you sign your name in the **registration book**, and aim to pitch your tent as high as possible for the best views: by the green hut is a good spot, affording views to the east up to Kibo, and south-west towards Mount Meru.



STAGE 2: MACHAME HUTS TO THE NEW SHIRA CAMP [MAP 8, OPP]

This leg of the trek is short (7km) but a little strenuous as you ascend from 3000m up to the Shira Plateau, finally coming to a halt at the New Shira Camp at just over 3800m. Parts of this walk are a bit steep, and the skinny, naked trees at this altitude provide little shade from the heat; what's more, the path is extremely dusty, so if you have gaiters you'll probably be thankful of the protection they provide (and remember to keep your camera bag tightly closed too). In spite of all this, by taking it slowly, resting frequently and enjoying the en-route views that encompass Kibo, Meru and all points in between, this day needn't be too taxing – indeed, it's probably the easiest day of the whole ascent.

The walk starts as it goes on for much of the day, with a steepish climb north up through forests of stunted, twisted, trees that are bare of vegetation and blackened by fire; ahead of you in the distance is the lip of the **Shira Plateau**. The path winds its way up to the top of a ridge formed by a petrified lava flow, occasionally allowing trekkers some splendid views over last night's campsite, Machame village and the flat Tanzanian plains beyond. **Senecia**, the squat, dry-looking trees with a leafy crown growing from the top, begin to dot the path, and Kilimanjaro's dessicated **helichrysums**, ubiquitous above 3000m, appear here for the first time too. Note, too, how most of the trees not only diminish in size as you climb higher but seem to bend as one towards the plateau, as if



pointing the way. After passing a number of viewpoints and clambering from one side of the ridge to the other, the gradient of the trail increases exponentially towards the **lunch stop**, hidden from view behind a rocky outcrop. The effort expended in reaching there is worth it, for while munching your sandwiches you can savour yet more views of Kibo and all points south.

By following the line of porters and trekkers on the path ahead, you can also pick out the afternoon's trail, which initially continues north and up, before bending fairly sharply to the north-west, cutting a near horizontal line beneath the rim of the plateau. But though the worst of the day's climbing is now behind you, don't be fooled into thinking this is an easy section, for the path on this north-westerly trail undulates considerably as it climbs over rocks and boulders, and it can be fairly tiring in the searing afternoon heat. As a distraction, the first of Kilimanjaro's celebrated **lobelias** (*Lobelia deckenii*), both phallic and cabbage-shaped, of which the former can grow to a height of three metres or more, appear by the trail.

Just an hour after lunch the plateau is gained and the path continues northwards. Note how much more barren the landscape is up here, with trees now all but extinct and only the dry white helichrysums and yellow everlastings thriving. Look out, too, for the Shira Plateau's distinctive, shiny black **obsidian** rock.

Your camp for the night, which we have called the **New Shira Camp** to distinguish it from the other sites around here, lies just 20 minutes into the plateau. On most maps this new, sprawling campsite is not marked, leading many trekkers to think mistakenly that they are actually camping at Shira Huts. In fact, this New Shira Camp lies just a few minutes' walk to the south of the **Shira Caves** – which *are* marked on most maps – which in turn are located a good 30 minutes to the south of the Shira Huts. Looking west from the New Shira Camp, ask your guide to point out the **Shira Cathedral**, the **Needle** and the **East Shira Hill** which line the southern boundary of the Shira Plateau, and, behind them to the far west, **Johnsell Point** and **Klute Peak**, the highest points of the Shira Ridge, the western rim of the oldest of Kili's three craters. Mount Meru, too, is still visible to the west on the horizon.

STAGE 3: NEW SHIRA CAMP TO BARRANCO HUTS

[MAP 8, p189; MAP 9, OPP; MAP 10, p194]

Camp-life on Kilimanjaro is a capital school for the practice of self-denial.

Hans Meyer *Across East African Glaciers*

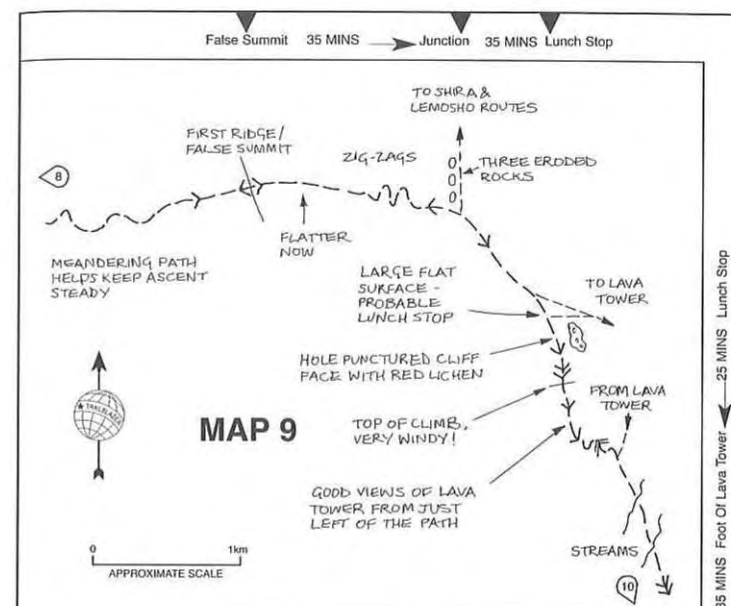
During this section of the trek you cover a total of just over 10km as you move from the western to the southern slopes of Kilimanjaro; by the end of it you may feel slightly disappointed to learn that, for all your efforts, you will have gained just 150m in height, from the New Shira Camp at 3830m to Barranco, situated at an altitude of 3950m. Nevertheless, this leg of the trek is vital for acclimatization purposes, for during the day you will climb to a respectable **4530m**.



⁴...an extraordinary arborescent plant, since named *Senecio Johnstonii*... Its trunk was so superficially rooted and so rotten that, in spite of its height and girth, I could pull it down with one hand. (from *The Kilima-njaro Expedition*, HH Johnston, 1886)

Don't be surprised, therefore, if by the end of it you have a crashing headache: this is normal, and is only cause for concern if it is accompanied by other symptoms of mountain sickness, or if the pain hasn't diminished by the morning.

The day begins with a steady, gentle ascent towards the western slopes of Kibo through the dry, boulder-strewn terrain of the Shira Plateau. At first the path meanders somewhat and rises and falls regularly as it negotiates the gentle folds of the plateau, before finally settling on a roughly easterly direction, with a steady, shallow incline, for most of the next 6km. Notice how the vegetation has deteriorated to such an extent that only a few everlastings and lichen successfully cling to life up here. Soon after the **junction** with the



Lemosho Route (see p209) the path loops to the south-east and divides into two. It is here that those people who have opted to tackle the summit from the more difficult Western Breach branch off and head east towards the **Lava Tower** (see p192), while the rest (the majority) follow the more southerly, gentler trail as it bends round to the right. Just two minutes after the fork the latter route comes upon a large flat, rocky surface – the **lunch** stop on this third leg.

The highest point of the day's walk, 4530m, lies just 15 minutes further on. At the top, by walking just off the path to the left, you can enjoy unrivalled views of the strange and isolated Lava Tower, with Lava Tower Camp sitting in its shadow to the north, and the path to the Arrow Glacier Hut leading off behind it. (For details of this ascent, see p192.)

The Lava Tower continues to loom to your left for the next 10min as you descend quickly via a series of zigzags into the gully separating you from Kibo's southern slopes. Crossing the tiny stream at the bottom, the path bends south-east once more, following the contours of Kibo's lower reaches as it crosses two more streams. Less than an hour later the trail meets with the **Umbwe Route** (see p210), a junction that is marked by a proliferation of signposts. From here it's downhill all the way as the route descends once more, this time into the delightful **Barranco Valley**, rich in senecio and lobelia. A huge gouge in the southern face of Kibo to the south-west of Uhuru Peak, the valley is in places 300m deep and was formed when a huge landslide swept south-



Ascent of Kibo via the Arrow Glacier (Western Breach)

Without doubt Kibo is most imposing as seen from the west. Here it rises in solemn majesty, and the eye is not distracted by the sister peak of Mawenzi, of which nothing is to be seen but a single jutting pinnacle. The effect is enhanced by the magnificent flowing sweep of the outline, the dazzling extent of the ice-cap, the vast stretch of the forest, the massive breadth of the base, and the jagged crest of the Shira spur as it branches away towards the west. **Hans Meyer** *Across East African Glaciers*

This route is less popular than the alternative, Southern Circuit route around the southern side of Kibo to Barafu Huts. It is much harder, steeper, and gives trekkers less time to acclimatize. The path can also be a little treacherous – rocks occasionally tumble down the steep side, particularly on the way up to the crater rim from the Arrow Glacier Campsite. What's more, when you reach the campsite you'll have a lot of hanging around to do, for the walk to it from the previous night's camp, at Lava Tower, takes only an hour or two.

The advantage with the walk is that, on reaching the crater, you are close to the path that leads to the inner Reusch Crater, thereby allowing you to explore the summit in far greater detail than the average 'summiteer'. (Indeed, if you want to reach Uhuru Peak you have to cross the crater in order to gain the rim at Stella Point.) As the night-time walk from Arrow Glacier Campsite to the crater rim takes four hours, it also allows you more time than the other paths to explore the summit.

The starting point for this ascent of Kibo is from **Lava Tower Camp** (4600m) on the lower western slopes of Kibo. This a good campsite, with pleasing views down the massive expanse of the Shira Plateau. No matter what time of day you reach this campsite, **don't** be tempted to press on to Arrow Glacier Camp. Not only is this latter camp markedly inferior – positioned in a rather inhospitable spot higher up the slope – but you need to rest at Lava Tower for acclimatization purposes.

Instead, spend the next morning marching up to **Arrow Glacier Camp** (4800m), stop there, and conserve your energy for the night time scramble. The huts have long since been ruined here, and the glacier itself has receded greatly and is no longer the feature it once was. The night-time walk to the summit is a direct but painful and sometimes precarious hike of four hours or so on scree and rocky outcrops. After snowfall the route can be icy and an ice axe may be required, though for most of the year it should be OK. At the top you enter into the crater; there is a path directly up to Uhuru from here, but usually you have to cross the crater from west to east to reach **Stella Point**, at the top of the trail up from Barafu Huts. From here you double back on yourself, heading west along the rim to Uhuru Peak (see Map 23).

wards down from the summit about 100,000 years ago. From the **campsite** (3950m) and its environs you'll have spectacular views of Kibo's southern face, the Western Breach and the mighty Heim Glacier, with glacial moraine tumbling southwards towards the camp. Few are the trekkers who do not rank this campsite as their favourite on this trail – hope the toilets have been cleaned up now, though.

Opposite: Buffeted by strong winds, the walk across the Saddle is not as easy as it would seem.

STAGE 4: BARRANCO HUTS TO BARAFU HUTS

[MAP 10, p194; MAP 11, p195]

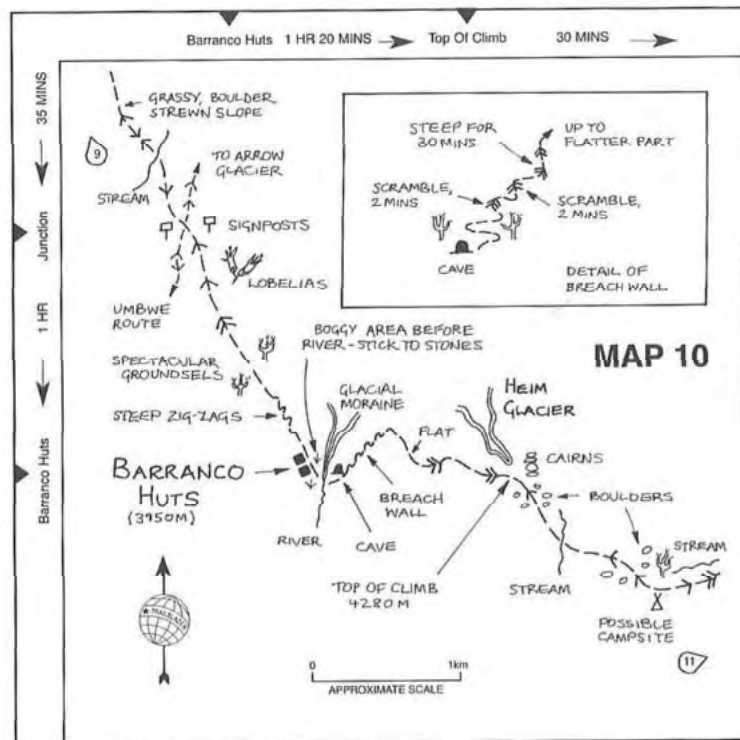
This is a long stage, so long that many trekkers now prefer to tackle it over two separate days, camping for the night in the Karanga Valley. Make sure you fill your containers in this valley as this is the last place to get water on the Machame Route and, if the cold wind's rushing through, it's possibly the last place you'd want to be stopping at too, though its beauty cannot be denied. As you walk along the path today the great glaciers of Kili's **Southern Icefields** – the Heim, Kersten and Decken glaciers – will appear on your left one after the other. Curiously, although this stage sets you up nicely for the final push to the summit, by the end of the day you will actually be further away from Uhuru Peak (as the buzzard flies) than you were at the start of the day at Barranco.

The hardest part of the day occurs right at the beginning, with a near-vertical scramble up the **Great Barranco Wall** (or **Breach Wall**) to the east of the campsite. You'll have to stash your walking poles away for this first section, for at times you'll need to use both hands to haul yourself up the senecio-dressed slopes. False summits along the way further sap the strength and spirit, but after about an hour and a quarter you'll reach the true summit of the wall; here you can sit on the bare rock and enjoy the views south and east, with the great **Heim Glacier** over your shoulder to the north, and relish the prospect of the relatively gentle descent into the next gully below.

At the bottom of this pretty little gully, and having crossed the small stream that flows through it, you come to a **flat gravel area**, a possible camping spot and, by the amount of loo roll hanging from the bushes, a popular pit stop too. To the east a path snakes towards a high pass, but in all probability your guide will lead you away from this larger, quicker route to Barafu, and bring you instead along an easier trail cutting south-east into a series of mini-valleys. Climbing out of these valleys, the path then cuts across a barren, desert slope where the silence and stillness are positively deafening, before finally descending down the western, lush slopes of the **Karanga Valley**. Ferns, heather and other greenery reappear for a while as you descend along the rock-and-mud path, a path that you share in places with a mountain stream.

The Karanga Valley is, in the words of John Reader, 'narrow, steep and exquisite'. It is also your last place to collect water before the summit, so it is vital you fill all your water bottles here. Try to collect your water from as high a point in the stream as possible and purify it: there are plenty of toilets within 20m of the stream around here, and giardia could be present. The valley itself is like a small oasis of green, albeit a cold and windswept one; the beautiful shimmering green **malachite sunbirds** nest around here; you may spot them feeding on the lobelias.

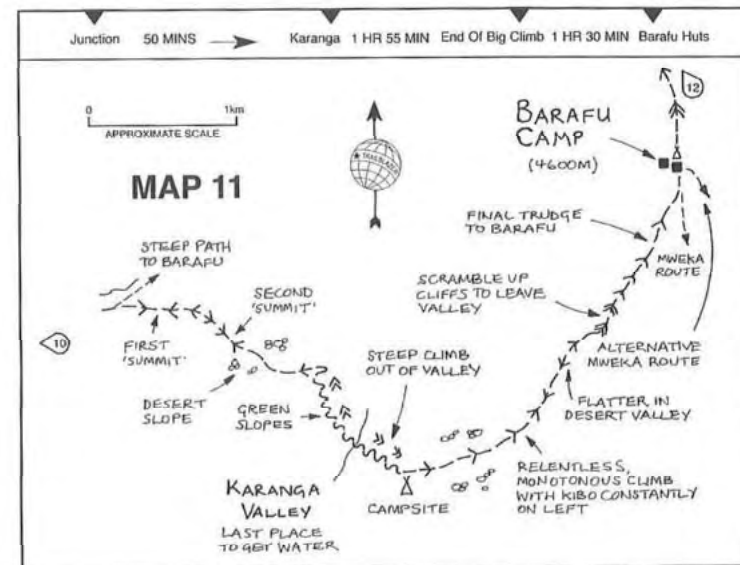
Opposite Top: The desolate 'moonscape' of the trail to Barafu Huts: Machame Route.
Bottom: Porters on the steep second day of the Machame Route.



Those who plan to split this leg into two days will either camp by the stream itself, or above the valley at the top of the next climb, a very steep twenty-minute ascent on a switchback path. At the top the trail takes a sharp leftward turn, heading in an easterly/north-easterly direction on a relatively gentle incline, with the Decken Glacier a permanent presence to your left.

The scenery now becomes even more barren, as you make your way between the boulders and over the shattered rocks and stones of this misty mountain ridge. Even the trail is faint. Only the occasional cairn marking out the way gives an indication that man has passed this way before (unless, of course, some bastard has dropped some litter). If George Lucas is looking for somewhere wild, inhospitable and unearthly as a location for his next Star Wars instalment, he could do a lot worse...

At the top the path bends more to the east and descends into a shallow valley that, if anything, is even drier and more blighted than the previous section. Once again, the Southern Icefields loom ominously to your left, with the **Rebmann Glacier** appearing for the first time.



Barafu Camp (4600m), your destination for this leg, lies at the end of this valley, reached after a short scramble up the cliff-face and a 25-minute walk almost due north. Barafu means 'Ice' in Swahili, and the camp is probably called this because of its proximity to the Rebmann Glacier, away to the north-west. Hopefully, your tent should have been set up for you by the time you arrive. Try to get some food and rest as soon as possible, and sort out your equipment for the next stage before it gets dark: you've got a long night ahead.

STAGE 5: BARAFU TO STELLA POINT AND UHURU PEAK

[MAP 12, p197]

But now, apparently, the mountain was inhabited by fiery beings who baffled man's adventurous foot: the mountain receded as the traveller advanced, the summit rose as he ascended; blood burst from the nostrils, fingers bent backwards . . . even the most adventurous were forced back. **Richard Burton** in *Progress of Expedition to East Africa*, reporting the rumours he had heard about Kilimanjaro while residing in Tanga.

And so you come to the final ascent, a rigorous, vigorous push to Stella Point and the crater rim, followed by a 45-minute trudge up to Uhuru Peak, the highest point in Africa. It's tough, no doubt about it, but if you manage to avoid sickness or injury there's no reason why you, too, shouldn't be clutching a golden certificate come tomorrow evening. This final stage usually begins at around midnight; this not only allows trekkers the chance to see sunrise from the summit but also leaves enough daylight to allow for the long descent to the next night's campsite, with an hour's recuperation back at Barafu on the way. As

such, you can leave most of your **luggage** at Barafu while you tackle the ascent, though you should take any valuables with you (there have been a few robberies from tents left unguarded), as well as your **camera**, spare film and batteries and all your **water** (which should be kept in **insulated bottles** or it'll freeze up and be useless on the ascent). Cameras, particularly the modern auto-focus varieties, have been known to freeze in these conditions as well, so keep them insulated. Wear all your **clothes** too – you can always take a layer or two off in the unlikely situation that you find yourself getting too hot – and have your **head-torch** readily to hand when you wake up, so you don't have to spend time and energy looking around for it before you go.

Good luck!

At 4am by the light of a hurricane lamp, and wrapped in everything that could give warmth, I started with Mawala, the headman, and Jonathan, our guide, on the long uphill pull of 4000ft over loose scree and fissured rocks. The cold was intense, and Mawala got two of his toes frost-bitten ... our breathing had become so difficult that we could barely drag ourselves along and had to sit down every few yards to recover breath, now and again sucking icicles and nibbling Cadbury's Milk Chocolate. Yet the steep ascent was mostly over projecting ridges of lava slabs and presented no real obstacle beyond the extreme altitude. Here and there, however, we struck a bed of loose shingle, which mockingly carried us backwards at every footstep almost the whole distance of our tread.

Eva Stuart Watt *Africa's Dome of Mystery*, 1930

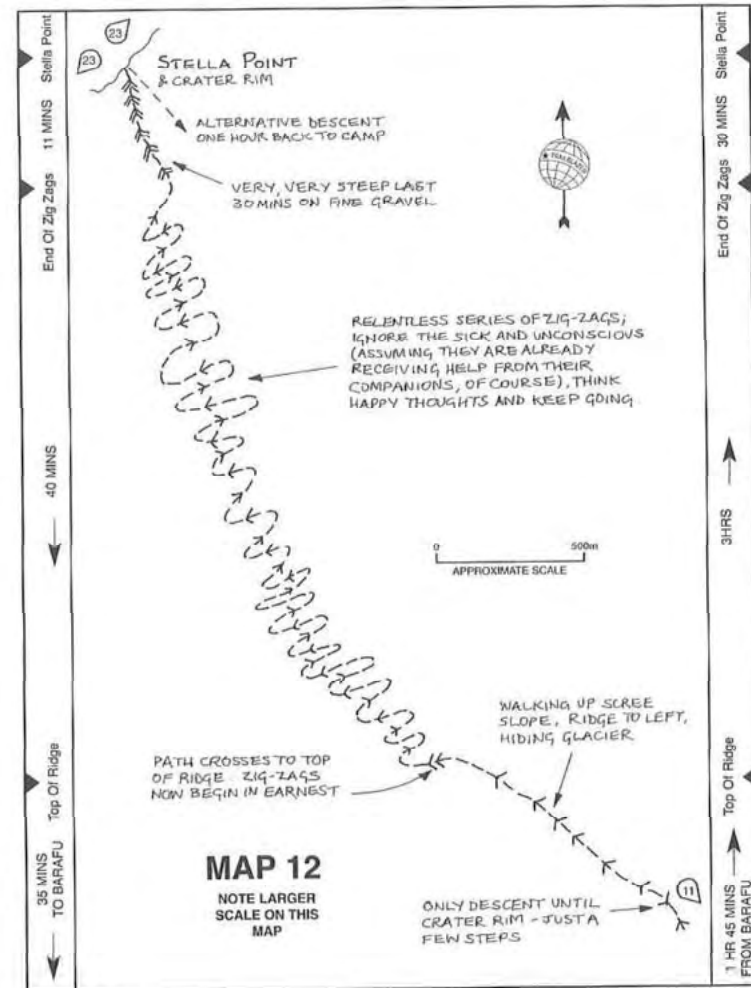
The way to the summit starts, as you've probably already observed from Barafu, by scrambling over the **small cliffs** at the northern end of camp; after fifteen minutes or so the path flattens a little as you walk in the moon-shadow of a second set of cliffs rising up to your left. Twenty-five minutes on from there the path descends minimally; I mention this not because the descent is in any way remarkable or extensive – it lasts for maybe ten seconds in total – but merely because it is the only descent I can recall for the whole of the next six hours.

Immediately after this the path takes a fairly sharpish turn to the left (north-west). You are now heading directly for the summit and Stella Point, a direction you will maintain for nearly the entire night. After another fifteen minutes or so you begin to walk on the distinctive **shale and gravel slopes** of Kibo, which cause you to slip back with every step. Everybody has their own way of tackling this, with some trekkers stabbing their poles hard into the ground to aid their balance, while others walk with a Chaplin-esque gait, their feet splayed outwards to stem the slide back. Whatever way you choose, you'll find it hard work.

The situation was appalling, there was a grandeur and a magnificence about the surroundings which were almost too much for me; instead of exhilarating, they were oppressive.

Charles New Life, *Wanderings, and Labours in Eastern Africa*, 1873

An hour or so after turning west you take another left turn and cross to the top of the ridge that has been a constant companion on your left-hand side for the past hour or so. The **switchback path** begins in earnest now and continues for the next three hours. It is pointless describing the scenery on this section, for the chances are you won't be able to see much beyond the radius of your torch-beam, and won't be keen on surveying the landscape now anyway; if it's a clear



night, however, you may be able to see the **Rebmann Glacier** ahead of you to your left, with the snow-less Stella Point a little to your right in the distance. Picking your way through the trail of vomiting trekkers and exhausted assistant guides, ignore the sound of people retching and sobbing and remember to keep your pace constant and very slow, even if you feel fine: you've come this far, and now is not a good time to get altitude sickness.

Though you probably won't notice it, the path actually drifts slightly to the north over these three hours, before crossing a frozen stream which marks the end of the zigzags. You are now just thirty minutes from Stella Point (5795m), a painful, tear-inducing half-hour on sheer scree. The gradient up to now has been steep, but this last scree slope takes the biscuit; in fact, it takes the entire tin.

Lift one foot and then the other, just enough to place it higher; don't use any more energy than you need to and breathe deeply between each move. Rhythm is everything, rhythm and pacing, and when you are in it your thoughts go and it is dreamlike, but you are still here in the moment, the cone beam of light coming from your forehead tying you through the blackness to the lava slope of this mountain that in your mind you see rising to a rare glacial height above the acacia-studded plain of Africa.

Rick Ridgeway *The Shadow of Kilimanjaro – on Foot across East Africa*

Make it to the top and you can afford to relax a little. If you really, absolutely, positively, definitely can't do anymore, take comfort from the fact that you have already matched the feat of respected climber HW Tilman, for whom Stella Point was the highest point reached on his first attempt on the summit; and you can always use his excuse – that he thought that this *was* the highest point – too. (Mind you, as if to prove that it was ignorance and not a lack of fortitude that prevented him from reaching Uhuru, he then went on to conquer Mawenzi Peak a few days later). Take comfort, too, from the fact that you have also earned yourself an impressive green certificate. Those who want an even more impressive gold one, however, must push on for another 45 minutes around the crater rim, turning left (south) and then right (west), passing minor pinnacles such as **Hans Meyer** and **Elveda** points before finally arriving, just as Hans Meyer himself did over a century ago, at Uhuru Peak: the true summit of the mountain and the highest point in the whole continent (see Map 23, p225). You are now enjoying an unrivalled view of Africa – nobody on this great, dark continent is currently gazing down from as lofty a vantage-point as you.

From the summit, it's usual for trekkers who took the Machame Route up to take the Mweka or the new Alternative Mweka Route back down, and it is these two routes we describe beginning on p214.